**Topics in Humanities: The Making (and Remaking) of Tel Aviv-Jaffa**

**Class code**

**Instructor Details**
Dr. Martin J. Wein  
mw150@nyu.edu  
Office hours by appointment

**Class Details**
Seman  
Time to be confirmed.

**Prerequisites**
Procure a standard map of the city, printed by MAPA publishing house.

**Class Description**
The Holy Land is a tiny global microcosm, with a complexity beyond imagination. A remarkable concentration of rare natural features, mostly connected to the Great Rift Valley, combines with multiple layers of human settlements since prehistory which are forming tells, artificial hills dotting the landscapes of the Middle East. Jaffa, perhaps the last Levantine “port city” and Jerusalem’s ancient sea port, rose rapidly after the opening of the Suez canal in 1869, and eventually became a Zionist melting pot, with Jewish communities from around the world, Palestinian Arabs, African refugees, and Asian migrant workers now adding to a multilingual, multiethnic mosaic of 3.5 million people.

Israel's coastal metropolis commonly dubbed “Tel Aviv,” originally only the name of a suburb of Jaffa, has today several historical tells in the area of the municipality, the most significant one just underneath Jaffa’s—mostly destroyed—Old City. But the coastal agglomeration has been largely built on often intensively-farmed agricultural land, engulfing Muslim and Christian villages, advancing a few miles in a radius around the Old City of Jaffa every decade of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At the same time that the modernist “Bauhaus”-style architecture flourished, local orange production catered to maritime traffic, offering special types of citrus fruit with long shelf lives needed by seafarers as a vitamin C source against scurvy. Eventually, the Holy Land became part of the British Highway to India, linking the prime colonial power with its prime colony, i.e. London via Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, the Suez Canal areas, Aden and Socotra, to Bombay or Mumbai, with an extension to Singapore and Australia.

Due to its fast-paced boom in the modern period, Tel Aviv-Jaffa's modern history is mostly spread out horizontally rather than buried vertically underground. Scanning the city from North to South offers a successive and largely coherent record of history, memory, erasure, and development. Each area is presented in slides and discussed, as well as visited in the readings, and summarized for discussion by a student representative. The course includes examples of film and song, graffiti and street art, as well as a sampling of Middle East- or Israel-related (best of all Tel Aviv-Jaffa-related) graffiti or stickers

Please feel free to ask the lecturer for additional individual meetings. If you plan on using human subject research please consult IRB and country-specific guidelines and restrictions.

**Desired Outcomes**
- Demonstrate ability to apply theories on place and globalization to the context of Tel Aviv-Jaffa  
- Develop an understanding of contemporary Tel Aviv-Jaffa as the product of ongoing historical processes
Assessment Components

• presentation of readings with leading discussion (30%)
• Graffiti assignment (3 documented graffiti w/ interpretation, 10%)
• proposal for final essay (due by e-mail, 10%, 1 page, peer response)
• final paper on topic of your choice (3-5 fully-annotated, well-written and thoroughly-edited pages, due by e-mail, 50%)

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: active participation, excellent oral and written work, originality of thought
Grade B: active participation, good oral and written work
Grade C: active participation, complete oral and written work
Grade D: participation, complete oral and written work
Grade F: incomplete participation or work

Grade conversion

A=94-100
A+=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Grading Policy

No-shows for presentations in class, and assignments due after the deadline without requesting an extension may receive zero grades.

Attendance Policy

NYUTA has a strict policy about course attendance for students. NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ARE PERMITTED. All medical-based absence requests MUST be presented to the Program Coordinator. Non-medical requests should be made to the Director and in advance of the intended absence. In the case of illness, contact the Program Coordinator within seven (7) days of the absence or as soon as practicable and provide medical documentation. Your instructors will be informed of any excused extended absence.

Your instructors are not authorized to approve your absence, and they are required to report any absences to the Director or Assistant Director immediately. Unexcused absences will be penalized by deducting 3% from your final course mark for each such absence. This may affect your final grade.

Late Submission of Work

All works must be submitted on time, unless you have received an explicit extension. Any late submission may result in grade deduction at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Required Text(s)

No books need to be acquired

Supplemental

See below in syallabus
It is hard to overestimate the importance of the internet, or its contribution, to the build up of contemporary knowledge of the world around us. Albeit it needs to be used wisely. This means that one must be selective and careful when relating to internet-based sources, identifying and distinguishing opinions from facts, and journalism from academics. Most importantly, one should make clear reference to internet sources, allowing the reader the opportunity to consult these resources as and if required.

Please also note that the 'world-wide web' – www – exists in many languages. Many sources about Israel in English, for instance, will be aimed at tourists or readers living primarily in English-speaking regions of the world. Sources might differ when reading them in other languages. Use the internet critically.

You can never be too safe, so do ensure both the reader and yourself that you know well what your internet sources are.

Cameras for graffiti documentation

Introduction and Overview

• Personal Introductions
• Slide Show "Focusing in on the Middle East, the Holy Land and Tel Aviv-Jaffa"
• Discussion of the Syllabus and Questions
• Distribution of Reading Presentations

Map Exercises

North Tel Aviv

Slide Show:
• The Yarkon/Al-Auja River Valley
• Tel Aviv University Campus/Sheikh Munis
• Eretz Israel Museum/Tel Qasile
• Gan Habanim, Reading Power Station and River Mouth
• Levant Fair/Tel Aviv Port
• Wadi Ayalon
• Habima/Heyhal Hatarbut
• Tel Aviv Museum/Opera
• Sarona German Village
• Azrieli Towers

Campus Slide Show

General Reading Discussion (all students prepare)

A. TAU Campus History (all items together constitute one reading!):
• Dolev, Diana, "Shaping a Modernist University Campus." Docomomo 40, March 2009, 52-56.
• "TAU History: The Making of a University." Available from: http://www.tau.ac.il/tau-history-eng.html
Session 4

Kikar Rabin to Kikar Hamedina

Slide Show:
• Rabin Square/City Hall
• Gan Ha'ir/Former Orange Grove/Zoo
• Ibn Gevirol Street: Migdal Hame'ah, Summel, New Herzliyah High School
• Kikar Hamedina
• Ben Gurion House and Boulevard
• Atarim Square/Gordon Pool and Marina
• Gan Ha’atza’ut/Muslim Cemetery

Session 5

Reading Presentations


C. Azaryahu, Maoz. *Tel Aviv: Mythography of a City*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2007, 106-190, 208-244

Optional Readings

D. Architectural Styles (all items together constitute one reading!):

Session 6

Bauhaus and Eclectic City

Slide Show:
• Dizengoff Square and Street
• Trumpeldor Cemetery
• Gan Meir
• Old City Hall and Bialik Street
• Magen David Adom Square, Shenkin Street
• Rothschild Boulevard
• Old Herzliya High School/Shalom Tower
• Nahalat Binyamin

Session 7

Reading Presentation


Optional Readings

### Session 8: South Tel Aviv and Jaffa

Slide Show:
- Shuk HaCarmel/Kerem Hateymanim
- Kovshim Street Gan Hakovshim/Manshiyah, Hassan Beck Mosque, Dolfinarium
- Charles Chlor Park, Tayelet Promenade, Etzel Museum, Old Train Station
- Neve Tsedek, Suzan Dalal Dance Center, Shlush Street
- Florentin, American Village/Small German Templar Colonies
- Noga Compound, Jerusalem Boulevard, Raziel Street
- Clock Square Jaffa, Old City, Egyptian Archeology, Jaffa Port, Ajami

### Session 9: Reading Presentation (Student 3)


Optional Readings


### Session 10: Graffiti Workshop

### Session 11: Graffiti Presentation and Analysis

### Session 12: Final Paper Topic Discussion

### Session 13: Tel Aviv-Jaffa in Israeli Song and Movies

### Session 14: Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the Global Outlook—Discussion of Tel Aviv-Jaffa in 2114

### Classroom Etiquette

Please do not use computers or other devices except for directly class-related purposes.

### Required Co-curricular Activities
Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Day trips to Jerusalem and Acre.

Your Instructor

Please see www.mjwein.net