

City Lab: Experiencing Tel Aviv
Dr. Rona Yona
Tentative Syllabus – Summer 2022

Instructor Contact Information: ronayona@tauex.tau.ac.il

Out of Class Availability and Best Ways to Contact: Office Hours by appointment

Course Credits: 3 TAU Semester Credits

For course times/days and location, please visit the TAU International web site (Study Abroad Course Offerings and Schedules). Please note that all information below is subject to change and/or adjustment as necessary.

Course Description (Summary)

How did Israel transform from an ancient Holy Land into Start-up Nation? “City Lab TLV” is designed to immerse students to the study away environment through an introductory academic course on Tel Aviv which combines in class discussions and critical excursions, and presupposes no previous background in Israeli history. “City Lab TLV” imparts students with an introduction to the city as the secular center of modern Israel, exploring the local character of the city from interdisciplinary perspectives that include Arts and Media, Politics, History, Economics, and the social practices of everyday life in Tel Aviv. Faculty-led discussions give students a general theoretical framework for understanding space and place as a process of cultural construction. We will explore the city together with students presenting to class a site of their choice for their final assignment. The course combines multiple perspectives (Israeli, American, Jewish, Christian, Zionist, Palestinian, Muslim, Chinese and Indian), and diverse sources (literary, artistic, journalistic and scholarly articles).

Course Requirements and Expectations

Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive on time. Students must complete all assigned readings before the class meeting and be prepared to participate actively in discussions of the readings. No cell phones in class.

Learning Outcomes

Students will become familiar with Tel Aviv, it’s emergence, critical discussions on Israeli culture and will acquire academic analytic tools for exploring urban spaces.

Evaluation Criteria



<i>Assignments/Activities</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
<i>Attendance and Participation</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Midterm Assignment: "Walking in Tel Aviv" City Lab</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Final Assignment: Our Site of Interest – On Site Presentation Our Site of Interest – Paper</i>	<i>20% 40%</i>

Midterm Assignment: "Walking in Tel Aviv" City Lab

Take a walk in a place that you still haven't visited in Tel Aviv. Bring to class about 10 images that express your encounter with / experience of the place. Describe the place you visited, why you chose to go there, and what was your experience of the place according to the notions and works discussed in class. Written version: 1-2 pages with citations.

Final Assignment: Our Site of Interest (in groups)

A full day, in which we explore the city together, through your eyes. We will visit places chosen by the students in Tel Aviv-Jaffa (with instructor guidance and approval). In every site, a group of students will deliver a short **presentation**. You may examine the place you choose according to your field of interest.

The presentation will be accompanied by a **final paper**. The paper will describe the chosen site, and will critically examine it using 3 secondary sources or more (scholarly articles and books), as well as additional available materials. The Final paper will be fully-annotated, well-written and thoroughly-edited. Length: 8-10 pages (3000-4000 words).

Absence Policy

Please note the TAU International Absence Policy as outlined on the next page.

Course Schedule

Week 1: The Holy Land	Intro: Place and Movement
	Theory: Place and Space
	Pilgrimage: Holy Place
	Tour: Jaffa Port
Week 2: Old-New Land (Nationalism)	Place and Nation: Herzl
	The Hebrew City
	Tour: The White City
Week 3: Race and Gender	Walking in Tel Aviv
	Place and Gender
	Tour: Oy Vey Jewish and Gay
Week 4: Globalization and Start-up Nation	Innovation: The birth of Israeli Hi Tech
	Entrepreneurship: Building a global high-tech hub



Course Readings

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*, selection (New York 1974; multiple editions)
Yi-Fu Tuan, *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience*, Minneapolis 1977, pp. 3-18; Tim Cresswell, *Place: A Short Introduction*, Second Edition 2013, Chapter 4
Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad, or The New Pilgrims' Progress*, 1869, selection
Basharat Peer, "Modern Mecca: the transformation of a holy city", *The New Yorker* April 9, 2012
Ruth G. Kark, *Jaffa: A City in Evolution, 1799-1917*, Jerusalem 1990, pp. 291-303
Theodor Herzl, *Old-New Land: Novel*, Leipzig 1902, selection
Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, 2006, ch. 3/4
Barbara E. Mann, *A Place in History: Modernism, Tel Aviv, and the Creation of Jewish Urban Space*, 2006
Janet Cardiff Walks, *Alter Bahnhof [Old Train Station] Video Walk* (artpiece), Kassel Germany 2012; or Garnette Cadogan "Walking While Black: on the Realities of Being Black in America", *Literary Hub*, July 8, 2016
Alon Harel, "The rise and fall of the Israeli gay legal revolution", *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* 31/2 (2000) 443-471.
Wisse Shayne, "A beach of their own: The creation of the gender segregated beach in Tel Aviv" *JIH* 35/1 (2016) 39-56
David Engel, *Zionism: A Short History of a Big Idea*, 2009, pp. 157-186
Dan Senor and Saul Singer, *Start-up Nation*, Introduction

Additional reading:

Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State*, 1981
Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*, 2012
Sharon Rotbard, *White City Black City: Architecture and War in Tel Aviv and Jaffa*, 2015
Adriana Kemp and Rebeca Rajzman, "'Tel Aviv Is Not Foreign to You': Urban Incorporation Policy on Labor Migrants in Israel" *The International Migration Review* 38/1 (2004) 26-51

Instructor Biography

Dr. Yona is a historian who specializes in Israel and the Jewish People. She holds an MA from the Hebrew University in the history of Christian and Muslim societies, and wrote a PhD in Tel Aviv University on the rise of Socialist Zionism, pioneers, and the kibbutzim (communes). She was a research fellow at New York University, and editor of the "Israel" journal at Tel Aviv University. Her current research interests include the interaction between the local and the global; Her publications include the book "Zionists without Borders" on the Labor Movement, and articles like "Yiddish Speaking Hebrews".

TAU International Academic Guidelines

Tel Aviv University International

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Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the student's home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs or accommodations they may have. **Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.**

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments.

It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

In-Class Exams

TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student's responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

TAU International Absence Policy



Attendance is mandatory in all of the courses including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor's note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor's note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.

Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence.

Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

Grade Appeals

Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#).

