

SUMMER 2024 SUMMER FIELD SCHOOL IN ISRAEL

TITLE: ISRAELI SOCIETY AT TIME OF WAR

Summer school offered by the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology (Bar-Ilan University) in collaboration by the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies (Concordia University).

Instructors: Dr. Kobi Cohen-Hattab (Bar-Ilan University)

Shawn Aster (Bar-Ilan University)

Csaba Nikolenyi (Concordia University)

Course dates: July 7 – 18, 2024

Course rationale:

The massacre of October 7, 2023 has changed and strained Israeli society in previously unimaginable ways. In this course, we want to understand how the trauma of the massacre and the war that followed it is changing the complex processes by which the different groups that make up Israeli social mosaic negotiate their relationship with each other and with the State. In this, the purpose of the course is twofold: i) to help students understand how history influences the present in the ongoing process of the construction of an Israeli identity; ii) to help students understand how the national trauma caused by the massacre of October 7, 2023 has affected the multidimensional fabric of Israeli society. During the course, students will visit historical sites, and consider how they impact and influence the consciousness of modern inhabitants of Israel at the current time of war and trauma.

The course is designed to i) combine traditional in-class seminars with the on-site exploration of different regions of Israel, ii) interact with features of the material culture of the land, and iii) explore how modern Israelis allow and encourage these features to shape their awareness and identity at a time of war.

Field trips will be guided by graduate students of the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology who come from all walks of life in modern Israel and from all national/ethnic/religious sectors. The student guides will share the diverse ways in which the history of the land provides meaning for their daily lived identity especially under the present conditions of war.

During our field trips, students will have the opportunity to meet with different communities in Israel: Palestinian Arab, Beduin, Jewish immigrants from Ethiopia and Morocco, Jewish and non-Jewish immigrants from Russia, Druze, Christian, and others. In addition, we will explore and learn about the contemporary political and social significance of historical sites.

Grading breakdown

Participation (incl. quizzes)	20%
Article presentation	10%
Field reports	30%
Final paper due July 31	40%