Middle East: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peace Process

HP 4976 – Up to 6 Variable Upper Division Credit Hours

**Dates:** July 28 - August 16, 2022 (Summer 2022)

Participants from UW will join other students from universities across the US and UK to travel to the Middle East to receive on-the-ground exposure to the people, politics and realities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as they transit between the difficult and contested geographies of Jordan, Israel and the West Bank. As a unique part of their experiential learning program, students will actively engage with politicians, community leaders, non-governmental organizations, faith leaders, academic experts and victims/survivors from all sides impacted by the conflict to hear a comprehensive view of the divergent perspectives, narratives and human stories of people living in the region.

**Cost:** $4750 approx. Program fee is paid directly to CIEL and includes all in-country transportation, accommodations, meals, all program related excursions and entry fees. Does not include flights to/from region, UW tuition/fees, $325 study abroad fee or any required vaccinations.*

For further information and to apply, please contact

**Dr. Nevin Aiken**
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Global Learning for Local Action

The Center for International Experiential Learning (CIEL) is a premier non-profit educational travel provider that draws on over a decade of proven programmatic and academic excellence in safely guiding students on experiential learning opportunities through immersive educational travel in conflict-affected regions led by internationally recognized scholars in partnership with local actors and a carefully designed and rigorous program of pre-travel education. As a result of their travel experience in the Middle East, students will return to campus better educated and more nuanced in their thinking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and empowered with the knowledge and transferable skills needed to emerge as leaders in addressing issues of division and polarization surrounding complex global problems and in their own local contexts.

Travel program itinerary Overview:

**Jordan:** Amman, Jerash Refugee Camp

**Israel/West Bank:** Nazareth, Majdal Shams (Druze Village), Jenin, Haifa, Ariel, Qalqilya, Tel-Aviv/Jaffa, Sderot, Bethlehem, Dheisha Refugee Camp, Jerusalem, Hebron, Ramallah, Rawabi

Brief List of Excursions Included on this Program:

**Jordan:**
- Visit Amman Citadel (Jabal al-Qalaa)
- Bedouin Family Cultural Visit
- Visit and Family Lunch in Jerash Palestinian Refugee Camp
- Visit and Swim in the Dead Sea

**Israel/West Bank:**
- Golan Heights Tour With Regional Security Expert
- Cultural Visit to Mount of Beatitudes
- Visit to Druze-Syrian Community of Majdal Shams
- Cultural Tour of Nazareth Holy Sites
- Cultural Tour of Haifa Bahai Gardens
- Visit to Israel Kibbutz (Mishmar HaEmek)
- Optional Shabbat Dinner with Israeli Families
- Cultural Tour Church of Nativit, Old City Bethlehem
- Visit to Walled-Off Hotel in Bethlehem
- Visit and Family Dinner in Dheisha Refugee Camp

**Israel/West Bank cont.:**
- Guided Tour of Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial
- Visit to Tent of Nations Palestinian Environmental and Educational Farm
- Guided Tour of Hebron Old City and Beit Hadassah Museum
- Cultural Visit to Cave of Patriarchs Synagogue/Mosque (Hebron)
- Cultural Visit to Western Wall
- Visit and Tour of Temple Mount/Harama Al-Sharif Site (Al-Aqsa Mosque/Dome of the Rock)
- Visit to Jaffa Old Jaffa City (Tel Aviv)
- Cultural Tour of Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Guided Tour of Old City of Jerusalem
- Excursion to Ramallah City (West Bank)
- Excursion to Rawabi City (West Bank)
- Excursion to Jenin City (West Bank)

*Students enrolled in at least 6 credit hours for summer maybe eligible to receive federal financial aid. Eligible students may also qualify for scholarships through UW’s Education Abroad Office, the Honors College and SPPAIS to help substantially defray the costs of participation.*
University of Wyoming
CIEL Middle East Faculty-Led Study Abroad Application

Honors Priority Application Deadline: November 15th, 2021
Final Application Deadline: February 6th, 2022

Applications will be given priority for consideration in the order they are received.

TRAVEL INFORMATION:
Dates: July 28th – August 16th, 2022
Destination: Middle East: Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank

Program Overview
The Center for International Experiential Learning (CIEL) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring creative and critical thinking by utilizing the unique power of experiential learning and international travel in conflict-affected regions. As a premier study abroad provider for university partners, CIEL brings over 13 years of experience having safely guiding immersive educational travel for 700+ participants to conflict & post-conflict environments around the world.

Participants in the CIEL Middle East Program will first engage in an intensive asynchronous online preparatory course (May-July 2021) to provide them with a comprehensive background to the region and the key historical and contemporary issues surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following this pre-travel education, participants will join other students from universities across the US and UK in immersive educational travel to receive on-the-ground exposure to the people, politics and realities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as they transit between the difficult and contested geographies of Jordan, Israel and the West Bank. As a unique part of their experiential learning program, students will actively engage with politicians, community leaders, non-governmental organizations, faith leaders, academic experts and victims/survivors from all sides impacted by the conflict to hear a comprehensive view of the divergent perspectives, narratives and human stories of people living in the region. As a result of their travel experience in the Middle East, students will return to campus better educated and more nuanced in their thinking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and empowered with the knowledge and transferable skills needed to emerge as leaders in addressing issues of division and polarization surrounding complex global problems and in their own local contexts.

Cost per participant: $4750. Program fee is paid directly to CIEL and includes all in-country transportation, accommodations, meal and all program related excursions and entry fees. Does not include flights to/from region, UW tuition/fees for up to 6 variable upper-division credit hours, $325 study abroad fee (paid to UW’s Education Abroad Office) or cost associated with any required travel vaccinations or COVID-19 travel testing. With extensive Study-Abroad Scholarship Opportunities available through the University of Wyoming student cost can often be substantially reduced as students find additional sources to lower their travel costs.

*Please note: Given COVID-19 vaccine entry requirements in Israel, proof of full COVID-19 vaccination will be required for all student participants who are selected to travel as part of the CIEL ME program.
Application Process
The CIEL ME travel program will consist of an intensive schedule characterized by early morning start times and late evening end times following daily group reflections. Students will be brought outside their existing comfort zones to be challenged and engaged on a daily basis not only intellectually, but also physically, socially, emotionally and sensorially as part of their experiential learning experience. At the same time, selected student participants will be empowered to take an active role in their own education by taking on accountable leadership roles and being involved as collaborative decision makers and co-teachers alongside their fellow learners.

In addition, there will be numerous high-level meetings with officials and other important actors in the region. Accordingly, CIEL expects all student participants selected for this program to be prepared to conduct themselves in a professional and diplomatic manner throughout the travel program and to take on the role of Student Diplomats representing CIEL, their university and their respective country. Further, to engage as effective participants, student applicants must demonstrate excellent critical thinking and communication skills as well as displaying a commitment to engaging as active participants in both the pre-travel education and travel-based experiential learning components of the CIEL ME program.

This travel experience will be very rewarding for those selected and often becomes a transformative touchstone for students’ personal, academic and professional development. Indeed, as a result of engaging in this kind of deep experiential learning, participants will be empowered with new knowledge and new transferable skill sets that they can carry forward into future leadership roles in their own career development and civic engagement. However, given the nature of our intensive travel experience in a conflict-affected region our group size will be limited to 25 students from across UW and other campus partner institutions to ensure a small (5 to 1) student to travel leader ratio. This means acceptance into the CIEL ME program each year will be highly selective and limited to those students who demonstrate that they are prepared to participate as active and effective student diplomats, leaders and co-learners in this unique experiential learning opportunity.

All interested University of Wyoming students are encouraged to apply for the CIEL ME program. Following receipt of your application materials (detailed below), you will be contacted for an interview with Dr. Aiken, UW’s Program Leader, and other members of CIEL’s ME travel team. Following this interview, if you are selected to join the CIEL Middle East program for Summer 2022 you will then be given permission to register online via the Cowboys Abroad Portal through UW’s Education Abroad Office at https://uwyo-sa.terradotta.com.

Following your completed applications through CIEL and the UW Education Abroad Office, there will be a $500 down-payment required from selected participants (to be paid to CIEL) by March 15th, 2022 as a demonstration of their commitment to participating in the program as accommodation, travel and other costs must be booked far in advance. This deposit is applied to the overall program costs and will be refunded if for whatever reason the travel program is cancelled.
Application Materials
Please email all application materials as attachments directly to Dr. Nevin T. Aiken from the School of Politics, Public Affairs and International Studies (SPPAIS) at naiken@uwyo.edu.

1. A concise and thoughtful response to five short questions regarding your desire and preparedness to participate on the CIEL ME Program
2. An unofficial academic transcript
3. A Brief Curriculum Vitae or Resume (including extracurricular activities)
4. One Academic Letter of Recommendation (from an Instructor, Professor, TA) speaking to your academic potential, critical thinking and communication skills, and assessment of your ability to serve as an effective student leader and diplomat. Recommenders should submit letters directly to Dr. Nevin T. Aiken at naiken@uwyo.edu

ESSAY QUESTIONS (Max 200-250 words per question – 800 to 1000 words, total)

Please save your Essay Question answers in a single DOC, DOCX or PDF document. At the top of the page, type your name and the program to which you are applying (CIEL Middle East)

1. Why do you want to participate in the CIEL ME program, in particular? Please include in your answer how this might fit with your future academic, career or professional goals as well as your particular interest in the Middle East region and/or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2. What personal and professional attributes do you believe would characterize a Student Diplomat capable of effectively representing CIEL, your university and your country while travelling abroad? What sort of behavior, in and outside of schedule meetings, do you believe would be typical of an effective Student Diplomat? What characteristics do you believe make you a strong applicant in this regard?

3. How do you approach communication with people who hold different beliefs, forms of worship, cultural practices and identity affiliations within your own cultural group(s)? From other cultural groups? What are your intercultural communication strengths, as well as areas that might potentially benefit from further growth and development?

4. What previous international travel experience, if any, do you have and/or are there other elements of your previous experiences that you believe make you well prepared to participate on the CIEL ME travel program? Finally, please provide a brief description of how you would plan to fund your participation on the CIEL ME program (including a list of potential scholarships or fellowships you intend to apply for).