



## NFTY EIE High School In Israel Eisendrath International Exchange

תִּיכּוֹן נִי"ר ע"ש אֵיזֶנְדְּרַט

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### NFTY – EIE Summer Session Course Descriptions Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

#### **Israel: Land, Cultures and Peoples**

The program is based in Kibbutz Tzuba, just outside of Jerusalem, Israel. The core curriculum class of the program is titled "Israel: Land, Cultures and Peoples". This class consists of 22 weekly hours of classroom and field studies and discussed in detail the history, religion philosophy, civics and literature of the Jewish People. The field studies component includes 26 field trips visiting sites throughout ancient and modern Israel.

The course is broken into 5 units, including class and field study. Following is a brief description of each unit and its main topics:

#### **Biblical Period:**

- Basics of archaeological research
- The birth of the Jewish civilization
- The founding of the Kingdom of Israel
- Prophecy in ancient Israel
- Exile to Babylon
- Biblical literature and study methodology

#### **Second Temple Period:**

- The return to the Land of Israel from exile
- Alexander the Great and the influence of Hellenism on the land of Judea
- The rise of the Hasmonean Dynasty as a reaction to the threats of Hellenistic rule
- The rise of Roman rule in Judea
- The destruction of the Second Temple
- The development of Judaism as a culture without a Temple or a representative central institution and without ritual sacrifice
- The life of Jesus and the development of early Christianity

### Middle Ages:

- Formation of Talmudic and Rabbinic literature and the codification of the oral tradition
- The crystallization of Jewish culture in exile
- The move of the center of the Jewish world to Babylon, and then eventually to Europe.
- The survival of Judaism under the influence of Christianity and Islam.
- The Golden Age of Spain
- The effect of the Crusades on the Land of Israel and the diaspora Jewish communities.

### Early Modern Age:

- Issues of preservation of Jewish identity under the pressure of the centralized European state and the dynamics of the modern world.
- Rise of modern anti-Semitism, and Jewish responses
- Russian Jewry under the Czars and the social strife of Eastern European life (pogroms)
- The development of different streams of Judaism including Reform, Conservative and neo-Orthodox Judaism.
- The rise of Zionism (the wish to return to the Land of Israel) as a tool of Jewish continuity.
- The revival of the Hebrew Language.

### Modern Age:

- The Holocaust
- The establishment of the State of Israel
- The modern State as the center for the Jewish people
- The wars of Israel
- The Arab-Israeli conflict
- The Peace Process

### Sources

During the course we use sources including: the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), Ancient literature of the Middle East (including ancient creation myths), archaeology, Talmud, Medieval Rabbinic sources, Jewish liturgy, maps, opinion articles, newspapers, academic material, as well as a conglomeration of various original sources. Every subject that is taught in class is accompanied by a site in Israel which is used academically.

### Academic Requirements

During each unit students are required to write several short homework assignments as well as one extensive essay. Additionally, a quiz is administered mid-way through each unit. Every unit culminates with an exam that includes both an objective (short answer) as well as an essay section. Students are required to reproduce both factual information as well as processing the main theories and concepts discussed during the relative time period. The length of the exam for each unit is approximately three hours. Midway through the course, students take a Mid-term exam following the similar form. At the end of the course, students are required to write a comprehensive final exam over two days, and a paper which will include the major themes of the course as well as encouraging students to document their surroundings.