

History of the Crusades

A Study Tour in Israel

Queens College Study Abroad in Israel
Winter 2009, Jan. 4-25
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In this course, we will study the history of the crusading movement, focusing specifically on the crusades to the Holy Land from the 11th to the 13th centuries, and the history of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. Designed as a study tour, classes will be held as we travel around Israel from Tel Aviv to Caesarea, Akko, and Jerusalem in order to visit to some of the most important surviving crusader sites, including the Tower of David, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Church of St. Anne in Jerusalem, as well as the remains of Belvoir and Montfort Castles, the Horns of Hattin, and the citadel of the Hospitallers and the Templar tunnel in Akko.

This course will also feature the “reacting to the past” game *The Second Crusade: the War Council of Acre, 1148*, which brings to life a dramatic moment in the history of the crusades. For one week, the students will “become” the great gathering of monarchs, barons, religious authorities, and others that met as a war council in Acre (Akko) on the eve of the Second Crusade, and “react” as participants in the discussions and debates that might have been held there. Readings for the course will consist of Christian and Muslim teachings about peace and holy war found in the New Testament and the *Qur’an*, St. Augustine’s ideas about just war in his *City of God*, documents from the Investiture Controversy, and selections from various chroniclers of the crusades and the crusader states. An important goal of this course is a critical examination of the legacy of the crusading movement on the relations between Christians, Jews, and Muslims around the world today.

“Reacting to the Past” is an innovative way of learning through role-playing and elaborate games. At the heart of the Second Crusade game, is animated discussion and debating; you must persuade others that “your” views make more sense than those of your opponents. You will have two ways of expressing your views: orally and in writing, and both will be graded and contribute toward your final grade. Writing assignments will include journal notes, short essays, and a final research project.

Together, we will study the history and the texts, visit crusader sites in Israel, and play the game along the way.

Required Reading: please purchase before we leave for Israel to bring along with you.

St. Augustine, *City of God*, abridged edition (Image Publishing) ISBN: 0-385-02910-1

Gaudette, Helen. *The Second Crusade: the War Council of Acre, 1148*. “Reacting to the Past.” * This book will be emailed to each student to be printed out.

Jean de Joinville and Geoffroy de Villehardouin. *Chronicles of the Crusades*. Trans. Margaret R. B. Shaw. New York: Penguin Classics, 1963. ISBN: 0-140-44124-7

Johnson, James Turner. *The Holy War Idea in Western and Islamic Traditions*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997.
ISBN: 0-271-01633-7

Riley-Smith, Jonathan. *The Crusades: A History*. Second Ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-300-10128-7

Helpful website:

<http://www.crusades-encyclopedia.com/secondcrusade.html>

Course Requirements:

Participation: (30%) Participation in class discussions is an important element of this course. And, since persuasion is at the heart and soul of the Second Crusade Game, participation is a crucial component of it too. In the game, you will seek to achieve your role's "game objectives" by expressing your views in the debates as a member of a particular team (faction) or alone as an indeterminate.

Journal/Notebook/Scrapbook: (20%) The journal will consist of hand-written notes, thoughts, comments, strategies, arguments for the game, postcards, museum receipts, etc. Think of it as a written and even visual record of all that you do, see, and learn about the history of the crusades during the course in Israel. The journal should also include your class notes and outlines of arguments and counter arguments to each of the major questions concerning the war council of Acre in 1148 that will come up in the debates. You can and should refer to your outlines and arguments during the debates.

Two short Essays: (10% each) Two 2-3 page essays written while in Israel.

Research Project: (30%) A 10-page typed research project about the history of the crusades, which will be due a few weeks after we get back home from Israel. The assignment will be handed out in class.

Tentative Preliminary Schedule:

JAN 4 : ARRIVAL at BEN GURION AIRPORT and transfer TO HOTEL IN TEL AVIV

JAN 5 : Train to Haifa and transfer to hotel.

JAN 5-11 : Stay and study in Haifa, including a site visit to crusader Akko

JANUARY 12-18 : SEVEN FULL DAYS OF TOURING IN AN AIRCONDITIONED BUS WITH THE SERVICES OF AN ENGLISH SPEAKING Academic Tour GUIDE.

JANUARY 19-25 : Stay and study in Jerusalem, including site visits to crusader sites

JANUARY 25 : Transfer TO BEN GURION AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE.