

# CET Syllabus of Record



**Program:** Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman

**Course Title:** Reflections of Culture & Society in Jordanian Archaeology

**Course Code:** AM/ANTH 395

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** Anthropology / Middle East Studies, Archaeology, History

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** None

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## Description

In this class, students get to know the civilizations, cultures and religions, both old and new, that have made Jordan a treasure trove of artistic and tourist wonder. Students receive an overview of the history of famous places such as Petra, Wadi Rum, Ajloun Castle, Karak Castle, Umm Qais, Jerash, the Desert Castles of Jordan, the Dead Sea, Mount Nebo and Madaba. The course covers the Stone Age and material accomplishments of the Bronze and Iron Ages then moves to review the Ammonite, Moabite and Edomite kingdoms and the ancient land of Canaan of Old Testament lore. Students learn to draw cultural and anthropological conclusions from myths surrounding the region and get a firsthand look at the rich and ancient heritage of the Semitic and Hebraic civilizations of the Levant.

In addition to ancient history, this class also offers an overview of Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic history, giving a more contemporary context to the influences on Jordanian culture and society today. Students visit a number of archaeological sites across the country with their classmates and the instructor, seeing the impact of these civilizations with their own eyes. In studying Jordanian history with this multi-faceted approach, students compare and contrast between the various groups and cultures that have made Jordan the country it is today.

## Objectives

In this course, students:

- Visit a number of archaeological ruins in Jordan and study their historical background.
- Analyze contemporary Jordanian society in light of historical, religious and cultural knowledge of its past civilizations.
- Read and analyze a number of translated religious and historical documents written by the occupants of these places.
- Establish links between “tourist information” and real historical and religious academia.

## Course Requirements

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Course readings average 100 pages per week and should be completed before class begins. Students must attend all classes and are expected to actively participate in class discussions by reflecting on and engaging the readings. Students are expected to have given thought to the readings prior to class and come to class with questions, comments and insights. Class assignments are evaluated according to the students' ability to reflect on their understanding of the course lessons, effective class participation and attendance, the students' ability to think critically on course topics, and timeliness of submission.

Students are asked to complete three small research papers of five pages each throughout the course of the semester that interact with the course material critically. Students complete a final research paper of 15 pages on a topic of their choosing, typically expanding on one of the previous smaller paper topics. Each student also presents his/her final research topic in a 15-minute presentation to the class at the end of the semester. A final exam at the end of the semester is a comprehensive review and examination of all course material.

In addition, students go on a number of field trips and archaeological site visits, after which each student is expected to have taken notes and be prepared to discuss the locations in the context of the course material. Typically, the class takes at least four academic site visits per semester in which students are expected to participate.

### Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| • Site visits and homework            | 25% |
| • Participation and attendance        | 25% |
| • Final research paper / presentation | 20% |
| • 3 small research papers             | 15% |
| • Final exam                          | 15% |

### Primary Texts

Russell Adams, *Jordan: An Archaeological Reader*, (Equinox Publishing: 2010).

### Supplementary Texts

Other readings assigned include:

- Selections from English-language textbooks on Jordanian archaeology
- Translated articles from various academic sources in Arabic
- Articles from archaeological heritage journals and studies

### Outline of Course Content

Topic 1 – Overview and Historical Background (1 week)

- Review of the syllabus and course explanation
- Basic historical review of the site locations to be visited in the semester
- General overview of Jordanian history

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### Topic 2 – Comparative History and Archaeology (2 weeks)

- Patterns of stability in Jordanian life across the ages
- Archaeological history and its application in Jordan

### Topic 3 – Identity and Civilization (2 weeks)

- Relevance of civilizational histories to current Jordanian identities
- Changes in Jordanian identity across the centuries politically, socially and economically

### Topic 4 – Governance and Power (2 weeks)

- Ancient political and governance systems across the ages
- Family and social life, work cultures, and living habits and structures
- Technological solutions to the environment, medicine and illness in the ancient world

### Topic 5 – War and Conflict (2 weeks)

- Influences of wars and internal conflicts on Jordan's tribal, religious and cultural structures
- Warfare tactics, strategies and weaponry of the ancient civilizations of the Levant

### Topic 6 – Religious Identities and Influences (2 weeks)

- Religious narratives (old and new) of Islam, Judaism and Christianity in Jordan
- Piety and religion of the ancient civilizations of Petra, Wadi Rum, Umm Qais, etc.

### Topic 7 – Language and Its Influences (2 weeks)

- Linguistics and the use of language in civilizational achievement in Jordan
- Reminders of the past to the present day linguistically
- The expansion of the Nabataeans and their eventual downfall