

# Application

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

What type of work do you see yourself doing in the next five years?

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Have you ever traveled outside of the United States? Where?

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Are you a U.S. citizen? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a U.S. Passport? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any of your classes or experiences that might be related to this course.

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Briefly describe your expectations for the program and what you would like to accomplish.

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Please return application to:  
Michal Sela-Amit, PhD  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
USC School of Social Work  
SWC 230  
213.821.4402  
mselaami@usc.edu



# Destinations

## TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

Located in Israel's cultural, financial and industrial heartland, Tel Aviv University is the largest university in Israel and the biggest Jewish university in the world. It is a major center of teaching and research, enrolling approximately 30,000 students.



## TEL AVIV-YAFO

Tel-Aviv, the first modern Jewish city built in Israel, and the ancient port city of Yafo were united into the municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo in 1950. Situated on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, the combined city is a center of commerce and culture, agriculture and tourism, and the home of Israel's only stock exchange. Tel Aviv-Yafo is the country's second largest city, a rapidly growing international metropolis with a booming population, energy and around-the-clock culture that gives it a cosmopolitan flair comparable to few other cities in this part of the world. The city that never sleeps, Tel Aviv-Yafo is known for its great restaurants and thriving night life.

## JERUSALEM

Jerusalem, the largest city in Israel and the nation's capital, is one of the most extraordinary places in the world, with its unique combination of history, spiritual sanctity and colorful cultures. It is a place where the first century rubs shoulders with the 21<sup>st</sup> century and where picturesque "old" neighborhoods nestle against glistening office towers and high-rise apartments. An ancient Middle Eastern city of key importance to the religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Jerusalem's sites and museums attract a constant stream of pilgrims of all faiths. At the heart of Jerusalem is the Old City, roughly 220 acres surrounded by walls built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and divided into Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Armenian quarters.

## GALILEE

The Galilee is a mountainous region in the northern part of Israel with an abundance of fertile valleys, forests and farmlands. Relatively densely populated since ancient times, Galilee is home to the largest variety of ethnic communities in Israel today. Tourists are drawn to recreational pursuits, nature preserves, hot springs, historical sites, kibbutzim (communal farms) and religious shrines.



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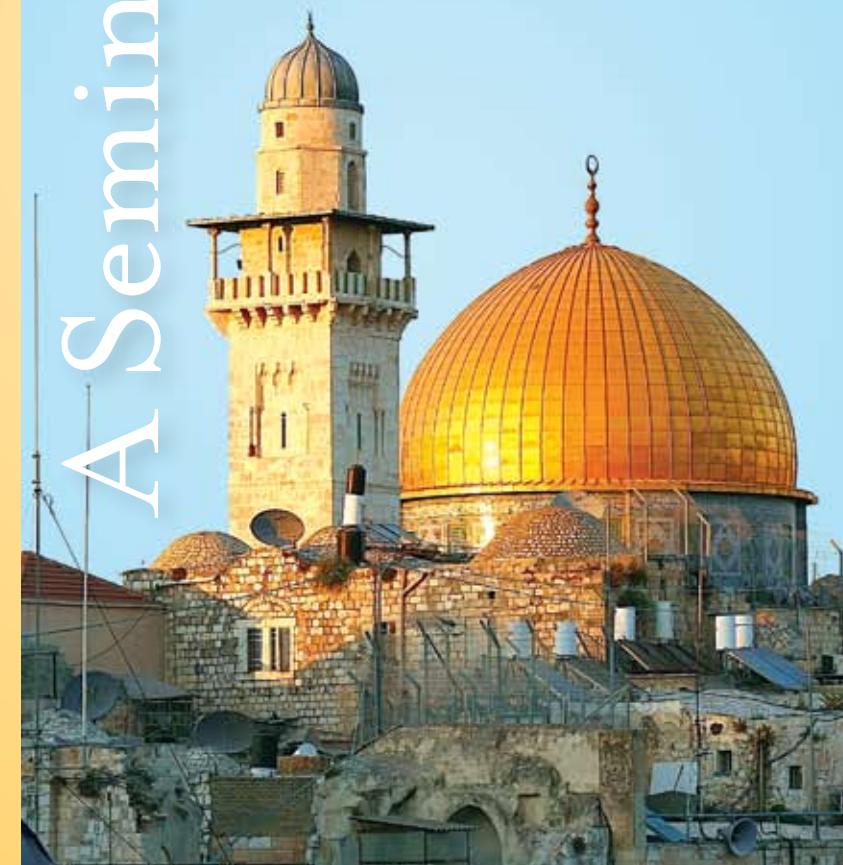
# A Seminar Studying Abroad



Social Conflict, Empowerment and Creative Problem Solving in

## Israel

June

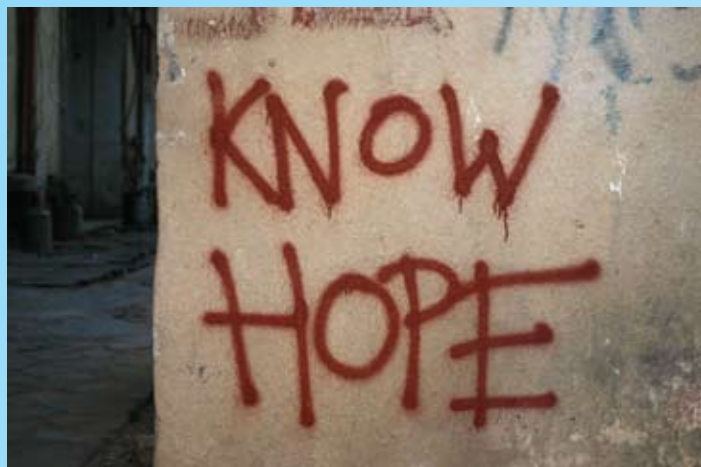


# Program Overview

Social Conflict, Empowerment and Creative Problem Solving in

## Israel

June



The University of Southern California School of Social Work offers a unique global immersion program in Israel for individuals interested in Israel's current and longstanding social conflicts and its creative problem-solving practices focused on community and client empowerment and social change.

The **Social Conflict, Empowerment and Creative Problem Solving in Israel** program provides students the opportunity to explore Israel in an intensive two-week immersion visit that will span various regions, sub-cultures and communities including urban and rural, Jewish and Arabic, and immigrants. Students will observe practice with a variety of client groups and in different social settings including schools, immigrant-absorption centers, prisons and community centers. They will engage in an open dialogue with Israeli social workers, multi-professional team members, community representatives and clients. In addition, they will be immersed in the social and cultural life of Israel through daily interaction with faculty and students at Tel Aviv University, as well as community groups in the Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality.

# Program Details

### FORMAT

The three-week program is offered in June and comprises pre-departure sessions in Los Angeles on the USC campus that include distance-education lectures with faculty at Tel Aviv University followed by an immersion visit in Tel Aviv. During the two weeks in Israel, daily instruction will combine lectures with faculty and guest speakers, discussion panels and in-class discussion, expressive practice exercises, small group fieldwork experience and site visits to community organizations in and around Tel Aviv. Participants will also visit cultural sites and participate in events in Tel Aviv-Yafo, in addition to taking two special field excursions to Galilee and Jerusalem.

### PARTICIPANTS

The program is designed for a limited number of graduate-level social work students who are interested in creative practice, social justice and client empowerment and those who want to study international social work by learning how Israeli society deals with its social problems. It will be of a particular value to students interested in communities and community organization, children and families, work with minorities and immigrants, group work and social justice issues.

### ACCOMMODATIONS (subject to change)

USC will arrange housing in Tel Aviv at either a small hotel or short-term apartment.

### COSTS

Program costs include roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles to Tel Aviv, two-week accommodations (double-room occupancy), breakfast and lunches, local transportation during program hours, field excursions to Jerusalem and Galilee, and an administrative fee. Other fees are additional including tuition for a 4-unit course (SOWK599) and a required health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health insurance plan and covered by the international study abroad option. All participants will be responsible for their own dinners and snacks, non-program local transportation and other incidentals.

### WHAT STUDENTS WILL GAIN

- Exposure to international social work through understanding social problems and social problem-solving in a different culture
- A comparative perspective on similar social issues approached differently in the United States and Israel
- A historical, cultural and social perspective of the factors that shape Israeli society
- Theoretical foundation and evidence-based practice knowledge of expressive therapies utilizing performing arts, visual arts and music with individuals, groups and communities
- A repertoire of expressive practice skills and techniques that can be utilized in working with various clients and communities
- Knowledge of empowerment theory and its application to clients in different social work settings
- A broader understanding of challenges and opportunities embedded in working within interdisciplinary teams for the benefit of communities and clients



# Frequently Asked Questions

### Will I get credit toward my degree?

If you are enrolled in the USC School of Social Work, you will receive a 4-unit credit for completing the program.

### Will this program help my chances of finding a job?

With the world growing smaller every day and the economies of all nations becoming increasingly intertwined, employers, regardless of profession, are eager for employees who bring new and innovative approaches that are often shaped by international experiences.

### Is financial aid available?

If you are receiving financial aid for your graduate education, you may also be able to use it toward international study. For details, visit the School of Social Work's Financial Aid Office.

### Do I need a passport and visa?

Yes. To obtain a passport for the first time, you will need to go in person to any passport acceptance facility with two photos of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship and a valid form of photo identification. Your passport needs to be valid at least six months from the intended date of entering Israel. As a United States citizen, you do not need to obtain a visa prior to traveling to Israel as long as you are traveling as a tourist and do not plan on staying in Israel beyond three months. For more details, visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

### What is the weather like in Tel Aviv?

Typically during June, the average temperature is a high of 81° F and a low of 69° F. Rainfall rarely occurs in June.

### What do I pack?

Casual, light clothing. Jeans are acceptable in the classroom and in the field. You may also want to bring a bathing suit and sweater or jacket for comfort in air-conditioned buildings. Please note that you will be able to travel with two checked pieces of luggage weighing no more than 50 pounds per piece. You will be charged additional fees for excess luggage and weight.

### What is the money situation?

The local currency is the Israeli new shekel (ILS). The current exchange rate is approximately 1.00 ILS = .25 USD (as of November 2007). You can exchange your money at banks and exchange bureaus. You can also use credit cards and ATM cards.

### Where do I get more information?

Please contact Clinical Assistant Professor Michal Sela-Amit at 213.821.4402 or [mselaami@usc.edu](mailto:mselaami@usc.edu).

# Application

Social Conflict, Empowerment and Creative Problem Solving in

## Israel

June

### BASIC INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE/AGENCY AFFILIATION

Name of school or agency \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Degree to date \_\_\_\_\_

Expected degree \_\_\_\_\_

Expected graduation date \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_