Jerusalem has been an object of desire and longing for the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It is the site of the Jewish Temples, of Jesus’ Tomb, and of the Mosques of the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa. For thousands of years, the holiness and the beauty of Jerusalem have inspired artists and visionaries, while the desire to possess the city and the holy places has caused hostilities, conflicts and wars which are by no means over. Starting with Abraham, the forefather of the three religions, we shall study the religious factors and the political interests demonstrated in the Holy Scriptures of the three religions, in the historical events, such as the Crusades, as well as in the poetry and the myths that have shaped the unique ethos of Jerusalem. We shall explore the historical, sociological, and psychological reasons for the emergence of the modern Zionist movement in Europe that resulted in the return to the Land and in the establishment of the Jewish State—historical processes which reconfigured the position of Jerusalem in the consciousness of the world. Our investigation of the ways in which the European-based empires shaped the political-ethnic-national realities of the Middle East will provide the necessary information to understand the current conflicts over Jerusalem and the Land of Israel/Palestine and to the comprehension of the current situation in the Middle East at large. The study of the ethical, theological, and national components of the historical narrative of Jerusalem and the Land of Israel will illuminate the roots of the violence and enmity that preclude peace in this crucial part of the world.

In this class, you’ll get the chance to
- watch films about the history of the Jerusalem and the Land of Israel
- discuss the current events in the Middle East
- attend cultural events associated with the Middle East and sample Middle Eastern food
- attend guest lectures by eminent scholars of Israel and the Middle East
- take a field trip to the Golda Meir Library, and the Jewish Museum in Milwaukee

In the history class associated with this FIG, students will discover that Judaism, Christianity and Islam are inextricably connected by their braided histories and their adherents’ constant interactions with each other. Standing by itself, this course traces the ways in which these “Abrahamic religions” have developed and influenced each other over 4,000 years. As part of this FIG, the class 1) illuminates the larger religious, political and cultural factors that have made Jerusalem arguably the holiest—and most contested—place on earth, and 2) discovers how religion has influenced international relations—and vice versa—since the ancient Hebrews fled Egypt. It thus unites the themes addressed in the other two courses by providing historical context and perspective for both.

The political science course in this FIG explores past and present patterns of political, social and technological change in terms of their contemporary and future implications for international relations.
### Time Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:50 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:55 AM</td>
<td>Jewish Studies 231 Lec 2</td>
<td>Jewish Studies 231 Lec 2</td>
<td>Jewish Studies 231 Lec 2</td>
<td>Jewish Studies 231 Lec 2</td>
<td>Jewish Studies 231 Lec 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>History 230 Lec 1</td>
<td>Poli Sci 103 Disc 309</td>
<td>History 230 Lec 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:25 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>2:30-3:45</td>
<td>2:30-3:45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Poli Sci 103 Lec 1</td>
<td>History 230 Disc 301</td>
<td>Poli Sci 103 Lec 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:35 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVENING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This FIG is a total of 10 credits. Students will need to take a 12 credit minimum to be a full-time student.