



## NES 100 & NES 101 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **NEAR EASTERN STUDIES 100: GENERAL ORIENTATION TO THE PEOPLES AND CULTURES OF THE HOLY LAND [1 ITSI CERTIFIED EDUCATION UNIT<sup>1</sup>]**

This orientation course is designed to prepare participants in the program for the serious studies they will be engaged in while studying and traveling in the Near East. The course is taught online as an independent study or home study course that is composed of eight lessons with an open-book quiz associated with each, outside reading of 200+ page book with submitted review, collecting 10 recent news articles on the Near East, and a proctored final exam. The topics include a general introduction to Near Eastern Studies and the rules and policies of the International Travel Studies Institute; backgrounds in the use of sources pertinent to the regional studies; physical geography and its impact on the historical development of the region; introduction to the history and archaeology of the Levant; two chapters on the major religions of the region; and two chapters on the contemporary studies and foundation of the current conflicts in the region. The course material provides the necessary vocabulary and foundational information each student will need to gain the most out of their travel and study in the Holy Land. This course was previously a class offered by the Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies (BYU) and the Brigham Young University Department of Independent Studies with the same instructor (Dann W. Hone) for ten years as one and two-credit hours courses. The course has been updated and modified to meet the current affairs and needs of the International Travel Studies Institute. For content and course manual, please see a copy of the published text, “General Orientation to the Peoples and Cultures of the Holy Land” by Dann W Hone.

### **NEAR EASTERN STUDIES 101: FIELD STUDIES IN THE NEAR EAST (INTENSIVE EXPLORATIONS IN THE HOLY LAND OFFERING [2 ITSI CERTIFIED UNITS])**

This is a field studies course conducted on-site in the Holy Land with a clear ancient history and historical geography emphasis. Class lecture/discussion periods are devoted to field study trip preparations and archaeological studies coupled with the historical settings of the Bible and comparative religion instruction. The course includes discussions/lectures on biblical and modern life styles; historical and contemporary geography; Middle Eastern religions, current events, and politics. The history of religious groups in the Holy Land and their relationship with other religions and cultures will be a highlight of the study. The classes serve as the key correlation facilitator for historical, contemporary, and field studies. Field study trips should be considered by students as equal to any classroom experience in instruction and treatment. The value of an overseas study experience is the concept of the extended classroom. Students are graded on their attendance, participation, completion of assignments and exams pertaining to field study, and attention given to faculty on the field study trips. This 23-day Intensive Explorations in the Holy Land program includes travel throughout all the regions of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The daily field study trips are conducted by International Travel Studies Institute faculty interspersed by local site guides and guest lecturers. Below is a sample of one faculty’s NES 101 course content and requirements. Faculty are expected to be university-level instructors, who are from local and international communities.

#### **ITSI Certified Unit Requirements:**

Field Study Trip Hours (3 travel hours=1 lecture hour):

(18 full days x 9 hrs.) + (2 half days x 4 hrs.) + (2 evening FST x 3 hrs.) = 176 hours/ 3 = 58.7 hrs.

Pre-tour meetings<sup>2</sup> (Seven sessions 1 ½ hrs. per lecture/discussion session):

=10.5 hrs.

Lectures/discussion (guest lecturer and faculty lectures separate from FST lectures):

=12.0 hrs.

Work/study hours (expect aside from above plus exam/quiz responses)

=24.0 hrs.

TOTAL HOURS FOR TWO (2) ITSI CERTIFIED UNITS

=105.2 HRS.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See: “International Travel Studies Institute Policy on Certificated Unit Offerings” at end of this course outline.

<sup>2</sup> Not all Intensive Explorations in the Holy Land have these pre-tour meetings, but the students do have preparation letters from faculty (from 20-40 letters and files downloaded on Amazon Kindle Fire 7 tablets provided as part of each program) that do cover much of the same preparation (includes geography, history, cultural and contemporary affairs, religious and specific travel preparation information)

<sup>3</sup>Exceeds the 96 hours required to meet ITSI and Federal guidelines for 2-unit university hours of study.

## Sample NES 101 Course Content

**Sample of Course Requirements** (each program may be modified by program faculty):

Textbooks:

1. 1979 LDS edition of the Bible with topical guide, Bible Dictionary, maps, etc.
2. Holy Land Study Program Itinerary and Study Guide contained on the Amazon Kindle Fire 7 sent to each student by International Travel Studies Institute. Students are to start looking up the sites and associated cultural/historical information before departure. This study guide will be augmented for you while in the countries being explored.

Sample of Assignments:

1. Read the pre-tour suggested readings (sent by ITSI).
2. Study the "Itinerary Study Guide" before and during the tour.
3. Complete the 8-lesson "General Orientation to the Peoples and Cultures of the Holy Land" for one additional certified course unit
4. Keep a tour journal of daily experiences and insights gained.
5. Oral Reports: Participate in the field study trip site visits and give two ten-minute site reports selected from the list of sites provided below. As you review the program itinerary, there may be other sites you may wish to report on instead of one of those listed. Seek prior approval from the faculty for these sites. You should prepare this report before departure. These reports will assist with teaching situations during our travels.

Possible Site Reports:

Arad	Hebron	
Aravah	Hebron	Old City of Jerusalem
Avdat	Jaffa	Pool of Bethesda
Beer Sheva	Jericho	Qumran
Beth Shemesh	Jordan River	Red Sea
Bethany	Lachish	Samaria
Bethlehem	Magdala	Sde Boker
Bethphage	Masada	Sea of Galilee
Caesarea (Maritima)	Megiddo	Sea of Galilee
Capernaum	Mizpah Ramon	Tel Aviv
City of David	Mount Carmel	Tel Dan (Laish)
Dead Sea	Mount Hermon/Baniyas (Caesarea	Tiberias
Gamla	Philippi)	Timna
Gaza	Mount of Olives	Valley of Aijalon
Golan Heights	Mount Tabor	Valley of Armageddon/Ezdraelon
Haifa/Acco	Nazareth	Valley of Elah
Hatzor	Negev	West Jerusalem – specific sites

6. Obtain a passing grade (60% or better) on a final exam containing questions from readings, lectures, and sites.
7. Written Report: Following the end of the travel program, submit a handwritten essay of eight pages on the following:
  - a. Scriptural insights from physical evidences: Choose a specific location, custom, or that has helped you better understand the scriptures or contemporary affairs.
  - b. The most significant thing I learned on this program was . . . Relate what you learned, and the circumstances involved.
  - c. My spiritual highlight of the whole program was . . .

Sample of On-site Lectures:

Most of the lectures will take place during the normal course of the program. Some of them will be given during evening firesides or discussion periods. You must attend these lectures/discussions and make a summary entry in your journal describing what you felt or learned. As some circumstances may change the travel schedule please plan to be flexible.

Some lectures will include files sent to your Amazon Kindle Fire tablet. The lectures include the following topics (not in order nor limited to these topics only):

- Orientation to the Holy Land, Ancient and Modern Societies
- Historical Geography of the Holy Land
- The Meaning of Secure Borders: Modern Israel and Her Neighbors
- Caesarea Maritima: Herod, Peter, Paul
- Elijah and the Sealing Powers (Day 3)
- Haifa: The LDS Presence in the Holy Land (Day 3)
- Megiddo, Armageddon, and the Battles of the Holy Land (Day 3)
- Druze, Bahaim, Samaritan, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity: Religions of the Holy Land
- Geographical Orientation to the Galilee Days (Days 3-5)
- Living in the Days of the Savior (Day 4)
- Caesarea Philippi: The Rock of Revelation
- The Parables and Miracles of Jesus
- Capernaum, the Savior's City
- The Sermon on the Mount
- Nazareth, Boyhood Town of the Messiah
- Mount Tabor: The Transfiguration of Christ
- Prophets of the Old and New Testaments
- The Judean Wilderness: Psalms, Shepherds, Temptations and Revelations
- Orientation to Jerusalem: Past, Present and Future
- A Light Set on a Hill--The Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies
- The Cities of David and His Sons
- The Birth of Christ
- The Dead Sea Scrolls and Biblical Archaeology Today
- The Greatest Week in History, Part 1
- The Greatest Week in History, Part 2
- Historical Geography of the Dead Sea Region
- From Terraced Farming to the Philistine Coastal Plains: Patriarchs, Prophets, Kings, and Giants
- Concluding Overview of Course, Travels and Study
- The Negev, Aravah and Red Sea Regional Geography, History and Archaeology
- Timna, Ancient Mines and Tabernacles

**Grading:**

1. 15% Pre-tour suggested readings: This will be through a report and through part of the final exam. Completion of the NES 100 course, "General Orientation to the Peoples and Cultures of the Holy Land" satisfies this requirement.
2. 20% Travel journal: Make daily entries of experiences and insights gained. Also record your summaries of lectures. Turn in your journal to the professor at the end of the tour for evaluation.
3. 30% Final examination, which will be given after the tour. (A review sheet will be sent to the student for a proctored exam.)
4. 15% Written report
5. 20% Oral reports