ABRAHAM’S CHILDREN
ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK
JANUARY 13 - 25, 2013

Open to participants from any faith or philosophical background, Abraham’s Children is a graduate theological seminar designed to introduce some of the basic elements of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith traditions through the lens and dynamic of interreligious relations and understanding. The geographical and human context of this traveling seminar will be comprised of: some of the holiest sites of the three traditions; living Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities in a region with a rich history of both interreligious symbiosis and conflict; and a religiously diverse faculty and student constituency, reflecting both the intra- and inter-religious diversity of the three traditions.

Those who complete the course will have had the experience of studying Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, not only from the perspectives of history and theology, but also in an experiential setting which highlights the relevance of history and theology to important contemporary global realities, and which affords participants opportunities to build interreligious relationships with faculty and colleagues of all three faiths.

Highlights include the Western Wall, al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock (al-Haram al-Sharif), Har HaBayit/Temple Mount, the Mosque of ‘Umar b. al-Khattab (r.a.a.), the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Yad Vashem, the Church of the Nativity, and Hebron/Khalil. The course may be audited or taken for credit.

Abraham’s Children is facilitated in cooperation with Temple Sholom and Elmhurst College.

FACULTY
Prof. Rabbi David Sandmel | Temple Sholom, CTU
Prof. Scott C. Alexander | CTU
Prof. Inamul Haq | Elmhurst College, CTU
Prof. John Pawlikowski, O.S.M. | CTU

FEES
$2,650 double occupancy*, if taken for credit (airfare additional)
$2,250 double occupancy*, if taken for audit (airfare additional)

*single occupancy available for an additional $850

Deadline to apply is December 1, 2012.

CONTACT
For additional information on fees and travel arrangements or to receive an application to apply for this travel course, please email or telephone:
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For expanded itinerary, visit www.ctu.edu/abrahams_children.
ABRAHAM’S CHILDREN ITINERARY | JANUARY 13 - 25, 2013

SUNDAY, JAN. 13
Travel to Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport.

MONDAY, JAN. 14
Check-in at Beit Shmuel, designed by famed architect Moshe Safdie. Overlooking the Old City, the complex is one of Israel’s top ten modern architectural sites and the headquarters of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

TUESDAY, JAN. 15

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16
Jerusalem. Visit sacred Jewish, Christian and Muslim sites: the Western Wall; Via Dolorosa; Church of the Holy Sepulchre; Mosque of ‘Umar al-Khattab; Har HaBayit/Haram al-Sharif. Evening guest speaker Rabbi David Rosen, International Director of Interfaith Relations for the American Jewish Committee.

THURSDAY, JAN. 17
Jerusalem. Class topic: God from the Perspectives of the Three Abrahamic Traditions. Afternoon visit to Yad Vashem, living memorial of the Jewish people to the Shoah. Evening with Anat Hoffman, director of the Israel Religious Action Center, dedicated to advancing pluralism in Israeli society.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18
Jerusalem. Class topic: Worship and Ritual. Friday prayer at a Jerusalem mosque, followed by travel to a Jerusalem synagogue for an experience of Shabbat.

SATURDAY, JAN. 19
Jerusalem. Morning free time. Afternoon class topic: Sacred Times. Evening visit with the Parents Circle—Families Forum, a grassroots organization of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis dedicated to promoting reconciliation.

SUNDAY, JAN. 20
Christian worship at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Visit al-Quds University in Abu Dis (West Bank); meet with Prof. Mustafa Abu Sway, Director of Islamic Studies program and premier Palestinian Muslim interfaith scholar. Late afternoon visit to Bethlehem University to witness the shared campus life and learning of the Palestinian Arab Muslims and Christians. Check-in to Bethlehem accommodations.

MONDAY, JAN. 21
Bethlehem. Class topic: Revelation within Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Afternoon visit with Prof. Gerics Khoury, Executive Director of al-Liqa’, the center for Christian-Muslim dialogue in the West Bank. Evening meeting with Arab Christian and Muslim religious and academic leaders who are interfaith peacebuilders in the West Bank.

TUESDAY, JAN. 22
Bethlehem. Class topic: Authority and Community; focusing on diversity and sectarianism within the Abrahamic religions. Afternoon visit to Hebron/al-Khalil and Machpelah, the “Tomb of Avraham/Abraham/Ibrahim.” At this contested sacred space, we’ll have an opportunity to discuss the complex divisive and unifying symbolism of the figure of Abraham in the three faiths.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23
Tel Aviv-Yafo (Jaffa). Class topic: Religion and Politics. Afternoon and evening free time.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24
Tel Aviv-Yafo. Morning: concluding class. Afternoon open house and evening final banquet. (Late night return home option or leave next morning, the 25th.)

FRIDAY, JAN. 25
Return home.

(Daily activities subject to change)