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**Applicable Class List:**

WCOB 230V—Walton College Study Abroad (Special Topics)

WCOB 230VH—Honors Walton College Study Abroad (Special Topics)

WCOB 330V— Walton College Study Abroad (Special Topics)

WCOB 330VH—Honors Walton College Study Abroad (Special Topics)

**Course Materials:** The course materials will primarily consist of selected journal readings and two popular press books.

*Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel’s Economic Miracle* by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. 2011.

*Israel: A Concise history of a Nation Reborn* by Daniel Gordis. 2017.

**Contact Hours:**

Pre-departure content lectures 18

Pre-departure orientation 0

Lectures during program 8

Class conversations during program 34

Total 60

**Course Objectives:**

Israel has become known as the Start Up Nation. This course will look at some of the conditions in Israel that contribute to an environment conducive to new business success and visit the “Start Up Capital” of the world.

By the end of this course students will:

**L1**: Comprehend the important role new firms play in economic growth and identify political policies and business climate characteristics that foster and/or challenge new businesses.

**L2**: Demonstrate factual knowledge of the history of Israel since 1948 and the historical context of geopolitical factors unique to Israel

**L3**: Be able to identify and discuss policies in place that explain why Israeli start-ups in some industries thrive more than others.

**L4**: Identify and analyze factors that contribute to entrepreneurism in Israel that can and cannot be readily applied in the US.

**L5**: Meet Israeli entrepreneurs and innovators and tour high tech businesses in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

**L6**: Display professional and culturally appropriate interaction with business entrepreneurs, classmates, and professionals leading the group.

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| **Deliverable** | **Point Distribution by Class** | | | | |
| *WCOB 230V* | *WCOB 230VH* | *WCOB 330V* | *WCOB 330VH* | *Notes* |
| Exam | 30 | 25 | 30 | 25 | Multiple Choice, Short Answer and Essay-Based |
| Quizzes | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | Multiple choice and Short answer quizzes over assigned readings |
| Journal and Research Paper | 30 | 35 | 30 | 35 | 3-Page (230V) and 5-Page (330V & 230VH) and 7-page (330VH) |
| Professionalism/Participation | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | Pre-Meeting Briefing Sessions, travel, and events in Israel |
| End of course survey | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |  |

Letter grades in the course will be assigned as follows:

A = 90 or above

B = 80 – 89.99

C = 70 – 79.99

D = 60 – 69.99

F = Below 60

**Upper-Level Credit:** To earn upper-level credit (WCOB330V) credit, the student must complete the undergraduate business core before the course begins. Additionally, the student is expected to write a longer paper providing more analysis linking the business content from their previous coursework to the experience in Israel.

**Honors Credit:** To earn honors credit (WCOB220VH) credit, the student is expected to write a longer paper that provides more evidence of critical thinking regarding the course topics and the Israel experience. Honors students will be expected to extrapolate from what they observed in Israel to make recommendations on policy for the US or other countries that wish to improve their innovation culture.

**Upper-Level Honors Credit:** To earn upper-level honors (WCOB 330VH) credit, the student must complete the undergraduate business core before the course begins and is expected to write a longer paper that is held to a higher level. The expectations are that the paper includes analysis that links previous coursework to the experience in Israel and extrapolates from what we learn to make policy recommendations to countries that wish to improve the innovation culture.

**Requirements:**

Professionalism and Participation are extremely important and essential for successful completion of this course. Due to the course format, students are expected to be present and prepared for every course session (including cultural activities). Advanced preparation is ESSENTIAL for effective course performance. Moreover, it is also expected that students will not only be present and prepared, but also participate during course discussions, to include professional exchange with guest speakers. This part of the grade will reflect demonstration of **L6**.

Students will keep a Daily Journal while we are in Israel. When we return home the journal will be submitted along with their research paper. The journal should help students connect L3-L6. as students reflect on their daily activities. The students will write approximately ½ page per day (single spaced) reflecting on the activities and events of the day and how they relate to the course learning objectives.

The Quizzes will be administered in the class meetings prior to travel to make sure students are reading and comprehending the assigned material and come to class ready to fully participate in the planned activities. They will assess learning objectives **L1 – L5** at a low level of comprehension.

The Exam will be used to evaluate students’ ability to integrate and apply the concepts and issues discussed in this course, as well as to assess students’ level of advanced preparation. The exam will be presented as questions requiring short answers that require students to integrate materials and provide assessments of business conditions. In addition, some multiple choice/true or false/matching type questions will be included. Students pursuing upper-level credit (WCOB 330V and 330VH) will be required to respond to a set of questions that will be more essay-based rather than short answer. The exam will assess learning objectives **L1-L2** at a high level of comprehension, and **L3-L4** at a moderate level.

Students will also complete a daily journal while in country that is submitted when we return and a research paper to assess students’ ability to contextualize study abroad experiences and research a particular issue related to the students’ major area of study. Students taking upper level and honors courses are expected to complete a longer paper that covers their chosen topic in more depth. This is where learning objectives **L3-L4** will be assessed at a high level of mastery. In the paper, as students discuss specific experiences and knowledge gained in Israel, it will demonstrate **L5** – **L6** have been accomplished.

**Pre-Departure Class Schedule:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **AM Session (9:00 – 12:00)** | **PM Session (1:00 – 4:00)** |
| **Monday 5/13** | **History of Israel** | **Government and culture of Israel** |
| **Tuesday 5/14** | **What role do new firms play in economic growth?** | **What public policies and business culture are conducive to entrepreneurship?** |
| **Wednesday 5/15** | **Why do entrepreneurs thrive in Israel?** | **Examples of successful start-up firms in Israel** |
| **Thursday 5/16** | **Study Day** | **Study Day** |
| **Friday 5/17** | **Exam/ Travel Safety Discussion** | **Free time for last minute travel preparations** |
| **Saturday 5/18** | **Leave NWA for Israel** |  |

**See itinerary for schedule of activities while abroad.**

**Academic Integrity**:

As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility.  Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail.

Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University’s ‘Academic Integrity Policy’ which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu/>. Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

**Inclement Weather**:

The University administration determines if classes are canceled due to inclement weather; I do not cancel class due to inclement weather. Therefore, you should rely on any announcement by the University administration with respect to class cancellation. The most current information regarding University closings is available from the University of Arkansas Weather Hotline (575-7000), which is updated by 6 a.m. on the day in question, and the University of Arkansas Home Page ([www.uark.edu](http://www.uark.edu/)). Also, KUAF 91.3 FM, the University’s public radio station, is good source for receiving information about whether the University is closed and classes are cancelled. If the University remains open, no announcement will be made through radio and television stations off campus. Should we have bad weather during this semester, I expect you to use your best judgment regarding attending class.

**Special Needs**:

Any student with special needs should bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible, but no later than the second week of class. Special testing accommodations must be requested in writing from the instructor no later than two weeks prior to the test date.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDYING ABROAD:**

In addition to the standard U of A policies, as elaborated above, please note the importance of the following policies and issues. Enrollment in this program signals your agreement to abide by these policies throughout the entire study abroad program.

**Etiquette**

Students are expected to remain polite and professional during in-country discussions. Even during heated debates, you must treat your instructors, classmates and the locals with courtesy and respect. Failure to behave appropriately will result in a reduction of your course grade.

When you are abroad, you are representing not only yourself, but also the University of Arkansas and its Sam M. Walton College of Business, as well as the United States of America (and/or your native country if it isn’t the USA). Remember that any interaction that you have with the native citizens of Panama can leave a lasting impression, especially if you violate native sensibilities. The term “ugly American” didn’t invent itself. Citizens of every nation are proud of their heritage. If you make snide remarks that they overhear or, even worse, act in a manner that is insulting to them, they will view this as evidence that the ugly American stereotype is accurate. Therefore, when you are abroad, you should strive not just to be aware of cultural differences, but also both to experience and to appreciate them. Try the local foods, even if you don’t think you’ll like them. If natives are hosting you, make every effort to demonstrate that you are enjoying their cuisine. While many Americans view foreign foods as unhealthy, remember that the citizens of most countries are healthier than Americans overall. Eating different foods for a couple of weeks won’t hurt you. Instead of complaining, view this as an opportunity to practice the skills that you might need someday if you become engaged in international business.

Similarly, Americans are often shocked by the times that shops are open or closed (in some countries, you’ll be escorted from the store at 5:00pm, regardless of whether you’ve made your purchase). Other cultures wouldn’t think of starting dinner until 7:00pm or even 11:00pm or midnight! Local restaurants might not even be open when you are ready to eat. You can prepare yourself by learning the local customs before you leave the USA and then making plans (e.g., having snack food in your hotel room if dinner starts too late) if you simply don’t think that you can deal with the local customs otherwise.

During business site visits, you should behave in a professional and businesslike manner. You will be expected to comply with whatever dress code is indicated for the outing. Be inquisitive and show your interest in the host company, but remain respectful at all times.

For visiting religious sites, whether Jewish, Christian, or Muslim, men and women may have to cover their heads.  Shoulders and knees should also be covered, especially for women.  So, women should have longer skirts or pants.  It’s smart to carry a shawl or large scarf.

The bottom line is that you will enjoy the trip more and be more productive while you are abroad if you know what you will be facing before you leave home and you are willing to be open-minded and culturally sensitive while you are abroad.

### Illegal Activities and Alcohol Policies

While you are abroad, you are subject to the national, regional, and state laws of the country you are visiting. If you violate these laws, you can expect to be apprehended, charged, tried, and (if convicted) penalized (which may include fines, imprisonment, deportation, or other measures). It is your responsibility to know these local laws and to abide by them. In general, behaving in a mature, civilized, and respectful manner will keep you out of trouble. ***By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing that the any student misbehavior remains subject to U of A’s academic misconduct code and all violations will be dealt with according to the U of A due process. Such misbehavior may cause a student to fail the course, as per the instructor’s determination.***

Since you are subject to host country laws, you may legally drink alcohol if your age exceeds the local drinking age. Typically, the drinking age abroad is less than 21, and might even be less than 18. However, you must remember that you are in a foreign country that you don’t know very well. You are strongly discouraged from becoming intoxicated while you are abroad. Remember that local customs are often quite different than ours. If you are under the influence of alcohol, you will be more apt to forget this fact and less able to react if you do. In fact, being hit by automobiles is the number one cause of serious injury to Americans abroad. Also, to avoid trouble, do not drink if you are alone or with strangers, but only if you are with one (or preferably several) people from our group. Although the faculty leaders of the trip may indulge in the occasional drink, do not expect them to become your “drinking buddies.” Faculty are on-the-job 24 hours per day during these trips and must be ready to handle emergencies at all times.

###### Safety on the Trip

In our class discussion on Friday we will cover some safety trips that we will utilize on the trip to minimize the likelihood of incidents occurring on our trip. The topics covered will include

* Strategies to avoid pickpockets and thieves.
* Strategies to minimize the inconvenience if items are lost or stolen.
* The buddy system and how we will implement it on our trip.
* Emergency contact information to be saved in everyone’s phone.
* Strategies for coping with jet lag and avoiding minor health issues related to travel.
* Review of airline travel policies and traveling as a group.