1. **Project title:** ISRAEL THEN AND NOW: HOLY LAND TO THREE RELIGIONS: Drs. McCane and Moss

2. **Describe the project in a well-composed statement for the Interim**

   There is no place on earth quite like Israel. Sacred to the three Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and steeped in thousands of years of history, Israel is today at the epicenter of one of our world’s most important conflicts. In this interim, students will become familiar with Israel in all its complexity, including its 3 religions and their respective relationships to the land, its history, culture, and politics.

   We’ll spend a few days on campus being introduced to the history, religion, and culture of Israel, and then we will depart for 19 days in Israel and Jordan. Among the sights we’ll see is the Galilee, the homeland of Jesus, where we will visit Nazareth, Zippori, Capernaum, Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee, and Gamla. Traveling south to Jerusalem, we’ll stop along the way at Jericho, one of the oldest cities on earth. In Jerusalem we’ll see the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism, and the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, where the Dome of the Rock, one of the most sacred sites in Islam, now stands. In the Old City of Jerusalem we’ll visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Christianity’s most sacred place. In the modern city of west Jerusalem we will visit the Israel Museum, home to the world’s most extensive collection of biblical archaeological artifacts, and the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea Scrolls are kept. We’ll travel to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on the earth’s surface, to see the fortress of Masada, Israel’s most important historical site, and Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written. Finally, we’ll travel south through the Arava Valley, the largest geological fault on earth, to Eilat, the southernmost city in Israel. From there we’ll go into Jordan, visiting Petra, Jerash, and Mt Nebo on our way back to Tel Aviv for our flight home.

   Each student will pick a topic to research before, during, and after our trip, and each students will present his or her findings during a day-long seminar.

   **NOTE:** Security precautions will include: no use of public buses; daily accompaniment by a government-licensed tour guide; students will not be free to roam unsupervised; and we will avoid dangerous areas. Both professors have been to Israel before.

14. **Expected maximum project expense per student, and the items it covers:**

   $3,600 includes air, all ground transportation, tour guide, entry fees, 2 meals a day on all touring days [2 days will be “on your own”], hotel, transfers, tips.

15. **Expected minimum down payment required at the time of registration.**

   $1,000; non-refundable.

16. **Expected additional expenses not covered by the project price.**

   Personal expenses; lunches. You’ll certainly want to bring money for souvenirs.

17. **Provide a week-by-week syllabus to show fully your plans for accomplishing the educational objectives of the project.**
Week 1 – Monday-Tuesday: Study of Israel, and the 3 religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam.
Depart for Israel on Wednesday; arrive Thursday.
Friday-Saturday: Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Caesarea [Roman aqueduct and theater], Meggido.

Week 2 – Zippori, Nazareth, Tiberias, Jericho, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Western Wall and the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Mt. of Olives; Yad Vashem [holocaust memorial], Israel museum, Dead Sea Scrolls, Knesset [Parliament], Dead Sea, Masada.

Week 3 – Sunday-Thursday: Arava, Timna, Eilat, Petra, Jerash, Mt Nebo.
Friday: Depart Israel; arrive home Saturday.

Week 4: Monday-Wednesday: More study of Israel and the 3 religions.
Thursday: Student presentations to the group.
Friday: Turn in final papers