



The Scholar-Escort for the program is Renee Spellman, a PhD candidate in the University of Arizona School of Middle East and North African studies with a minor in the School of Education's Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies. Her areas of specialty are Arabic language and linguistics with an emphasis on New Literacies and language choice in New Media (West Bank and Jordan), and the role of language and digital media in education in the Middle East. Spellman earned a BA in Psychology with a minor in Biblical Studies from Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts, focusing on archeology of historical places in Israel and Jordan. She then earned an MA degree in Middle Eastern Studies from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, specializing in the Arabic language and Palestinian residency issues in Jerusalem. In 2005, Spellman participated in an intensive field course where she visited and studied ancient archeological and geographical sites in Israel and Jordan. Moreover, she lived in Israel and the West Bank for ten years, during which time she made frequent trips to Jordan and taught English and Arabic at Al-Quds Bard College in the West Bank.