



## **YaLa Peace Institute**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

The YaLa Academy Peace Institute in Honor of Nelson Mandela is a unique, online peace program dedicated to educating and fostering dialogue between young people from throughout the Middle East, Africa and beyond. In a world where intolerance and violence are widespread, the YaLa Academy has decided to use something equally as widespread – technology – to combat this trend. Throughout Israel and the Arab world, the young people of the region have utilized technology to mobilize and effect positive change – prime examples being the Yasmin and Tahrir revolutions. Inspired by these movements and created to forge pathways of cooperation between Arab and Israeli young leaders, the YaLa Academy is a vehicle for advancing towards a more peaceful region. Participants learn directly from the men and women who pioneered peace processes in Rwanda, Ireland, South Africa, the Balkans and beyond, thus equipping them with practical skills for enacting conflict transformation and positive change within their countries and communities. Furthermore, the convenience of an online, Facebook-based platform allows for cross-border and cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation, without the hassle of movement restrictions that plague many residents of the region. With over 800 students who have enrolled from over 50 countries since its inception in Spring 2014, the YaLa Academy Peace Institute in Honor of Nelson Mandela is a constantly growing peace movement, giving hope to future generations of leaders throughout the Middle East, Africa and beyond.

#### ***Q1: What is the program and how does the program work?***

The YaLa Peace Institute in Honor of Nelson Mandela is a practical peace studies program for youth from across the Middle East, Africa and beyond. The program is online, free of charge and focuses on peace negotiations, human rights, transitional justice, peacebuilding, reconciliation and good governance – topics which are taught via video lectures by peace practitioners from transformed post-conflict zones including South Africa, Rwanda, Ireland, the Balkans and the Middle East. The program takes place between October 2015 and January 2016 during which time students will participate every two weeks by watching one video lecture and engaging in an online discussion about it with fellow participants.

**Q2: How do I log in to participate in the chat sessions?**

**A:** To participate in the live online discussions, you will need to join one of our Facebook groups. Which group you join will depend on which day you are available to participate in the live chat sessions. Live chat sessions will be held every other week, one on Monday at 20:00 (Jerusalem time) and the other on Tuesday at 20:00 (Jerusalem time). You can find the links to both pages below, so please join accordingly. The links to the video lectures will also be posted in these groups (as well as sent out via email) one week prior to their respective chat sessions.

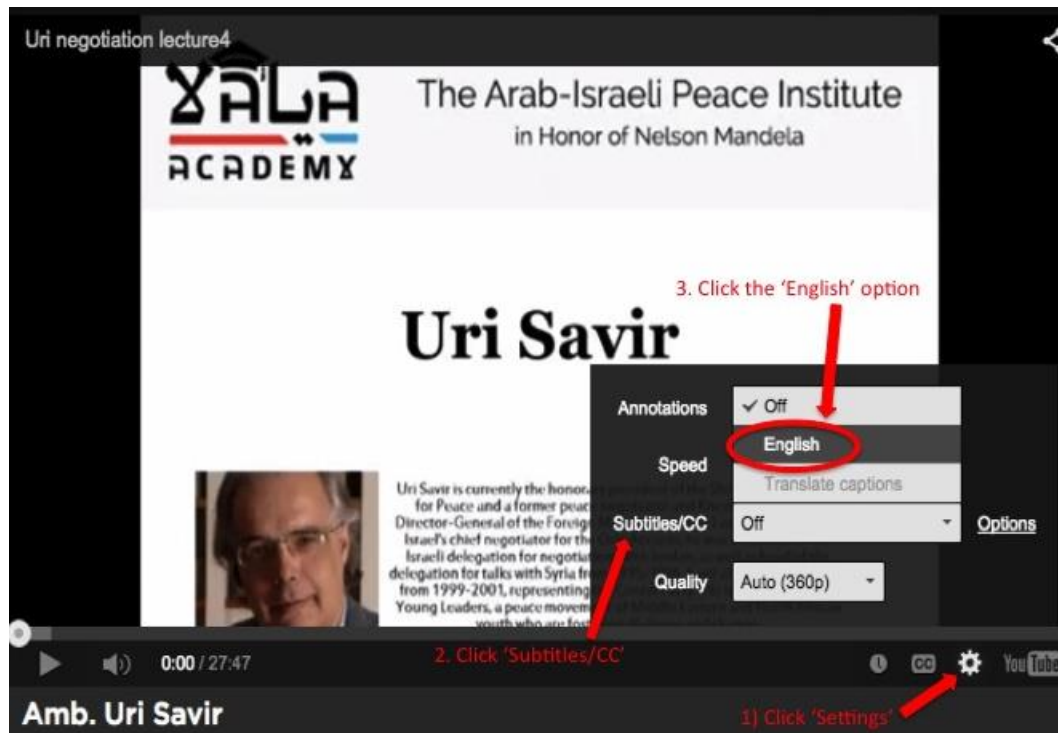
For **Mondays** at 20:00 (Jerusalem time) – click [here](#)

For **Tuesdays** at 20:00 (Jerusalem time) – click [here](#)

**\*Please only join a group if you are serious about participating**, as we will not be able to chat if there are too many people, and it will be annoying for you to receive notifications for a chat you are not a part of.

**Q3: English is not my native language and it is hard for me to understand the lecture – what should I do?**

**A:** After clicking on the link to the lecture (which will be posted in the Facebook group and sent out via email), you will be redirected to YouTube. Once the video starts playing, you can drag your cursor over the video and a ‘Settings’ option should arise in the lower right-hand corner (shaped like a gear). Click on this option and you should then see an option labeled ‘Subtitles/CC’ – click this option. You will then see an option for English subtitles – choose this. You should now be able to see subtitles while the lecture plays.



**Q3: *What will I need to do in order to receive a certificate from the program?***

**A:** In order to receive a certificate signed by the lecturers for completing the program, you will be asked to watch the required lectures and actively participate in the chat discussion sessions held twice per month (there are also supplemental lecture videos – they are optional). If you miss a chat session, see Q5 below to see how to make it up. At the end of the program, participants seeking a certificate will also be required to complete a final project: a blog, infographic or video expressing your vision of peace in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in the year 2025 based on what you have learned from the YaLa Peace Institute. Required lectures include:

1. Amb. Uri Savir + Mr. Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala)
2. Denis Haughey (pt. 1) + Monica McWilliams
3. Dr. Mary Shuttleworth
4. Dr. Donna Hicks
5. Dr. Katarina Krohunja
6. Jean-Paul Samputu + Jean Baptiste Habyalimana
7. Iron Ladies of Liberia documentary clip
8. Franklin Odurro

**Q4: *What will I need to do to receive a certificate 'With Distinction'?***

**A:** A certificate 'With Distinction' signed by the lecturers will be awarded to students who go above and beyond by participating in at least 6 of the discussion sessions (and submit summaries for the ones missed) and completing the final project. Additionally students will need to complete 4 assignments and watch at least **two** of the below supplemental lectures on your own time and submit summaries:

- Denis Haughey (pt. 2)
- Joshua Weiss
- Gershon Baskin
- Pdraig O'Malley
- Rama Mani
- Desmond Tutu's Transitional Justice in Northern Ireland
- Gacaca Courts documentary
- Scilla Elworthy
- Paul Rusesbagina
- Svetlana Broz
- Jo Berry and Pat Magee
- Leymah Gbowee
- Beyond Right and Wrong documentary
- Dalai Lama + Sharon Stone
- David Fischer
- Rest of the Iron Ladies of Liberia documentary

**Q5: *What if I am not able to be online during the chat sessions?***

**A:** We understand that time pressures and the time difference is difficult for many of our participants. If you cannot participate in the chat sessions, you can watch the required lectures on your own time and write a brief summary of the main points that you learned from the lecture. You can post this in the Facebook group as a comment underneath the post about the lecture video or as a separate post at any time before the deadline of the final project in order to receive credit towards your certificate. For any questions/problems, email us at [info@yalayl.org](mailto:info@yalayl.org).

***Q6: I don't have time to meet all of the certificate requirements, but I am still interested in the program – can I still participate?***

**A:** Of course! We welcome any level of participation in the program – even if it is for 1 lecture or chat discussion. Feel free to participate as much or as little as you can. We try to make it easy for those who want to learn from the course despite significant other commitments, therefore we make all the video lectures available to you at any time during the semester, and we email you the transcripts for each lecture video and the summaries of every chat discussion as they happen. Feel free to come to any session you can or to watch the lectures and read the transcripts/summaries on your own time.

***Q7: I have completed the maximum requirements for the program, but I want to do more – what can I do?***

**A:** Great! There are many ways to further your knowledge and activism through YaLa. In addition to the optional lectures (see list on Q4 above), we have many great additional [resources](#) available on our website that provide more in-depth knowledge about peace-making strategies. YaLa also offers many other ways to get involved, such as the [YaLa Facebook page](#), the Citizen Journalism program, YaLa peace advocacy campaigns and the [YaLa Press](#) blogging platform. Find out more on <http://yalaacademy.org/take-action/>