

Department of Jewish Studies

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UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

SPRING 2008

LANGUAGES

HEBREW

Elementary Modern Hebrew

(*Middle Eastern Studies, 685:101*)

563:101:01; Index #67273; MWTh2; Moshenberg
:02; Index #68888; MWTh3; Levy

*MTh Scott 216; W Scott 221
Scott 102*

Introductory Hebrew: This course develops primary language skills through extensive practice in reading and writing. Since emphasis is put on the sentence as a unit of language, students are engaged from the very beginning in creative writing and speech as well as in achieving basic competence in grammar. Communication skills are enhanced by engaging in conversations based on everyday situations. No previous knowledge of Hebrew required.

Elementary Modern Hebrew

(*Middle Eastern Studies, 685:102*)

563:102:01; Index #65387; MWTh2; Levy
:02; Index #65388; MWTh3; Moshenberg

*Scott 220
Scott 214*

Prerequisite: 563:101 or placement test.

A continuation of Elementary Modern Hebrew 101, this course further develops primary language skills that were introduced in the previous semester. Basic competence in the four areas of language (reading comprehension, creative writing, grammar, and speech) is acquired through extensive practice of grammar, reading various Hebrew texts, and writing. Communication skills are enhanced by engaging in conversations based on everyday situations.

Intermediate Modern Hebrew – Part 1

(*Middle Eastern Studies, 685:131*)

563:131:01; Index #71114; MWTh2; Bryn-Noiman
Prerequisite: 563:102 or placement test

Murray 204

The objectives of this course are twofold: development of language skills and preparing the students to approach Hebrew literature in an analytical and comprehensive manner. Students develop conversational skills by regular participation in class presentations and discussions of current events and cultural issues. Advanced grammatical forms are integrated into the reading material, based on a variety of modern Israeli literature.

Intermediate Modern Hebrew – Part 2

(*Middle Eastern Studies, 685:132*)

563:132:01; Index #67130; MWTh3; Bryn-Noiman
Prerequisite: 563:131 or placement test.

Scott 220

The objectives of this course are twofold: (1) development of language skills, and (2) preparing students to read and analyze Hebrew literature. Students develop conversational skills by regular participation in class presentations and discussions of current and cultural events. Advance grammatical forms are integrated into the discussion of reading material, which is selected from various Hebrew sources.

Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature (In Hebrew) (*Middle Eastern Studies, 685:372*)
563:372; Index #73381; MW4; Moshenberg *Scott 104*
Prerequisite: 563:371 or placement test

The objective of this course is to develop a critical approach to literature through text analysis, class discussions and written compositions. Readings include poetry and short stories. Students also examine the structure of language and explore how language is used to convey literary, cultural, and personal meanings. *Note: This course is conducted in Hebrew and all readings are in Hebrew.*

YIDDISH

Elementary Modern Yiddish

563:104; Index #73392; MWTh2; Langman
Prerequisite: 563:103

Miller Hall, Rm 211

A continuation of Elementary Modern Yiddish 103, this introductory course is designed to teach basic conversational and reading skills. The origins of Yiddish and its dialectal variants are also discussed. Class activities also include participation in Yiddish skits and songs, screening Yiddish films and visiting the Yiddish theatre. Emphasis is placed on the importance of Yiddish language and culture as a tool in the study of Jewish history and literature.

OTHER COURSES

Jewish Society and Culture I: From Antiquity to the Middle Ages (*core course*)

563:201; Index #67244; MW4; Tartakoff (*History, 506:271; Middle Eastern Studies, 685:208*) *Frelinghuysen A5*

This course will examine the social, economic, religious, and political experiences of the Jewish people from the crystallization of their national-religious consciousness in the Biblical period until the 15th century C.E. The religion and culture of the Jews will be discussed within the broader context of their environment. In the study of the ancient period, the course will survey the people of ancient Israel against the backdrop of ancient Near Eastern history and culture, starting with the emergence of the Israel in the land of Canaan c. 1200 B.C.E. through the compilation of the Mishna c. 220 C.E. Special areas of investigation will include the Babylonian Exile, the Second Temple period, the challenge of Hellenism, the Macabbean dynasty, the Jewish sects of late antiquity (Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes), the Dead Sea Scrolls as a new source for Jewish historical and religious inquiry, the rise of Christianity, the Jewish revolts against Rome, and the importance of the Mishna as a code of law. In the study of the medieval era, the course will explore the consolidation and expansion of Rabbinic Judaism, the rise of Karaism as a challenge to the rabbis, the history of the Jews in both the Christian and Muslim spheres, theological debates between Judaism and Christianity, the joint cultural heritage of Jews and Muslims in the areas of poetry, philosophy, and science, the enterprise of biblical commentary, and the rise of Kabbalah.

The course is required for majors and minors in Jewish Studies.

Jewish Society and Culture II: The Modern Experience (*History, 506:272*)

563:202; Index #65304; W6&7; Schainker

Frelinghuysen A6

This course surveys the major trends in Jewish life from the ferment caused by the expulsion of the Jews from the Iberian Peninsula at the end of the fifteenth century until the years between Europe's two great twentieth-century wars. Lectures will highlight the political, social, religious, and intellectual life of the Jews. Topics of study include the emergence of Marranism, the rise of mercantilism and the resettlement of the Jews in Europe, the development of Jewish enlightenment (Haskalah), the debates over the political emancipation of the Jews, the emergence of Hasidism, the rise of Reform Judaism, modern anti-Semitism, Zionism, and Jewish life in Eastern Europe from the nineteenth century until the Russian Revolution. The course concludes with Jewish life in Weimar Germany during the interwar years. *This course is required for minors and majors in Jewish Studies.*

Arab-Israeli Conflict*(History, 508:300, Middle Eastern Studies, 685:300)*

563:300; Index #65389; MW4; Jones

Campbell A5

This course will examine the conflict between Arabs and Jews over Palestine/Israel from the late 19th through the late 20th century. It will provide an introduction to the origins of the conflict by considering the social, ideological, and political forces that shaped it, including the rise of Israeli and Palestinian nationalisms, European anti-Semitism, global war, and imperialism. It will also examine the evolution of the conflict over the course of the 20th century by surveying the impact of local, regional, and global politics.

Modern Jewish Philosophy*(Philosophy, 730:312)*

563:312; Index #66510; TTh7; Redl

Campbell A5

This course examines the ways in which general philosophy and the currents of Jewish life have shaped Jewish thought in the modern period. Beginning in the seventeenth century and concluding in the twenty-first, the course will acquaint students with the thought of Baruch Spinoza, Moses Mendelssohn, Hermann Cohen, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, Joseph B. Soloveitchik, Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Neil Gillman, Emanuel Levinas, and Robert Gibbs. Issues discussed in the course will include God, creation, revelation, redemption, religious authority, Jewish peoplehood, messianism, personal immortality, ethics and morality.

American Jewish History*(History, 512:345)*

563:345; Index #73393; T6&7; Wilhelm

Campbell A3

The course will explore the emergence of American Jewry from the colonial period to this day, focusing on the social, cultural, political and religious development of the American Jewish community. The course will discuss how American Jewry differs from other Jewries in the diaspora and in Israel, as well as examine how it fits into the larger framework of American history and ethnic history. Topics to be studied include: Jewish immigration to the United States, Jewish adaptation to the American environment, and community building. [Cornelia should add some juicy texts to this description]

Ethnography of Contemporary Jewish Life*(American Studies, 050:301:03)*

563:346; Index #73398; MW4; Shandler

Murray 208

This course introduces students to the study of contemporary Jewish life, especially in American communities, institutions, rituals, personal histories, etc. - through the approach of ethnographic writing, film, and field work. In addition to analyzing readings and documentary films and discussing research methodology, students will undertake two short fieldwork projects.

This course counts as a social science course for majors in the Department of Jewish Studies.

Israeli Politics*(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:352; Political Science, 790:352)*

563:352; Index # 69759; TTh5; Mendilow

Scott 220

Israel is among the few countries (the oldest among whom is the USA) whose state and society were created "from scratch" as a fulfillment of an ideological vision. This is a survey course that aims to familiarize students with the current structure of Israeli politics and with the peculiar processes that had led to its crystallization. The course will be divided into historical and contemporary parts. The former examines the ideological premises upon which Israel was established and the state-building strategies that had issued from them. The latter examines the main features of the Israeli polity from 1967 to the present and the most important issues it confronts.

Blacks and Jews in America*(American Studies, 050:301:01)*

563:359; Index #73394; T 9:15 AM – 12:15 PM; Fishbein

RAB 018

By special permission only

The course will examine the complexities of how black and Jewish political and cultural identities have evolved in relationship to one another and will explore the significance of studying that history from an Israeli and from

an American perspective. Readings will include works by Philip Roth, Alice Walker, Saul Bellow, James Baldwin, Alex Haley, Anna Deveare Smith and James McBride. Several films will also be screened.

Special Topics: Modern Jewish Culture: New Practices in a Secular Age

563:394:01; Index #71015; MW6; Shandler

Scott 206

This course examines some of the many ways Jews have engaged the challenges and opportunities of modernity through new cultural activities, including theater, press, music, museums, sports, photography, journalism, philanthropy, foodways, and tourism. Examples are drawn from the Enlightenment era to contemporary times and from Jewish communities in Europe and North America.

Special Topics: Variety in Ancient Jewish Life

563:394:02; Index #73404; M6&7; Aster

Scott 120

This course will explore the varieties of Jewish communal life from the end of the Biblical period until the close of the Talmudic period. We will study not only the major communities in Israel and Babylonia, but smaller, less well-known ones in Europe, North Africa, and Asia as well. We will seek to determine the nature of Jewish life in these places, how integrated the Jews were into the surrounding society, their daily lives, how they expressed their Jewish identity, how they received and interpreted the Bible, and how they viewed the Talmud. The focus will be on direct engagement with primary sources and archaeological findings. All texts will be read in translation.

Special Topics: Religion and Tradition in Contemporary Israel

563:395:01; Index # 66247, TTh4; Buzaglo

Scott 101

The emergence of a Jewish modern state presented a new challenge to Judaism. While historically Judaism conceived of itself in exilic terms, it now had to envisage itself as a sovereign power responsible for its citizens, both Jews and Arabs. The course will begin with the necessary theoretical and ideological background by examining the views of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, Prof. Yeshayahu Leibovitch, Berl Kazonelson, David Ben Gurion and the Hazon Ish on the relation between Judaism and the idea of a Jewish state. The core of the course is an attempt to expose the main voices that express the complexities that lie between Judaism and Israel on issues such as the land of Israel, the right of return, and the definition of Jewishness (Who is a Jew?), as well as issues derived from daily life, such as schools, national ceremonies, and the Jewish calendar. A special emphasis will be placed on the idea of "Tradition" and its potential fecundity to the discourse in Israel, from both descriptive and prescriptive aspects.

Special Topics: Introduction to Semitic Language

(Mid East St. 685496:03)

563:395:02; Index # 71848, TTh 5; Haberl

Tillett 209

This course aims to introduce students to the Semitic language family and the broader Afroasiatic language phylum. The grammar of the subject languages, which include Akkadian, Ethiopic, Ugaritic, Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic, among others, will be examined from both a synchronic and diachronic perspective. Subjects to be discussed include writing systems; the historical and comparative linguistics of the Semitic language family; classification of individual Semitic languages and proposed divisions/subgroupings within the family; historical reconstruction; and the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the various Semitic languages.

Special Topics: Maimonides

(Philosophy, 730:375:01)

563:396:01; Index #65651; TTh6; Buzaglo

Scott 220

Maimonides is undoubtedly the pillar of Jewish Law and Jewish Philosophy. His influence on Jewish philosophy is outstanding, but even philosophers as diverse as Spinoza, Leibniz, Mendelsohn, and Solomon Maimon were deeply inspired by him. Moreover, Jewish mysticism – Kabbala – cannot be understood without its relation to Maimonides. In the course we will read his main book "The Guide of the Perplexed" and concentrate on proofs for the existence of God, the will of God, prophecy, and God's attributes. The reading will be both critical and in comparison with other thinkers.

Special Topics: Seminar in Middle Eastern Studies*(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:499)*

563:397:01; Index #71130; T 5:00 – 8:00; Sprachman

Tillett 209

This seminar introduces a variety of ways of looking at and interpreting the Middle East and shows how stereotypes and other forms of received thought impede learning about Middle Eastern societies, cultures, histories, languages, religions, etc. It requires participants to examine popular and scholarly materials including artwork, films, fiction, and essays using modern methods of critical analysis.

Jewish Studies Internship

563:460; Index #69152; By arrangement; open only to Jewish Studies majors and minors in their junior or senior year

This course enables students to pursue an independent research project while working in a Jewish public cultural or social institution as a supervised intern. Students are expected to work 8 hours per week (i.e. 112 hours during the semester, or its equivalent in a summer internship) at a site approved by the Jewish Studies department. Student's pre-approval by both the department and the hosting agency is required. In addition to their internship hours, students are required to prepare a report, paper, or other project related to the nature of the internship.

Jewish Studies Seminar: The Bible and Beyond

563:464; Index #65305; MW5; Rendsburg

12 College Ave

This seminar will investigate the Biblical roots of Jewish civilization, beliefs, and practices. Topics to be covered include the Sabbath, holidays, dietary laws, ritual purity, sacrifice, prayer, monotheism, the problem of evil, eschatology, and more. For each topic we will begin by reading the relevant passages in the Bible, and we then will trace its trajectory through the Dead Sea Scrolls, Mishna, Talmud, and medieval sources. We also will have occasion to reflect on how the beliefs and practices of ancient and medieval times are continued to the present day in modern Judaism.

The seminar is open to Jewish Studies majors only. Other students with a strong Jewish Studies background may be admitted by special permission.

Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation*(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:490:01)*

563:480; Index #71013; 5:00 – 8:00, Sprachman

Tillett 116

This course will introduce, discuss, and analyze a sampling of meaningful prose written by authors from the contemporary Middle East. It will guide participants in discovering what gets lost in certain English translations of Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian prose. The course will examine the origins of Middle Eastern literary culture and history that contextualize course readings.

Independent Study and Research

563:492; Index #65836; By arrangement; Staff

Students can pursue an independent study project beyond the department's normal offerings with a faculty member who has expertise in the student's area of interest, subject to the approval of the Department's Undergraduate Advisor. An independent study should be the equivalent of a one-semester course and can include guided research, fieldwork, or a directed reading. A research paper or written report is required for all independent study projects.

Senior Honors563:497:H1; Index #66245; By arrangement; Staff *(Prerequisite: Permission of the Department Chair)*

The honors program offers qualified students the opportunity to pursue a research project in depth for the entire senior year, culminating in the writing of a thesis, under the supervision of a faculty advisor. To be considered, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better, and 3.4 or better in Jewish Studies courses. Jewish Studies majors who wish to pursue an honors thesis are encouraged to meet with the Department's Undergraduate Advisor during the second term of their junior year in order to plan their project, and by the end of their junior year they should submit the formal proposal to the Department's office. Approval of the honors

thesis is required for admission to the honors program. Honors students enroll in 01:563:496 and 01:563:497 Jewish Studies honors courses, and upon the completion of their honors thesis should pass an oral examination given by the department.

Standard Periods (80 min each):

1	8:10-9:30 a.m.	5	2:50-4:10 p.m.
2	9:50-11:10 a.m.	6	4:30-5:50 p.m.
3	11:30-12:50 p.m.	7	6:10-7:30 p.m.
4	1:10-2:30 p.m.	8	7:40-9:00 p.m.