

Department of Jewish Studies

12 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Tel: (732) 932-2033 Fax: (732) 932-3052 e-mail: csjl@rci.rutgers.edu
website: <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>

Fall 2006

LANGUAGE COURSES

Elementary Modern Hebrew – Part I

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:101)

563:101:01; Index #06050; MWTh2; Moshenberg
:02; Index #06063; MWTh3; Levy
:03; Index #15706; MWTh3; Moshenberg

*Murray 208
Scott 214*

12 College Avenue

Prerequisite: Placement test.

This course develops primary language skills through reading and writing. Emphasis is put on the sentence as a unit of language and students are engaged from the very beginning in creative writing and speech. Basic competence in grammar and comprehensive reading is achieved as well. Communication skills are enhanced by engaging in conversations based on everyday situations covering a variety of cultural topics. No previous knowledge of Hebrew required.

Elementary Modern Hebrew – Part 2

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:102)

1:563:102:01; Index #08993; MWTh2; Bryn-Noiman
Prerequisite: 563:101 or placement test.

Murray 115

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

Elementary Modern Yiddish – Part 1

563:103; Index #06051; MWTh6; Gluck

MW Campbell A2/ Th 12 College Avenue

An introduction to speaking, reading, and writing Yiddish, focusing on acquiring the fundamentals of grammar and basic vocabulary. Class activities also include Yiddish songs and Yiddish films. No previous knowledge of Yiddish required.

Intermediate Modern Hebrew – Part 1

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:131)

563:131:01; Index #06052; MWTh2; Levy
Prerequisite: 563:102 or placement test

Scott 220

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.

Advanced Modern Hebrew – Part 2

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:211)

563:211:01; Index #13627; MW4; Bryn-Noiman
Prerequisite: 563:132 or placement test

Scott 120

This course is designed to increase proficiency in reading and writing skills. The course provides an intensive training in Hebrew Grammar and syntax through the reading and analysis of short essays, and newspaper and magazine articles. Reading and writing assignments as well as creative writing and oral presentations are part of the course work.

Contemporary Hebrew Literature and Media (in Hebrew) (*Middle Eastern Studies, 685:371*)

563:371; Index #09713; MW4; Moshenberg

Scott 205

Prerequisite: 563:211 or placement test

Emphasis is on comprehension, conversation and composition, using readings in Hebrew drawn from popular Israeli literature complemented with magazine and press articles. The course focuses on the acquisition of academic language proficiency skills through the analysis of the cultural themes as they are reflected in the writings. Note: *This course is conducted in Hebrew and all readings are in Hebrew.*

Love and Desire in Hebrew Prose and Poetry (in Hebrew)

(*Middle Eastern Studies, 685:484*)

563:484:01; Index #13624; MTh3; Bryn-Noiman

Scott 101

Prerequisite: 563:372 or placement test

This advanced course explores the theme of love in Hebrew prose, poetry and film. Selected texts from the Biblical period to the 20th century are read, paying particular attention to their articulation of relationships, passion, and desire. Films in Hebrew relevant to the texts discussed in class are viewed throughout the semester. Note: *This course is conducted in Hebrew and all readings are in Hebrew.*

OTHER COURSES

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

563:201:01; Index # 06053; MW4;

(*History, 506:271; 685:208*)

Hardenberg A7

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

(*core course*)

563:202; Index #08994; W6,7; Sussman

(*History, 506:272*)

Hardenberg B5

This course will survey the social, economic, political, religious and cultural history of Jewry from the sixteenth century to the mid-1930s. Topics to be covered include: Marranism and New Christians, the European State and the Jews, the Money Economy and the "Jewish Question," Jewish autonomy, the political emancipation of the Jews, religious reform, modern antisemitism, nationalism, WWI, and Jewish life during the interwar years in both the United States and Europe. It will examine the changes in Jewish life engendered by modernity and explore the responses of the Jews to its challenges. Attention will be paid to the regional diversity in the modern Jewish experience, as well as to the nexus between gender and modernization. Primary and secondary readings, as well as novels and memoirs, will be used.

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

The Hebrew Bible

563:220; Index #13626; MTh 3; Rendsburg

SCILS 201

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to the literature of the Hebrew Bible. This is accomplished by concentrating on the books of the Torah, the historical material in Joshua through Kings, and selected Prophets. Emphasis is placed on literary, historical, and theological matters. In addition, special use is made of the numerous archaeological discoveries that have advanced our knowledge of ancient Israel. As such, the Bible is studied against the backdrop of

ancient Near Eastern literature, history, religion, mythology, and law.

Modern Jewish Literature

(Comparative Literature 195:395:01)

563:243; Index #14195; T 2&3; Diamond

Scott 201

The Jewish experience in modernity and the conflicts and challenges it has precipitated have been the subject of a significant body of literature. In this course we will read and discuss representative works of fiction by Jewish writers from the late 19th century to the present, working in various languages and literary traditions: Hebrew, Yiddish, English, and German. Foreign-language works will be read in translation.

Classical Jewish Philosophy

(Philosophy, 730:311)

563:311:01; Index #06055; MTh 3; Yadin

Hardenberg B3

This course provides an introduction to the classical Jewish philosophical tradition, covering the works of Philo, Sa'adia Gaon, Judah Halevi, Maimonides, and others. We will examine their conceptions of God, creation, prophecy, ethics, ritual, free will, providence, Jewish peoplehood, eschatology, and dogma. Focusing on the tension between traditional Jewish faith and rational models of inquiry, we will gain an appreciation of the intellectual range and diversity that characterized Jewish thought during the Middle Ages and set a pattern for later ages.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

563:340; Index #13625; TTh 6; Yadin

SCILS 103

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls was one of the most dramatic archaeological finds of the twentieth century. Since their discovery, in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls have been the subject of intense study and debate, and have profoundly influenced the way in which we understand the ancient Jewish world, as well as the origins of Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism. In this class we will examine a number of the Dead Sea Scrolls, attempting to understand them within their original historical context, as well as their significance for later Jewish and Christian traditions. All readings are in English.

History of Zionism

(History, 510:386, Middle Eastern Studies, 685:343)

563:343; Index #09650; TTh6; Yadgar

Murray 211

This course examines the Zionist idea from the precursors of Zionism to the founders of the modern State of Israel. Topics of study will include the thought of Moses Hess, the early *Hovevei Zion* societies, Herzl and his disciples, Ahad Ha-am and cultural Zionism, socialist Zionism, religious Zionism, Israel Zangwill's Territorialism, Simon Dubnow's idea of cultural autonomy and anti-Zionism.

American Jewish History & Culture

(History, 512:345)

563:345; Index #14812; MW6; Sherman

M Frelinghuysen A3 / W Hardenberg A2

This course will survey the American Jewish experience from the earliest migration of Jews during the Colonial period through the 20th century to the present. Topics will include: the foundation of religious institutions and novel forms of communal life; acculturation; German and East European migrations of Jews; the emergence of Reform Judaism; expressions of American Zionism; Conservative and Reconstructionist Judaism; anti-Semitism; and contemporary issues in American Jewish life.

Introduction to the Modern Middle East

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:350)

563:350; Index #13377; T 6&7; Sprachman

Livingston Classroom Bdg 100 (Livingston Campus)

Introduction to the languages and cultures of the Middle East and facilitation of cross-cultural communication and understanding between the people of the West and of the Middle East.

Jewish Power, Jewish Politics

(History, 510:389)

563:389; Index # 14159; MW6; Sinkoff

Scott 216

This course will examine the political relationship of the Jewish community to the gentile authorities among whom they lived. We will examine how Jews rebelled against and accommodated to structures of power in varying historical contexts. We will examine select aspects of traditional Jewish politics, such as the concepts of *dina de-malkhuta dina* (“the law of the gentile hosts is the law”) and the “royal alliance,” as the basis for our study of the continuities and challenges inherent in modern Jewish politics. The ideological assumptions in the words “power” and “powerlessness” will be critiqued throughout the course, which covers discrete topic areas in chronological order. Topics to be discussed include: Roman Rebels; Spanish Inquisitors and Jewish Courtiers; Kings, Nobles and Jewish Administrators in Early Modern Poland; Military Conscription and Communal Responses in Nicholas I’s Russia; Jewish Socialists in late Imperial Russia; Jewish Women Take to the Streets on New York’s Lower East Side; The Appeal of Communism in the Inter-war Years; Zionist Empowerment and the challenge of the Holocaust. Primary and secondary readings, as well as fiction, poetry and films, will be used.

Topics: Community and Crisis

(History, 506:391:02)

563:395:02; Index #14832; MW4; Sinkoff

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This course will examine, through a careful reading of primary sources supplemented by secondary interpretations, the transformation of the Jews and their communal structure from early modern to contemporary times. For some members of the European Jewish community, this transition meant a crisis. For others, particularly on American soil, it denoted the beginning of creative new forms of Jewish life, practice and identity. Topics will include Moses Mendelssohn’s *Jerusalem* and the Enlightenment’s challenge to traditional Jewish life, the debates in the French National Assembly and the establishment of the French consistory, Abraham Geiger and the emergence of Reform Judaism, Samuel Raphael Hirsch’s program for “neo-Orthodoxy,” New York Jews and the experiment of a New World *kehillah*; the rise of the Jewish Left and secular Jewish life in the interwar period in both Europe and the United States; and the emergence of new forms of contemporary Jewish communal life. The course will strive to unpack how Jews have understood “community” throughout their history and what they have done (and do) to create it.

Topics: Israeli Media

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:495:05, SCILS, 04:567:473:03)

563:396:01; Index #11708; TTh 4; Yadgar

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This course will focus on the Israeli media's construction and representation of Israeli identity. The course will open with a concise review of the history and development of various Israeli media. Having established the historical background, the course next will examine the major issues regarding the media's representation of collective identities in Israeli society. The course will focus on cinema, television, pop music, and news-media, and also will look at other media. The most important issues to be discussed include national identity and ethnicity, religion, history and collective memory and their (re-)presentation in the Israeli media.

Topics: Growing Up Jewish in America

(Rutgers College Honors, 12:090:283:01)

563:396:02; Index #12332; M 3&4; Elias

Brett Hall

What does it mean to say one is “growing up Jewish in America”? How many different ways are there to do this, and what are the implications of these for the development of an enduring Jewish identity? What are the components of an enduring Jewish identity and how have these been expressed in the context of events taking place on the world stage over the past century?

Is there a “Jewish” way of understanding and growing up in the world? Are there several? Many? How might these inform reactions to contemporary events in the United States, Israel, and the Middle East more generally? Do these events and such occurrences as happened on Sept. 11, 2001, change what it means to grow up Jewish in America? What is the role of Israel in shaping American Jewish identity? What has it been in the past, what is it now, and what difference might it make in the future?

This seminar will explore the questions above, and those that students bring in with them, through the lens of community-ecological psychology, identity development theory, and considerations in child and adolescent development, including spiritual and emotional development. In addition to addressing contemporary events, this seminar will have a “field” component involving interviews with those who have grown up Jewish, to better understand the dynamics and influences on their lives and development from an ecological-developmental perspective.

Topics: The German Jewish Experience

(German; 470:380:01)

563:397; Index #13379; MTh2; Wilhelm

Scott 121

The course will examine the German Jewish experience both in Europe and in America. The historical span of the course is from the time of Emancipation in the late 18th century until the destruction of German Jewry during the Holocaust. We will discuss the social, legal, economic, religious, cultural, and even philosophical issues that helped shape and define the German Jewish community. We then will seek to explain why a large portion of the community chose emigration, particularly to the United States, in the 19th century; and naturally we also will look at the German Jewish migration to America in the 1930s and 1940s. Included in the discussion will be a look at the many important Jewish institutions founded by German Jews, both in Germany and in America, including the Centralverein, B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee, and the Leo Baeck Institute.

Jewish Studies Internship

563:460:01; Index #09007; by arrangement; Staff (special permission required)

Open only to junior and senior Jewish Studies majors and minors. Supervised work in historical society, archive, museum, communal agency, etc.; 112 hours required. Advisor will supervise and evaluate the student's project/paper and sponsor's assessment.

Independent Study and Research

563:491:01; Index #06879; by arrangement; Staff (special permission required)

Students (juniors and seniors only) 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, field work, or an internship along with directed reading. A research paper or written report is required for all independent study projects.

Senior Honors

563:496:01; Index #07012; 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 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 project 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 application to the Department's office. Approval of the honors project 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 project should pass an oral examination given by the department.

Standard Periods (80 min each):

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