

Department of Jewish Studies

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UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

SPRING 2009

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE COURSES

Elementary Modern Hebrew

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:101)

563:101:01; Index #46755; MWTh2; Moshenberg
:02; Index #48155; 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 #45041; MWTh2; Levy

Scott 220

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.

Hebrew Review and Continuation

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:395:02)

563:121:01; Index # 55745; MWTh 3; Moshenberg

Scott 214

This course is designed for students with previous exposure to Hebrew (e.g. heritage speakers, Jewish day school students, etc.), who are in need of a thorough review in order to enhance their basic language skills.

Upon completion of this course, students will be placed into Intermediate Hebrew (01:563:131). The course emphasizes cognitive academic language proficiency as well as communication skills. Competence in the four areas of language (comprehensive reading, creative writing, grammar, and speech) is acquired through practice of grammar, reading of various Hebrew texts, class discussions, and composition writing.

Intermediate Modern Hebrew – Part 1

(Middle Eastern Studies, 685:131)

563:131:01; Index #49776; MWTh2; Bryn-Noiman

Murray 204

Prerequisite: 563:102 or placement test

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 #46627; MWTh3; Bryn-Noiman

Scott 220

Prerequisite: 563:131 or placement test.

The objectives of this course are twofold: development of language skills and 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.

Contemporary Hebrew Literature and Media (In Hebrew) [ML] (*Middle Eastern Studies*, 685:371)

563:371; Index #53720; MW4; Moshenberg

Scott 104

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.*

YIDDISH

Elementary Modern Yiddish

563:104; Index #53814; MWTh2; Portnoy

Miller Hall 210

Prerequisite: 563:103

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

563:201; Index #46729; MW4; Tartakoff (*History*, 506:271; *Middle Eastern Studies*, 685:208)

Murray 210

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 #44965; W6&7; Sinkoff

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.*

The Hebrew Bible [CT]

Hardenberg A5

563:220; Index #53796; MW4; Rendsburg

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 Hebrew Bible, 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 the knowledge of ancient Israel. As such, the Bible is studied against the backdrop of ancient Near Eastern literature, history, religion, mythology, and law.

Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah [CT]

Frelinghuysen B3

563:250; Index #53795; TTh4; Yadin

The course has two main goals: First, to provide a survey of the history and evolution of the Jewish mystical traditions leading up to, and including, classical Kabbalah, culminating in the *Zohar* (*Book of Splendor*) in 13th century Spain. The main texts covered will be the *Book of Creation* (*Sefer Yetzirah*), the *Book of Illumination* (*Sefer ha-Bahir*), and the *Zohar* itself. The second goal is to examine the role gender and sexuality play in the way these texts represent both God and humanity. The focus will be on the gendered nature and erotic dynamics within the divinity, and the way these affect human behavior. The class has no prerequisites and is appropriate for students with no background in Jewish studies. All the readings are in English.

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

563:300; Index #45043; TTh7; Valenti

LCB 110, LC

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.

American Jews and the Media(*American Studies, 050:336:01, Comparative Literature, 195:396:01*)

563:306; Index #53717; M2&3; Shandler

12 College Avenue

This course examines the wide range of interactions that American Jews have had with sound recordings, film, radio, television, and computers over the course of the 20th century. Attention is not only placed on significant works of American media by or about Jews (e.g., *The Jazz Singer*, *Gentleman's Agreement*), but also on the role that these media have played in shaping American Jewish life from the period of mass emigration of East European Jews to America at beginning of the century (e.g., early sound recordings, early silent film, Yiddish "talkies") to the present (especially the use of videos and computers in transforming traditional Jewish community life). Special attention is placed on the use of new media for self-portraiture, propaganda, and collective memory.

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

563:312; Index #46064; 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.

Jews, Heretics and the Inquisition*(History, 510:314)*

563:314:01; Index #53685; MW5; Tartakoff

Murray 213

A survey of the Medieval, Spanish, and Roman inquisitions focusing on these institutions' attitudes toward, and treatment of, heretics, Jews, and *conversos* (Jewish converts to Christianity). Students will study how these inquisitions operated and examine their legal precedents as well as their relations to the social, political, and religious tensions of their day. Students will also consider broader historical questions about forms of intolerance and modes of persecution.

Special Topics: Jewish Rites: Issues of Sexuality and Power [SS]

563:394:01; Index #49719; MTh3; Koren

12 College Ave., 2nd floor

This course will undertake an interdisciplinary exploration of historical and contemporary Jewish rites of passage and life-cycles events, focusing on the interplay between ritual and gender, sexuality and power. Our examination of the tensions between tradition and modernity will encompass not only traditional rites of passage, such as the *Brit Milah*, wedding ceremonies, and the *mikveh*, but also more modern Jewish rituals, such as the *zeved bat* (female baby-naming ceremony), *Rosh-Hodesh* (new moon) rituals, and others.

The course will examine the historical origins of these rituals and students will acquire some basic training in anthropological theory, sociological theory, and Jewish feminist thinking as analytical frameworks through which to study Jewish ritual. Course materials will include readings, documentary films, and fieldwork in the rich Jewish laboratory of the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area.

Special Topics: Aramaic*(Middle Eastern Studies. 685:496)*

563:394:02; Index #54065; MW4; Haberl

LSH, Room B314, LC

Introduction to the grammar of Aramaic, the lingua franca of the Middle East before the Islamic conquest, the first language of half a million Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Middle East and in diaspora, and the liturgical language of over twenty million Oriental Christians. This course aims to introduce students to the Aramaic language through the Imperial Aramaic dialect, which was one of the official languages of the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BCE). The expansion of the Achaemenid Empire throughout the Middle East placed Aramaic into a privileged position as the lingua franca of the region, a position which it held for over a millennium, until the Arab conquests of the region in the 7th century CE. Imperial Aramaic is the dialect in which the Aramaic (or "Chaldean") portions of the Bible were composed, and also the dialect from which all subsequently attested dialects of Aramaic developed, including those still spoken by certain small communities of Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Middle East and in diaspora throughout the world.

Special Topics: Space in Modern Jewish Culture *(Middle Eastern Studies. 685:395:01, History, 506:392:02)*

563:395:01; Index #45822; TTh4; Zerubavel

Scott 101

This course will explore the Jewish conception of space as it has been transformed and reinvented during the modern period. It will examine the secularization and nationalization of the Jewish religious understanding of exile and Zion, the attitudes to nature, agriculture, the city, and the desert; and the rise of secular or secularized rituals that highlight the connection to the land. Moving beyond Israel, the course will examine the conception of "home" as a private and collective space in relation to its environment; the role of the museum as a secular temple and as a space that represents other spaces; and conversely, the role of pilgrimage that takes a person on

a sacred journey to other spaces, real or imagined. Course materials will draw upon historical, sociological and anthropological scholarship, as well as upon fiction, films, and popular art.

Special Topics: Apocalypticism in Early Judaism & Christianity [CT] (*Religion, 840:427:01*)
563:395:02; #Index 50169; MTh3; Wasserman RAB 206, DC

The past 30 years have seen an explosion of interest in and work on apocalypticism in early Judaism, but there has been little comparable work on apocalypticism in the study of early Christianity. Drawing on this work in early Judaism, this course focuses on the context of early Christianity with a view to critically evaluating the role of apocalypticism in the emerging Christian movements. In the first half of the course we will read widely in so-called apocalyptic literature with the goal of raising questions about whether, or to what degree, such literature draws on or distinguishes itself from other types of Greek, Roman, and Jewish literature (e.g. wisdom literature, cosmologies, decline narratives, philosophical texts), and questions about what types of intellectuals produced them and why. The second part of the course will focus in on the literature from Qumran, the letters of Paul, and the Gospel of Mark and raise questions about the role of apocalypticism in various social movements. While Paul and Mark will provide an important focus for the second part of the course, students will be encouraged to pursue research projects in a variety of other literature.

Special Topics: Franz Kafka: Secularism and World Culture [ML]

(*German, 470:390:01; Comp Lit, 195:395:01*)

563:396:02; Index #53769; TTh5; Levine

Scott 203

The course will introduce students to Kafka's work and its impact on World literature. Born an Austro-Hungarian Jew, Franz Kafka lived in the German-speaking enclave of Prague, making his living and speaking Czech during the day as a relatively successful employee of an insurance company while endeavoring at night to create fiction. Constantly at odds with the demands of his family, friends, and fiancées, incessantly plagued by frail health, perpetually struggling "to write in German" so as "to leave Jewishness behind," yet finding it virtually impossible to do so, Kafka struggled his entire life to reconcile the irreconcilable: life and writing.

The course will address the challenges posed by Kafka's work by locating it in a number of related contexts: at the crossroads of European modernity; within debates about Jewish languages, culture, identity, and music in the early twentieth-century and beyond; at the center of current controversies concerning the politically charged notion of "minor literature;" and perhaps most importantly as the source of inspiration for new works of art, literature, film, and music. Among the works to be considered are the silk-screens of Kafka by Andy Warhol, the novels of Philip Roth and Haruki Murakami, the films of Orson Welles and David Cronenberg, and the musical compositions of Philip Glass and Philippe Manoury.

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

563:397:01; Index #49779; T 5:00 – 8:00; Sprachman

Tillett 209

This seminar introduces a variety of ways of looking at and interpreting the Middle East and illustrates 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.

Special Topics: The Holocaust and Israel

(*History, 508:392:03; Middle Eastern St, 685:396:04*)

563:397:02; Index #53683; TTh6; Stauber

Scott 116

This course will explore the impact of the Holocaust on Israeli society and its leadership from the end of World War II, during the formative years of the State of Israel, and into the contemporary period. It will examine how the memory of the Holocaust became a central component in Israeli national identity. The following issues, among others, will be discussed: the encounter between Israelis and survivors of the Holocaust, the public debate over questions of resistance and collaboration; commemoration and museums; the "Kasztner trial" and the "Eichmann trial"; relations with Germany; the impact of the Arab-Israeli conflict on Holocaust awareness; and youth trips to Poland.

Jewish Studies Internship

563:460; Index #47012; 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: Jewish Historiography

(History, 510:392:02)

563:464; Index #44966; T 2&3; Yadin

12 College Ave

This course will introduce students to a number of central issues in Jewish historiography, focusing on the question of continuity and change within Jewish history. Topics to be covered include: The origins of Jewish historical writing and the periodization of Jewish history, the modern uses of ancient Jewish history, and the boundaries of Jewish history. *This course is open to junior and senior History majors and required of Jewish Studies majors.*

Modern Middle Eastern Literature in Translation [ML] (Middle Eastern Studies, 685:490:01)

563:480, Index #49718; W 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 #45459; 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 Honors

563:497:H1; Index #45820; 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.	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.