

JEWISH STUDIES COURSE INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS SPRING 2010

Because Jewish Studies course listings are interdisciplinary, this is the only website where you'll see ALL information about Jewish Studies graduate level courses for spring. The Office of the Registrar's course descriptions only lists JSTU courses.

Note: 500 and 600 level courses are for graduate students only.
Undergraduate students should see:

[Sp09Undergradcourses](#)

List of Jewish Studies Spring 2010 graduate-level courses

Course Descriptions

JEWISH STUDIES SCHEDULE OF GRADUATE LEVEL CLASSES SPRING 2010

GERMANIC STUDIES

GER-Y 502 Beginning Yiddish II (3 cr.) Dov-Ber Kerler
MWF 9:30-10:45 a.m. #13589
(Meets with GER-Y 150)

GER-Y 815 Individual Readings in Yiddish Studies: Language, Literature & Culture (1-3 cr.) Dov-Ber Kerler
Time arranged # 7427

JEWISH STUDIES

JSTU-H 500 Topics in Jewish Studies (3 cr.) Yossi Turner
Topic: Jewish Thought
M 4:00-6:00 p.m. #26921

JSTU-H 595 Directed Readings in Jewish Studies (1-3 cr.)
Time arranged #8255

NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

NELC-H 550 Elementary Hebrew II (2 cr.)
MTWR 10:10-11:00 a.m. #15663 (meets with JSTU-H 150 #8246) Rachel Naor
MTWR 10:10-11:00 a.m. # 15998 (meets with JSTU-H 150 #12878) Michal Maoz-Levy
MTWR 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m. #9557 (meets with JSTU-H 150 #8245) Rachel Naor
MTWR 12:20-1:10 p.m. #15664 (meets with JSTU-H 150 #8247) Rachel Naor

NELC-H 650 Intermediate Hebrew II (3 cr.)
MWF 10:10-11:00 a.m. #9558 (meets with JSTU-H 250 #8248)
MWF 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m. # 15665 (meets with JSTU-H 250 #8249)
MWF 12:20-1:10 p.m. #15666 (meets with JSTU-H 250 #8250)

NELC-H 680 Advanced Hebrew II (3 cr.) Ayelet Weiss
MWF 12:20-1:10 p.m. #9559 (meets with JSTU-H 350)

NELC-N 588 Recent Hebrew Literature in English (3 cr.) Stephen Katz
TR 2:30-3:45 p.m. #26924 (meets with JSTU-L 385)

NELC-N 695 Graduate Topics in Near Eastern Language & Cultures (3 cr.) Stephen Katz
Topic: Biblical Themes in Modern Hebrew Literature
TR 4:00-5:15 p.m. #26925 (meets with JSTU-L 390)

NELC-N 695 Graduate Topics in Near Eastern Language & Cultures (3 cr.) Stephen Katz
Topic: Recent Hebrew Literature in Hebrew
Arranged # (meets with JSTU-H 485)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL-R 511 Religion of Ancient Israel (3 cr.) Chaya Halberstam
Topic: Biblical Justice
T 3:35-5:35 p.m. # (meets with REL-R 410)

SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

SLAV-C 565 Seminar in Czech and Central European Literatures and Cultures (3 cr.)
Bronislava Volkova
Topic: Czech History and Literature under Communism through Film
TR 4:00-6:30 p.m. #27335 (meets with SLAV-C 365)
2nd 8 weeks course

SLAV-S 540 Graduate Readings in Slavic Studies (2 cr.) Ariann Stern-Gottschalk
Topic: Survey of Polish Jewish Culture
2nd 8 weeks course
R 4:00-7:15 p.m. #27637 (meets with SLAV-S 320)

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SPRING 2010 JEWISH STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - GRADUATE LEVEL

GERMANIC STUDIES

GER-Y 502 Beginning Yiddish II (3 cr.) Dov-Ber Kerler
MWF 9:30-10:45 a.m. # 13589
(Meets with GER-Y 150)

Introduction to Yiddish language and selected aspects of Yiddish-language culture. Development of listening comprehension, simple speaking proficiency, controlled reading and writing skills.

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GER-Y 815 Individual Readings in Yiddish Studies: Language, Literature & Culture (1-3 cr.) Dov-Ber Kerler
Time arranged #7427

Guided readings. May be repeated.

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JEWISH STUDIES

JSTU-H 500 Topics in Jewish Studies (3 cr.) Yossi Turner
M 4:00-6:00 p.m. #26921
Topic: Jewish Thought

"Israel and the Diaspora in Contemporary Jewish Thought" - This course is a comparative study of contemporary Jewish thought in Israel and the Diaspora. The course will consist of a comparison between contemporary Jewish scholars and intellectuals in Israel and the Diaspora on matters having to do with the character the Jewish religion, the meaning of Jewish peoplehood and visions concerning Jewish community life in the future. Divergent attitudes on such value oriented topics as feminism, democracy, new-age mysticism and social ethics will also be discussed.

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JSTU-H 595 Directed Readings in Jewish Studies (1-3 cr.)
Time arranged #8255

Directed readings in various topics in Jewish Studies: topics, credit hours, and readings to be determined in consultation with a Jewish Studies faculty member with whom the graduate student wishes to work. May be repeated twice for up to 6 credit hours.

Jewish Studies advisor must authorize student to register for course.

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NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

NELC-H 550 Elementary Hebrew II (2 cr.)
MTWR 10:10-11:00 a.m. #15663 (meets with JSTU-H 150 #8246) Rachel Naor

MTWR 10:10-11:00 a.m. # 15998 (meets with JSTU-H 150 #12878) Michal Maoz-Levy
MTWR 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m. #9557 (meets with JSTU-H 150 #8245) Rachel Naor
MTWR 12:20-1:10 p.m. #15664 (meets with JSTU-H 150 #8247) Rachel Naor

This course meets four times a week and is offered as the second semester course, in the Modern Hebrew program. As such, it addresses appropriate material for the advanced-beginning level. The course is based on topics covered in the NELC-H 500 course. NELC-H 500 is conducted exclusively in Hebrew. Students are exposed to spoken Hebrew throughout class; they are expected to communicate solely in Hebrew, with one another as well as with the instructor.

This course offers a heavy focus on the verbs in Hebrew. Thus, it offers a practice of the infinitival structures of Hebrew, matching each such verbal form to its present form counterpart. The course offers an introduction of the past tense of the Hebrew verbal system, and focuses on the structure of simple as well as basic-nested (semi-complex) sentences, covering the word order options that such structures allow in Modern Hebrew.

The course uses readings from the workbook, in order to develop reading comprehension. Students use a set of CDs to work on listening comprehension exercises. Writing skills are developed as students write short essays on various topics. Speaking skills are exercised daily in class. As part of the course, students prepare and present short presentations in class, on various topics.

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NELC-H 650 Intermediate Hebrew II (3 cr.)
MWF 10:10-11:00 a.m. #9558 (meets with JSTU-H 250 #8248)
MWF 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m. # 15665 (meets with JSTU-H 250 #8249)
MWF 12:20-1:10 p.m. #15666 (meets with JSTU-H 250 #8250)

This course is offered as the fourth semester course of the Modern Hebrew program. It meets three times a week. It addresses the advanced-intermediate level. The course is based on topics covered in the NELC-H 500, NELC-H 550 and NELC-H 600 Hebrew courses. It is conducted solely in Hebrew. The course offers a thorough review of the foundations of grammar in Modern Hebrew. The course thus offers a solid review of the verbal as well as the nominal systems of the language.

Students work on reading materials from the workbook as well as other sources, such as Israeli newspapers and internet resources, in order to practice their reading skills. Students exercise their writing abilities, by writing essays on various topics, throughout the semester.

The course offers an introduction to the Israeli media, as students work on brief excerpts from Israeli TV broadcasts. These provide an opportunity for students to work on their verbal skills. The class sessions offer many daily discussions and a few in-class presentations, both collaborative and individual. By being immersed in the language, students prepare themselves for any special-topic advanced Hebrew course as well as any literary work in the language.

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NELC-H 680 Advanced Hebrew II (3 cr.) Ayelet Weiss
MWF 12:20-1:10 p.m. #9559 (meets with JSTU-H 350)

This course is offered as the sixth semester course of the Modern Hebrew program. It meets three times a week. It addresses the advanced level of acquisition for Modern Hebrew. This course is based on topics covered in the first two years of the Modern Hebrew program at IUB as well as in the NELC-H 670 course. The H 670 course covers the essentials of Modern Hebrew grammar, and offers skill practice for conversation, composition, and reading comprehension. The course readings prepare students to work with advanced literary and academic Hebrew texts.

This course is conducted solely in Hebrew. It offers reading selections from a variety of advanced-level textbooks as well as some Modern Hebrew literature, Israeli

newspapers, Modern Hebrew poetry, and other materials. Students are familiarized with various writing styles including slang, journalistic, poetic, and academic writing genres. Listening comprehension skills are further practiced and developed by exposure to Israeli media. Written assignments, long term projects, and in-class presentations allow students to master their Hebrew abilities while developing well-rounded linguistic skills.

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NELC-N 588 Recent Hebrew Literature in English (3 cr.) Stephen Katz
TR 2:30-3:45 p.m. #26924 (meets with JSTU-L 385)

The course presents the forces affecting issues, topics and forms of Hebrew literature composed in the last fifty years. Read about the fascination with minorities; find out about the dilemmas of choice made out of personal or group expectations; follow stories of rites of personal and national passage. Read about the "Death of the Little God" and how one can choose a career as bus driver or as God.

The course will bring before you the greatest and most talented writers of the last decades. We will read works by S.Y. Agnon, Shulamit Hareven, Ruth Almog, Yehuda Amichai, A.B. Yehoshua and Amos Oz, to name but the chief writers. We will be reading short stories, novels, and some poetry.

Grades will be determined on the basis of attendance, quizzes, a midterm, a final exam, and an assigned composition. No prior knowledge of Hebrew is required for this course. Students who are proficient in literary Hebrew should sign up under JSTU-H485.

Graduate students will be required to write a research paper on a subject approved by the instructor.

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NELC-N 695 Graduate Topics in Near Eastern Language & Cultures (3 cr.) Stephen Katz
Topic: Biblical Themes in Modern Hebrew Literature
TR 4:00-5:15 p.m. #26925 (meets with JSTU-L 390)

Having trouble telling Cain from Abel without a program? Or what was wrong with Moses bringing the Children of Israel out of Egypt? How about a course which will guide you through selections from the Bible so they stick in your mind and make you wonder?

In this course, we will focus on a number of stories from the Hebrew Bible (though all readings will be done in English translation) to contemplate specific issues. Our chief topics for the term include the stories of Creation, the *akeda* (the binding of Isaac), and the Exodus of the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. Rather than introduce you to biblical (higher) criticism, I plan to share with you some modern works of Hebrew literature (also translated into English) which either tell a tale set in biblical times or use key lines and phrases from the Bible for purposes which we will try to understand.

More than any, Hebrew literature is closely allied with the (Hebrew) Bible. It not only shares a language to a degree not found in the case of other modern languages as they refer to their ancient literary sources, but it also identifies its accounts as especially pertinent to contemporary times and circumstances. In many ways, Hebrew literature has thus "rewritten" the Bible in the image of our times. The specifics of this will be explored through the selections we will read in class.

If you want to find out how modern writers of Hebrew literature see how people lived in the times of the Bible, or why they saw that it was only "natural" for Cain to kill his brother, or how Moses is re-imagined by modern Hebrew writers, or who the real hero was in the story of the Binding of Isaac (the *akeda*), come and join us.

Final grades for the course will be based on attendance, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam. Term papers will be optional, except for graduate students.

**

NELC-N 695 Graduate Topics in Near Eastern Language & Cultures (3 cr.) Stephen Katz
Topic: Recent Hebrew Literature in Hebrew
Arranged # (meets with JSTU-H 485)

See description for NELC-N 588. This section of this course is in Hebrew.

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL-R 511 Religion of Ancient Israel (3 cr.) Chaya Halberstam
Topic: Biblical Justice
T 3:35-5:35 p.m. # (meets with REL-R 410)

Is the God of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) vengeful and retributive? Does “an eye for an eye” sum up a primitive, biblical notion of justice? This course will explore biblical ideas of justice from a variety of angles. We will examine the biblical law codes in a cross-cultural perspective; analyze the crime-and-punishment motifs in the Bible’s epic myths and narratives—stories such as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and the rise and fall of King David; investigate the “natural law” which operates in biblical “wisdom,” or philosophical, writings; and evaluate the nature of divine justice in the fire-and-brimstone warnings of the great prophets. Throughout the course, we will compare these notions of justice to our own sense of fairness and equity, evaluating whether and how biblical justice has any relevance to us today.

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SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

SLAV-C 565 Seminar in Czech and Central European Literatures and Cultures (3 cr.) Bronislava Volkova
Topic: Czech History and Literature under Communism through Film
TR 4:00-6:30 p.m. #27335 (meets with SLAV-C 365)
2nd 8 weeks course

The class covers the period of WWII and Communism in Czechoslovakia. Award winning films from the novels of writers like Lustig, Hrabal and Kundera by filmmakers like Menzel, Jireš and Němec are played and discussed in class. The historical part of the class is further complemented by documentary films which have been forbidden for decades. The reading part of the class consists of historical/political literature and novels. Prerequisites: interest in literature and history.

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SLAV-S 540 Graduate Readings in Slavic Studies (2 cr.) Ariann Stern-Gottschalk
Topic: Survey of Polish Jewish Culture
2nd 8 weeks course
R 4:00-7:15 p.m. #27637 (meets with SLAV-S 320)

Grounded in an historical overview of Poland and of the Jews in Poland beginning in the Jagiellon era, this course will examine various aspects of Jewish culture including language, food, music, theater, literature, and art. Guest lecturers will share their expertise in these areas. Topics will include an overview of the religious life of Polish Jews in the period examined, definitions of what we mean by the area known as

Poland in the historical span covered in the course and by extension what we mean by Polish Jews, and the influence of Polish Jewish culture outside of Eastern Europe. The last half of the course will focus on the 19th and 20th centuries.