Jewish Studies

Department Website: http://ccjs.uchicago.edu

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The BA program in Jewish Studies provides a context in which College students may examine the texts, cultures, languages, and histories of Jews and Judaism over three millennia. The perspective is contextual, comparative, and interdisciplinary. The long and diverse history of Jews and Judaism affords unique opportunities to study modes of continuity and change, interpretation and innovation, and isolation and integration of a world historical civilization. Students are encouraged to develop appropriate skills (in texts, languages, history, and culture) for independent work.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Jewish Studies. Information follows the description of the major.

JEWISH CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE

A three-course Jewish Civilization sequence is offered in the Autumn, Winter, and Spring Quarters. The first course begins in antiquity and extends through the medieval period (JWSC 12000 Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period). The second course begins in the early modern period and extends to the present (JWSC 12001 Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century). In the Spring Quarter, students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X). Jewish Civilization courses may be used to fulfill the College’s general education requirement in civilization studies. It is recommended, though not required, that students take these courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the Winter Quarter segment. In order for the Spring Quarter course to qualify for the general education requirement in civilization studies, the student must have completed Jewish Civilization I and II. The Spring Quarter course, however, may also be taken as an independent elective.

Note: Jewish Studies revised its civilization studies courses starting in academic year 2018–19. Students who began the requirement prior to Autumn Quarter 2018, under the previous course options, may complete it with those courses that remain available, or they may combine them with the new course options. However, students must have at least one course on the ancient/modern period (JWSC 20120-20199 or JWSC 12000 Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period) and at least one on the modern period (JWSC 20220-20299 or JWSC 12001 Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century). Students who began the requirement in Autumn Quarter 2018 or later may only use the new sequence to meet the general studies requirement in civilization studies.

Students may also fulfill the Jewish civilization requirement by participating in the “Jerusalem in Middle Eastern Civilizations” Study Abroad program, where they can earn credit for three courses in Jewish civilization (ancient, medieval, and modern) and one credit in modern Hebrew. (For more information about this program, please see the Study Abroad (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/offcampussudyprograms/) page of this catalog.)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Advising

Students who have not completed the College’s general education requirements before starting the major should do so during their first year as Jewish Studies majors. Students are required to meet with the director of undergraduate studies before declaring a major in Jewish Studies. Each student in the major will have as an adviser a faculty member who is affiliated with the Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies.

MAJOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

The major requires twelve courses distributed according to the guidelines that follow. A full, constantly updated list of courses approved for the major and minor is available on the Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies website at ccjs.uchicago.edu (http://ccjs.uchicago.edu/).

Language

Students must take three quarters of Hebrew (classical or modern) or Yiddish. If the student’s research project requires knowledge of a different language, the student may petition the committee to substitute that language in the place of Hebrew or Yiddish.

Jewish Civilization and Electives

Students in the major must take nine additional courses in Jewish Studies, for a total of twelve courses.

Jewish Civilization: Students in the major must complete either the first two quarters of the Jewish Civilization sequence or the ‘Jerusalem in Middle Eastern Civilizations’ Study Abroad program.
If students take one of these sequences to satisfy the general education requirement in civilization studies, one elective in the major must come from another civilization studies sequence pertinent to the area and period of the student's primary interest in Jewish Studies.

For students who take a sequence outside Jewish Studies to satisfy the general education requirement in civilization studies, the two- or three-course Jewish Civilization sequence (or three-course sequence offered in Jerusalem) will count among the JWSC electives required for the major.

**Other Electives:** The remaining courses must come from JWSC course offerings. These elective courses should normally focus in a specific area of concentration within Jewish Studies and should be chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. Students who complete the option BA thesis (as described under Optional BA Paper) may count JWSC 29900 BA Preparation Course among these courses.

Beyond the requirements for the major, students are encouraged to take at least one course in method or theory pertaining to their area of concentration in Jewish Studies, whether it is a JWSC course that can count in the major or is simply a general elective credit.

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three courses in Hebrew (or other language, with approval)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine total JWSC courses</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: Must include 2–3 Jewish Civilization courses, as described under the Program Requirements

**Total Units** 1200

**Optional BA Paper**

Students who choose this option are to meet with their advisers by May 15 of their third year to determine the focus of the research project, and they are expected to begin reading and research for the BA paper during the summer before their fourth year. After further consultation, students are to continue guided readings and participate in a (formal or informal) tutorial during Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. Credit toward the major is received only for the Winter Quarter tutorial (JWSC 29900 BA Preparation Course), during which the BA paper is finally written and revised. The BA tutorial may count toward one of the courses related to Jewish Studies. The BA paper must be received by the primary reader by the end of fifth week of Spring Quarter. A BA paper is a requirement for consideration for honors.

This program may accept a BA paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

**HONORS**

Honors are awarded to students who demonstrate excellence in their course work, as well as on the BA paper. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the major, and the BA paper must be judged to be at least of A- quality.

**GRADING**

Students take all courses required for the major for quality grades.

**MINOR IN JEWISH STUDIES**

The minor in Jewish Studies provides a basic introduction to the texts, cultures, languages, and history of the Jews and Judaism. Six courses are required for the minor, two of which are JWSC 12000 Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period and JWSC 12001 Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century. The other courses may be in any area of Jewish Studies, including languages such as Hebrew and Yiddish; such courses can be identified by their JWSC prefix. Students can earn credit for three courses in Jewish Civilization (ancient, medieval, and modern) and one credit in modern Hebrew by participating in the “Jerusalem in Middle Eastern Civilizations” Study Abroad program. (For more information about this program, please see the Study Abroad (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/offcampusstudyprograms/) page of this catalog.)

Students who wish to do a minor in Jewish Studies must meet with the director of undergraduate studies before the end of the Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. The director's approval for the minor program will then be communicated to the student's College adviser.

Courses taken to fulfill the requirements for the minor in Jewish Studies may not be double-counted with courses taken for the student's major(s) or courses taken for other minors. Courses taken for the minor in Jewish Studies must be taken for quality grades.
JEWISH STUDIES COURSES

JWSC 11000-11100-11200. Biblical Aramaic; Old Aramaic Inscriptions; Imperial Aramaic.
Three quarter sequence in Aramaic spanning Biblical Aramaic (Autumn), Old Aramaic (Winter), and Imperial Aramaic (Spring).

JWSC 11000. Biblical Aramaic. 100 Units.
This course provides a thorough introduction to the grammar of the Aramaic portions of the Hebrew Bible during the first few weeks. The remainder of the course is spent reading texts from the books of Daniel and Ezra.
Instructor(s): S. Creason Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10103 or equivalent.
Note(s): Instructor Consent Required
Equivalent Course(s): ARAM 10101

JWSC 11100. Old Aramaic Inscriptions. 100 Units.
Selected monumental inscriptions from the Old Aramaic period (c. 1000-600 BCE) are read with special attention to the dialectal differences among various subgroups of texts.
Instructor(s): S. Creason Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): ARAM 10101 or equivalent.
Equivalent Course(s): ARAM 10102

JWSC 11200. Imperial Aramaic. 100 Units.
Selected letters and contracts from the Imperial Aramaic period (c. 600-200 BCE) are read with special attention to the historical development of the grammar of Aramaic during this time period.
Instructor(s): S. Creason Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): ARAM 10102 or equivalent.
Equivalent Course(s): ARAM 10103

JWSC 12000-12001-12003. Jewish Civilization I-II-III.
Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations.
Through investigation of primary texts—biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary—students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Autumn course will deal with antiquity to the medieval period; the Winter course will begin with the early modern period and continue to the present. The Spring course will vary as to special topic; for the Spring course to count towards the general education requirement in civilization studies, the student must also take the Autumn and Winter courses. Note: Jewish Studies revised its civilization studies courses in academic year 2018–19. Students who began the requirement prior to Autumn Quarter 2018 under the previous course options, may complete it with those courses that remain available, or (with prior approval from the JWSC director of undergraduate studies) they may combine them with the new course options, provided that they fulfill the requirement to take one JWSC course in the ancient or medieval period and one in the modern period. Only students who have taken JWSC courses prior to academic year 2018–19 are eligible to complete the program under the prior system.

JWSC 12000. Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period. 100 Units.
Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations.
Through investigation of primary texts—biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary—students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Autumn course will deal with antiquity through the Middle Ages. Its readings will include material from the Bible and writings from the second temple, Hellenistic, rabbinic, and medieval periods. All sections of this course will share a common core of readings; individual instructors will supplement with other materials. It is recommended, though not required, that students take the three Jewish Civilization courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the winter segment. In the Spring Quarter students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X).
Instructor(s): James Robinson Other TBA Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 22010, MDVL 12000, RLST 22010

JWSC 12001. Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century. 100 Units.
Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations.
Through investigation of primary texts—biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary—students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Winter course will begin with the early modern period and continue to the present. It will include discussions of mysticism, the works of Spinoza and Mendelssohn, the nineteenth-century reform, the Holocaust and its reflection in writers such as Primo Levi and Paul Celan, and literary pieces from postwar American Jewish and Israeli authors. All sections of this course will share a common core of readings; individual instructors will supplement with
other materials. It is recommended, though not required, that students take the three Jewish Civilization courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the winter segment. In the Spring Quarter students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X).

Instructor(s): S. Hammerschlag J. Kirzane Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 22011, RLST 22011

JWSC 12003. Jewish Civilization III - Language, Creation, and Translation in Jewish Thought and Literature. 100 Units.

Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Spring course in 2021 will start with two stories from Genesis-the creation story and the story of the Tower of Babel in chapter 11—and consider the intertwined dynamics of language, creation, and translation in Jewish thought and literature. In addition to commentaries on both of these key texts, we will read philosophical and literary texts that illuminate the workings of language as a creative force and the dynamics of multilingualism and translation in the creation of Jewish culture. Through this lens, we will consider topics such as gender and sexuality, Jewish national identity, Zionism, the revival of the Hebrew language, Jewish responses to the Holocaust, and contemporary American Jewish culture.

Instructor(s): Na’ama Rokem Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Students who wish to take this course for Civilization Studies credit, must also take Jewish Civilization I and II. The course may also be taken as an independent elective.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 22012, NEHC 12003, CMLT 12003

JWSC 20120. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 100 Units.
The course will survey the contents of the Hebrew Bible, and introduce critical questions regarding its figures and ideas, its literary qualities and anomalies, the history of its composition and transmission, its relation to other artifacts from the biblical period, its place in the history and society of ancient Israel and Judea, and its relation to the larger culture of the ancient Near East.

Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 11004, HIJD 31004, NEHC 30504, BIBL 31000, NEHC 20504

JWSC 20235. The Hebrew Bible and the Shoah. 100 Units.
This course explores the use of biblical literature in Holocaust and post-Holocaust works. The first part focuses on the work of religious thinkers from across the religious spectrum, from the Warsaw ghetto sermons of the orthodox rabbi Kalonymos Shapira to the unique interpretation of the ‘suffering servant’ by Reform rabbi Ignaz Maybaum. We will see that the question of God’s whereabouts during the massacre produced an explosion of biblically-inspired theologies, stemming from Buber, Heschel, and Berkovits’ different conceptions of a ‘divine eclipse’ (hester panim) to Melissa Raphael’s audacious affirmation of the presence of the female divine face in Auschwitz. The traditional approach to the Hebrew Bible itself was radically questioned: Fackenheim argued that biblical exegesis had to be thoroughly revised, and André Neher sketched a hermeneutics of biblical silence. In the second part of the course we turn to the influence the Hebrew Bible had on the works of literarily oriented writers and how they reflected on the Shoah. In genres as distinct as poetry and testimony, in authors as different as Chava Rosenfarb and Primo Levi, one sees biblical characters, stories, motifs, and literary forms given unprecedented ambivalence and poignancy. This is true whether the biblical reference is deployed in ironic denunciations of the divine (Shayevish, Modolowski), in appeals to a newfound hope (Wiesel, Agnon), or in psalmody: hymns to the senselessness of it all (Sachs, Celan).

Instructor(s): Aslan Mizrahi Cohen Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 20235

JWSC 20300-20400-20500. Elementary Yiddish I-II-III.
The goal of this sequence is to develop proficiency in Yiddish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Touchstones of global Yiddish culture are also introduced through song, film, and contemporary Yiddish websites.

JWSC 20300. Elementary Yiddish I. 100 Units.
The goal of this sequence is to develop proficiency in Yiddish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Touchstones of global Yiddish culture are also introduced through song, film, and contemporary Yiddish websites.

Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 10100

JWSC 20400. Elementary Yiddish for Beginners-II. 100 Units.
In this course, students will extend basic Yiddish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. By the end of the course, students should have a basic understanding of regional Yiddish variations in pronunciation and spelling, be able to understand and participate in a conversation in an increasingly comfortable and complex way, read simple texts with ease, have experience tackling more complex texts with the aid of a
dictionary, and write short compositions with grammatical complexity. In the course of language study, students will also be exposed to key topics in the history of the Yiddish language and culture.

Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): YDDH 10100
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 37400, YDDH 10200

**JWSC 20500. Elementary Yiddish III. 100 Units.**

In this course, students will acquire intermediate Yiddish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. By the end of the course, students should be able to conduct a conversation on a wide range of topics, be comfortable tackling complex texts with the aid of a dictionary, and write short compositions with grammatical complexity. In the course of language study, students will also be exposed to key topics in the history of the Yiddish language and culture. Students will also be introduced to basic Yiddish research skills.

Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 10300, YDDH 37500

**JWSC 20907. Contemporary Religion in Israel. 100 Units.**

The complex relationship between religion and state is at the core of current social, cultural and political tensions in Israel. In this course we will explore the manifestation of these relations by focusing on selected ethnographies of religious performance and phenomena in modern Israel, including amongst others a ‘Women of the Wall’ first day of the month prayer, a LGBTQ community’s reading of the book of Esther in Tel-Aviv, and a messianic group’s attempt to reestablish the Passover sacrifice at the Temple Mount. By exploring these detailed ethnographies against the backdrop of contemporary theory, including secularization and post-secularization, lived religion, fundamentalism and social orthodoxy, this course aims to portray the variety and complexity of religious experience in Israel today.

Instructor(s): David Barak-Gorodetsky
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 27712

**JWSC 21107. Readings in Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed. 100 Units.**

A careful study of select passages in Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed, focusing on the method of the work and its major philosophical-theological themes, including: divine attributes, creation vs. eternity, prophecy, the problem of evil and divine providence, law and ethics, the final aim of human existence.

Instructor(s): James Robinson
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIJD 45400, RLVC 45400, FNDL 40470, MDVL 25400

**JWSC 21215. Abraham’s Sacrifice of Isaac in Multiple Perspectives. 100 Units.**

The story of Abraham’s (near) sacrifice of his son, Isaac, found in Genesis 22:1-19, is one of the most influential and enduring stories in Western literature and art. It is part of the living tradition of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and its meaning and implications have been repeatedly explored in the communities defined by these religions, and has, in turn, helped to shape the self-perception of those communities. This course will consider the multiple perspectives from which this story has been viewed and the multiple interpretations which this story has generated, starting with its earliest incorporation into the Hebrew Bible, moving to its role in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and concluding with its influence on modern works. No knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Instructor(s): Stuart Creason
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 31215, HIJD 31215, ISLM 31215, NEHC 21215, BIBL 31215, RLST 21215

**JWSC 22000-22100-22200. Elementary Classical Hebrew I-II-III.**

The purpose of this three-quarter sequence is to enable the student to read biblical Hebrew prose with a high degree of comprehension. The sequence is divided into two segments: (1) the first two quarters are devoted to acquiring the essentials of descriptive and historical grammar (including translation to and from Hebrew, oral exercises, and grammatical analysis); and (2) the third quarter is spent examining prose passages from the Hebrew Bible and includes a review of grammar.

**JWSC 22000. Elementary Classical Hebrew I. 100 Units.**

The purpose of this three-quarter sequence is to enable the student to acquire a knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of Classical Hebrew sufficient to read prose texts with the occasional assistance of a dictionary. The first quarter focuses on the inflection of nouns and adjectives and begins the inflection of verbs. It includes written translation to and from Hebrew, oral exercises, and grammatical analysis of forms.

Instructor(s): S. Creason
Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This class meets 5 times a week
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 10101

**JWSC 22100. Elementary Classical Hebrew II. 100 Units.**

The purpose of this three-quarter sequence is to enable the student to acquire a knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of Classical Hebrew sufficient to read prose texts with the occasional assistance of a dictionary. The second quarter focuses on verb inflection and verbal sequences and includes written translation to and from Hebrew, oral exercises, and grammatical analysis of forms.

Instructor(s): S. Creason
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10101 or equivalent
Note(s): This class meets 5 times a week
JWSC 22200. Elementary Classical Hebrew III. 100 Units.
The purpose of this three-quarter sequence is to enable the student to acquire a knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of Classical Hebrew sufficient to read prose texts with the occasional assistance of a dictionary. The first half of the third quarter concludes the study of verb inflection and the second half is spent reading prose narrative texts with specific attention to the grammatical analysis of those texts.
Instructor(s): S. Creason Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10102
Note(s): This class meets 5 times a week
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 10102, JWSG 30300

JWSC 22300-22400-22500. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I-II-III.
A continuation of Elementary Classical Hebrew. The first quarter consists of reviewing grammar, and of reading and analyzing further prose texts. The last two quarters are devoted to an introduction to Hebrew poetry with readings from Psalms, Proverbs, and the prophets.

JWSC 22300. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I. 100 Units.
The first quarter consists of reviewing grammar, and of reading and analyzing further prose texts.
Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10103 or equivalent
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20104

JWSC 22400. Intermediate Classical Hebrew II. 100 Units.
The last two quarters are devoted to an introduction to Hebrew poetry with readings from Psalms, Proverbs, and the prophets.
Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 20104 or equivalent
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20105

JWSC 22500. Intermediate Classical Hebrew III. 100 Units.
The last two quarters are devoted to an introduction to Hebrew poetry with readings from Psalms, Proverbs, and the prophets.
Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 20105 or equivalent
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20106

JWSC 24650. Introduction to Kabbalah. 100 Units.
A general introduction to the origins and development of Kabbalah, focusing on the classic period of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. We will read samples from the major texts and most important movements, including the Bahir and Isaac the Blind in Provence, the Gerona circle (Ezra, Azriel, Nachmanides), and developments in Castile, from Ibn Latif and Ibn Sahula to Abraham Abulafia and Joseph Ibn Gikatilla to Moses de Leon and the Zohar.
Instructor(s): James T. Robinson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): MDVL 25500, HIJD 35500, RLST 21205

JWSC 24788. Guilt, Atonement, and Forgiveness After WWII. 100 Units.
By what parameters should we assess guilt? What is required to atone for wrong done unto another? Under what circumstances should we forgive harm done to us? This course examines both foundational ethical models and arguments that emerged following the end of WWII concerning issues that arose in the war’s wake. We begin the course by reading significant theological and philosophical accounts of ethics, including Genesis, Aristotle, Mill and Kant, and consider what constitutes ‘guilt’ in each. We then draw on these models as we examine significant questions of guilt and atonement that arose in the wake of the Second World War, and explore the particular concerns involved in wrestling with questions of national guilt, collaboration, and assignation of punishment post-war. We will conclude the course by reading arguments that wrestle with the ethics of forgiveness, exploring arguments by a range of theologians, philosophers and other thinkers both for and against forgiving those who have perpetrated harm.
Instructor(s): Bevin Blaber Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 24788

JWSC 25000-25100-25200. Introductory Modern Hebrew I-II-III.
This three-quarter sequence introduces students to reading, writing, and speaking modern Hebrew. All four language skills are emphasized: comprehension of written and oral materials; reading of nondiacritical text; writing of directed sentences, paragraphs, and compositions; and speaking. Students learn the Hebrew root pattern system and the seven basic verb conjugations in both the past and present tenses, as well as simple future. At the end of the year, students can conduct short conversations in Hebrew, read materials designed to their level, and write a short essay.

JWSC 25000. Introductory Modern Hebrew I. 100 Units.
This three quarter course introduces students to reading, writing, and speaking modern Hebrew. All four language skills are emphasized: comprehension of written and oral materials; reading of nondiacritical text;
writing of directed sentences, paragraphs, and compositions; and speaking. Students learn the Hebrew root pattern system and the seven basic verb conjugations in both the past and present tenses, as well as simple future. At the end of the year, students can conduct short conversations in Hebrew, read materials designed to their level, and write short essay.

**Instructor(s): A. Almog**

**Terms Offered: Autumn**

**Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 10501**

**JWSC 25100. Introductory Modern Hebrew II. 100 Units.**

This three quarter course introduces students to reading, writing, and speaking modern Hebrew. All four language skills are emphasized: comprehension of written and oral materials; reading of nondiacritical text; writing of directed sentences, paragraphs, and compositions; and speaking. Students learn the Hebrew root pattern system and the seven basic verb conjugations in both the past and present tenses, as well as simple future. At the end of the year, students can conduct short conversations in Hebrew, read materials designed to their level, and write short essay.

**Instructor(s): A. Almog**

**Terms Offered: Winter**

**Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10501 or equivalent**

**Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 10502**

**JWSC 25200. Introductory Modern Hebrew III. 100 Units.**

This three quarter course introduces students to reading, writing, and speaking modern Hebrew. All four language skills are emphasized: comprehension of written and oral materials; reading of nondiacritical text; writing of directed sentences, paragraphs, and compositions; and speaking. Students learn the Hebrew root pattern system and the seven basic verb conjugations in both the past and present tenses, as well as simple future. At the end of the year, students can conduct short conversations in Hebrew, read materials designed to their level, and write short essays.

**Instructor(s): A. Almog**

**Terms Offered: Spring**

**Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10502 or equivalent**

**Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 10503**

**JWSC 25149. Anthropology of Israel. 100 Units.**

This seminar explores the dynamics of Israeli culture and society through a combination of weekly screenings of Israeli fiction and documentary films with readings from ethnographic and other relevant research. Among the (often overlapping) topics to be covered in this examination of the institutional and ideological construction of Israeli identity/ies: the absorption of immigrants; ethnic, class, and religious tensions; the kibbutz; military experience; the Holocaust; evolving attitudes about gender and sexuality; the struggle for minorities' rights; and Arab-Jewish relations.

**Instructor(s): Morris Fred**

**Terms Offered: Spring**

**Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 35150, CMES 35150, MAPS 35150, NEHC 25147, NEHC 35147, ANTH 25150**

**JWSC 27610. Advanced Yiddish I: Readings in Yiddish Literature. 100 Units.**

In this class, students will be exposed to essays, short stories, poetry and other writings by some of the great Yiddish writers of the twentieth century, including Abraham Reisin, Bella Chagall, Abraham Sutzkever, Esther Kreitman, and Dovid Bergelson. Students will write critical essays and creative responses, listen to excerpts read aloud, participate in discussions and debates. This course will be conducted entirely in Yiddish.

**Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane**

**Terms Offered: Winter**

**Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Yiddish I, or permission from the instructor.**

**Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 21000, YDDH 31000**

**JWSC 27651. Women Who Wrote In Yiddish. 100 Units.**

This course explores memoirs, plays, essays, poetry, novels, and journalistic writing of women who wrote in Yiddish, as well as a discussion of the context in which they wrote and their reception and self-perception as 'women writers.' Among the writers whose work may be represented in this course are Glikl, Yente Mash, Kadya Molodwsky, Chava Rosenfarb, Yente Serdatsky, Rosa Palatnik, Anna Margolin, Celia Dropkin, Rokhl Korn, Beyle Shaechter-Gottesman, Gitl Shaechter-Viswanath, Bella Chagall, Blume Lempel, Esther Kreitman, Debora Vogel, Rokhl Brokhes, Sarah Hamer-Jacklyn, Malka Lee, Ida Maze, Roshele Weprinsky, Miriam Karpilove, Zina Rabinovitz, Rokhl Szabad, Rokhl Faygnberg, Paula Prilutsky, Shira Gorsman, Esther Shumiatsher-Hirshbein and Freydl Shtok. Many of these writers have been underexamined in the history of Yiddish literary studies and this course will bring renewed attention to their work. This course will be taught in English with readings translated from Yiddish.

**Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane**

**Terms Offered: Spring**

**Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 21721, YDDH 31721, GNSE 31721, YDDH 21721**

**JWSC 27940. The Political Theologies of Zionism. 100 Units.**

The relationship between nationalism and religion has throughout history been a stormy one, often characterized by antagonisms and antipathy. In this course we will examine from various aspects the complex nexus of these two sources of repeated ideological and political dispute within Judaism, and more specifically within Zionism as its political manifestation. Zionism has mostly been considered a secular project, yet recently, Zionist theory is scrutinized to identify and unearth its supposedly hidden theological origins. In nowadays Israel, a rise in religious identification alongside an increasing religionization of the political discourse calls for the consideration of new theopolitical models of Zionism applicable in a post-secular environment. The aim of this course is to
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explore this intertwining of politics and religion in Israel from both historical and contemporary perspectives. The first part of the course will outline the theoretical foundation of post-secular and political-theological discourses. The second part will address the explicit and implicit political theologies of Zionism. The third part will outline contemporary aspects of political-theological thought in Israel, and their actual appearance in the political sphere.

Instructor(s): David Barak-Gorodetsky Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 25806

**JWSC 29104. Antisemitism and Islamophobia, Historically and Today. 100 Units.**

How are antisemitism and Islamophobia linked together? Are they two different modes of oppression or discrimination or are they part of a similar phenomenon? Moreover, are they religious, racial, or ethnic forms of discrimination? Throughout this course, we will complicate the media narrative that sees Jews and Arabs as perpetual enemies through a historical and philosophical exploration into the origins and development of Orientalism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism. Students will think historically about the construction of race, ethnicity, and religion, and the discriminatory modes by which these are employed; and they will use that knowledge to think critically about current depictions of anti-Jewish and anti-Islamic violence. In the first part of the course, we will consider the historical and conceptual underpinnings of antisemitism and Islamophobia. We will look to 14th and 15th century Spain in order to better understand how and where they originated; we will then track their development through modernity, paying close attention to how these discourses changed and evolved over time; finally, we will look at the impact of the Holocaust and the rise of the State of Israel and consider current iterations of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Europe and America today.

Instructor(s): Mendel Kranz Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 29104, MDVL 29104

**JWSC 29500. Holocaust Object. 100 Units.**

In this course, we explore various ontological and representational modes of the Holocaust material object world as it was represented during World War II. Then, we interrogate the post-Holocaust artifacts and material remnants, as they are displayed, curated, controlled, and narrated in the memorial sites and museums of former ghettos and extermination and concentration camps. These sites which-once the locations of genocide-are now places of remembrance, the (post)human, and material remnants also serve educational purposes. Therefore, we study the ways in which this material world, ranging from infrastructure to detritus, has been subjected to two, often conflicting, tasks of representation and preservation, which we view through a prism of authenticity. In order to study representation, we critically engage a textual and visual reading of museum narrations and fiction writings; to tackle the demands of preservation, we apply a neo-materialist approach. Of special interest are survivors’ testimonies as appended to the artifacts they donated. The course will also equip you with salient critical tools for future creative research in Holocaust studies.

Instructor(s): Bozena Shallcross Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): REES 27019, REES 37019, HIST 23413, HIST 33413, ANTH 35035, ANTH 23910

**JWSC 29626. Lost Histories of the Left. 100 Units.**

When most Americans think about ‘the left,’ Marxism, Soviet state socialism, or European social democracy spring to mind. This class will explore alternative-but now largely forgotten-blueprints for revolutionizing the political and social order that emerged in the nineteenth century. We will pay special attention to utopian socialism, early anticolonial movements, the Jewish Labor Bund, and anarchism. Examining the intellectual underpinnings of these movements, their influence on the modern world, and the factors that led to their demise, we will also consider what lessons they can teach to those committed to realizing a better future today.

Instructor(s): F. Hillis Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 39426, REES 36080, REES 26080, HIST 29426

**JWSC 29700. Reading and Research Course. 100 Units.**

TBD
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and Undergraduate Program Adviser
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.

**JWSC 29900. BA Preparation Course. 100 Units.**

Terms Offered: Autumn,Winter,Spring
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and Undergraduate Program Adviser
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Required of honors candidates. May be taken for P/F grading with consent of instructor.