

*THE ANNE TANENBAUM
CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES*

2025-2026

**UNDERGRADUATE
COURSE HANDBOOK**



Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

מרכז למדעי היהדות

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The Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies offers a Specialist in Jewish Studies, a Major in Jewish Studies, and a Minor in Jewish Studies.

Our undergraduate program provides students with a comprehensive education in Jewish Studies, a field that aims to situate the cultural, social, and economic diversity of the Jews and their faith within broader cultural contexts. Students who take our courses are trained in various methodological and disciplinary approaches across historical periods, geographical regions, textual corpora, and literary genres. Consequently, our students are pursuing education in Jewish history (ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary), Jewish literary and artistic creativity, and Jewish languages (mainly Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, and Yiddish) but also about Judaism, Jewish thought, theology, philosophy, mysticism, and modern Israel.

The program is interdisciplinary, each student can pick and choose courses that broaden their disciplinary knowledge. The program provides intensive training in the historical, religious, cultural, and political experience of Jewish communities in their diverse civilizational contexts. A primary objective of our three undergraduate programs in Jewish studies has been to provide students with forward-thinking tools to shape their interaction with and understanding of questions through Jewish prisms while at the same time encouraging them to think with the potentialities found in the Jewish historical experience. We teach students how to use a variety of methodologies to explore the experiences of Jews through interdisciplinarity, transnationally, historically, and contemporarily.

We offer the following pathways in Jewish Studies:

- Jewish Philosophy and Thought
- Jewish History
- Jewish Visual Art and Archeology
- Jewish Literature and Culture
- Origins of Judaism/Hebrew Bible Studies
- German Jewish Studies
- Antisemitism Studies
- Jewish Christian Encounters
- Yiddish Studies
- Modern Hebrew Culture
- Israel Studies
- Holocaust and post-Holocaust Studies
- European Jewish Studies
- Jewish Environmentalism
- Jewish-Muslim Relations
- Sephardi and Middle Eastern Jewish Studies
- Gender, Women, Queer and Sexuality and Jewish Studies

Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies Programs

The ATCJS is an open enrolment program, which means any student that has successfully completed 4.0 FCEs may join our program. There are no specific first-year requirements; however, first-year students are welcome to take CJS200H1, CJS201H1, Hebrew Language courses (MHB155H1 and MHB156H1) and Yiddish (GER260Y1), which count towards the Jewish Studies Specialist.

Jewish Studies Specialist (Arts Program) — ASSPE0385

Completion Requirements: 10.0 credits, including 4.0 credits at the 300+ level, and 1.0 credit must be at the 400-level

1. CJS200H1/ CJS201H1
2. 1.0 credit at the 400-level; fulfilled by any 400-level courses listed in the CJS Undergraduate Course Handbook.

3. 3.0 credits in Hebrew or Yiddish: **Hebrew language courses:** MHB155H1/ MHB156H1/ MHB255H1/ MHB256H1/ MHB355H1/ MHB356H1/ NML155H1/ NML156H1/ NML255H1/ NML256H1/ NML355H1/ NML356H1. **Yiddish language courses:** GER260Y1/ GER360H1/ GER460H1/ GER463Y1. Students entering the program with proof of requisite linguistic proficiency in Aramaic, Hebrew, Yiddish will choose any 3.0 credits in an area of study (see above) in addition to the regular requirements described in section 4. Other languages are accepted with special permission of the Undergraduate Director.
4. 5.0 credits in any of the four areas of Jewish Studies. All courses in the Centre for Jewish Studies Undergraduate Course Handbook count towards this requirement.

Note: From section 3 and 4, at least 4.0 credits at the 300+ level.

5. DTS300H1 or a 0.5 credit to satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning competency of the program, to be chosen from courses in the Centre for Jewish Studies Undergraduate Course Handbook developing this competency. If none is available, a 0.5 credit from Prerequisite Category #5: The Physical & Mathematical Universe, or a 0.5 credit approved by the Undergraduate Director.

Jewish Studies Major (Arts Program) — ASMAJ0385

Completion Requirements: 6.5 credits, including 2.0 credits at the 300+ level, of which a 0.5 credit must be at the 400-level

1. CJS200H1/ CJS201H1
2. 0.5 credits at the 400-level; fulfilled by any 400-level courses listed in the Centre for Jewish Studies Undergraduate Course Handbook.
3. 5.0 credits in any of the four areas of Jewish Studies. All courses in the Centre for Jewish Studies Undergraduate Course Handbook count towards this requirement. At least 2.0 out of the 5.0 credits must be at the 300+ level.
4. DTS300H1 or a 0.5 credit to satisfy the Quantitative

Reasoning competency of the program, to be chosen from courses in the Centre for Jewish Studies Undergraduate Course Handbook developing this competency. If none is available, a 0.5 credit from Prerequisite Category #5: The Physical & Mathematical Universe, or a 0.5 credit approved by the Undergraduate Director.

Jewish Studies Minor (Arts Program) — ASMIN0385

Completion Requirements: 4.0 credits, including 1.0 credit at the 300+ level

1. CJS200H1/ CJS201H1
2. 3.5 credits in any of the four areas of Jewish Studies. All courses in the Centre for Jewish Studies Undergraduate Course Handbook count towards this requirement. 1.0 out of the 3.5 credits must be at the 300+ level.

Codes Used in Course Listings:

Course Code: 3 letters denoting the department or college sponsoring the course 3 numbers denoting the level. 1 letter indicating the credit or full-course equivalent (FCE) value (H = 0.5 credit, Y = 1.0 credit) 1 number indicating the campus (1 = St. George campus). For example, ANT100Y1 is a 100-level course taught by the Department of Anthropology, with a credit value of 1.0, taught at the St. George campus.

Section Code: F = fall session (September to December) S = winter session (January to April). Y = fall and winter sessions (September to April).

Time: M=Monday, T = Tuesday, W = Wednesday, R = Thursday, F =

Friday, S = Saturday

Where more than one letter is used for a meeting section, classes meet on each day indicated. Classes begin at 10 minutes after the hour and finish on the hour. For example, a class with a time of “TR10–11” meets on both Tuesday and Thursday, beginning at 10:10am and ending at 11:00am. A class with a time of “M3–5” meets on Mondays from 3:10pm to 5:00pm.

Please note: This handbook lists the courses offered with their respective descriptions. While most courses here can be defined as “core” Jewish Studies courses, CJS students are also invited to register for more general courses that are listed here (for example, HIS242H1 “Europe in the 20th Century” or RLG209H1 “Justifying Religious Belief”); however, students are asked to submit a paper with a Jewish Studies focus. Students are encouraged to meet with the Undergraduate Director, Prof. [Yigal Nizri](#) in order to discuss their program of study. Students should contact Ms. Natasha [Richichi-Fried](#) regarding Degree Explorer.



CJS200H1F Introduction to Jewish Thought

Tuesday 11:00-1:00 & Thursday 11:00-1:00

Sol Goldberg & Michael Rosenthal

A balanced presentation of the multifaceted approach to the discipline by treating Jewish religion and thought. The course introduces students not only to a chronological and thematic overview of the subject but also to different methodological approaches.

CJS201H1S Introduction to Jewish Cultures

Friday 12:00-2:00

Yigal Nizri

This course explores the multifaceted nature of Jewish cultures through twenty key concepts frequently debated in public discourse and academic debates. Team-taught by ten faculty members specializing in Jewish Studies, this course aims to lay the foundation for a Jewish culture lexicon drawing from diverse disciplinary and critical approaches. The lectures also span various geographic, linguistic, and aesthetic contexts, allowing students to appreciate the cultural implications, social challenges, material aspects, and intellectual significance surrounding each term.

CJS205H1S People of the Books: The Classics of Jewish Literature

Winter Semester, Wednesdays 1:00-3:00

Alan Verskin

This course introduces some of the most influential and evocative books of the Jewish tradition. Students will explore how these books reflect central themes of Jewish history and questions about Judaism, Jewish life, and Jewish identity. Possible texts include excerpts from the Bible, Midrash, Talmud, Zohar and Lurianic kabbalah, Maimonides' Mishneh Torah and responsa, the poetry and trickster tales of the Takhkemoni, the autobiographies of Leon of Modena and Solomon Maimon, the travelogues of Haim Azulai and Hayyim Habshush, and the tales of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav. This course will delve into the historical contexts of each of the books and analyze both how they reflect the concerns of the particular communities that produced them and how they helped to shape future Jewish communities worldwide. Through close reading and discussion, participants will gain insight into the Jewish literary heritage. All readings will be given in English.

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

CJS290H1S Topics in Jewish Studies “Zionism, Anti-Zionism, and Post-Zionism”

Fall Semester, Monday 11:00-1:00

Sol Goldberg

Zionism emerged in late nineteenth-century Europe (alongside other species of Jewish nationalisms) with a radical proposal to change not only Jews' social and cultural conditions as an ethno-religious minority but also their basic self-conception. This proposal, at once a renewal and a repudiation of Jewish tradition, has been debated by Jews inside and outside the movement ever since. Internally, political Zionists, cultural Zionists, religious Zionists, liberal Zionists, revolutionary Zionists, etc. disagreed among themselves about the movements' ideals and goals as well as about the proper means to their realization, while, externally, ultraorthodox Jews, Reform Jews,

and assimilationist Jews all had their reasons to oppose Zionism in general.

In the wake of the Holocaust, most of the world's remaining Jews acknowledged Zionism's necessity and took pride in its incredible success in establishing Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. Yet, even then, debates about Zionism's purposes and principles persisted among Jews both within and beyond the new state's borders. Recent years have witnessed a dramatic intensification of these debates, as Jewish communities around the world find themselves fractured into Zionist, anti-Zionist, and post-Zionist camps that offer competing narratives and assessments about the past 150 years of Jewish history. What might Jews mean today when they identify as Zionist, anti-Zionist, or post-Zionist? What reasons do they give to themselves and to other Jews to justify these identities? How do other Jews respond to Jewish identities that contradict their own? This course takes up these questions to help students understand better these live and heated debates among Zionists, anti-Zionists, and Post-Zionists about Jews' identity, flourishing, and future.

CJS301H1S Community

Winter Semester, Thursdays 1:00-3:00

Sol Goldberg

Ethno-religious groups like Jewry or the Jews are not merely aggregates of individuals but rather collectives whose members are bound to each other in a common historical identity, life, and fate. To understand any such group, we must therefore understand what binds these people together into a community, why the burdens and benefits or responsibilities and resources of the community are distributed among its members as they are, and both how and how well internal conflicts are managed. This course considers the ways in which the Jewish community -- in its local and global guises -- has reflected upon and dealt with these issues in classical and contemporary contexts.

Breadth Category: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

CJS325H1S Authority in Judaism

Winter Semester, Tuesdays 1:00-3:00

Sol Goldberg

Why should Jews obey God's commands? Does Judaism understand the relation of God's rule over His people to the sovereign's rule over his? Why and to what extent do Jews respect the decisions of rabbis, and how do the rabbis enforce their decision when their power to coerce compliance is limited? What force do prophetic criticisms of the people's religious and moral failings have? All of these are question of authority discussed in Judaism until today, and we will explore them together in this course.

Recommended Preparation: 4.0 credits in any area.

Prerequisites: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

**CJS331H1F Encounters between Jewish and Modern Thought:
Sartre's Anti-Semite and Jew**

Fall Semester, Thursdays 1:00-3:00

Sol Goldberg

Prerequisite: Completion of at least 4.0 credits.

Recommended Preparation: CJS200H1

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief, and Behavior (2)

**CJS392H1S Possession, Hysteria, and Trauma: Reading
Jewishness through Literature, Cinema, and
Psychoanalysis (Special Topics in Jewish Studies)**

Winter Semester, Tuesdays 5:00-7:00

Julie Sharff

This course will examine spirit possession in Jewish mysticism, diasporic Jewish literature, and contemporary Jewish experiences, using the lens of psychoanalysis to understand what makes such phenomena "Jewish." We will ask questions about trauma and what it means to be haunted. Through theory, literature, and film, we will discuss identity formation, with a special focus on the dynamics of gender and sexuality, examining both their impact on the field of

psychology and the ways these factors shape Jewish experiences past and present.

CJS396H1F Independent Study

A scholarly project on an approved topic supervised by a faculty affiliated with the Centre for Jewish Studies. For details, please visit the ATCJS webpage on Independent Studies Courses. Not eligible for CR/NCR option. Pre-requisites: CJS200H1 or CJS201H1, and permission from the CJS Undergraduate Director. At least 2.0 credits in Jewish Studies courses

CJS396H1S Independent Study

A scholarly project on an approved topic supervised by a faculty affiliated with the Centre for Jewish Studies. For details, please visit the ATCJS webpage on Independent Studies Courses. Not eligible for CR/NCR option. Pre-requisites: CJS200H1 or CJS201H1, and permission from the CJS Undergraduate Director. At least 2.0 credits in Jewish Studies courses

JJH370H1F Soviet Jewish History, Culture, and Diaspora

Fall Semester, Tuesdays 11:00-1:00

Anna Shternshis

The course examines history, culture and diaspora of Russian-speaking Jews in the 20th and 21st century. We will discuss how Jews experienced Russian Revolutions of 1917, Stalinism, Soviet Great Terror of 1937, World War II and the Holocaust, post-war challenges, the “Thaw” of the 1960s, “Stagnation of the 1980s”, Dissident movement, Perestroika, collapse of the Soviet Union and the development of post-Soviet diasporas. We will read works by both Soviet Jewish authors, including Vassily Grossman, Shira Gorshman, Isaac Babel, Rivka Levin and post-Soviet ones, such as David Bezmozgis, Lara Vapnyar and Boris Fishman, study artifacts of anti-religious propaganda such as Red Passover Celebration scripts, discuss oral histories of Soviet Jews, read scripts of Yiddish theater performances (in English translation), and scrutinize (and maybe even try) recipes of Soviet Jewish food. No prior knowledge is

required, but if you took a course on European history or Jewish history, it will be an asset.

Prerequisite: Completion of at least 4.0 credits.

Exclusions: CJS391H1 (Soviet Jewish History, Culture, and Diaspora), offered in Fall 2024.

Recommended Preparation: CJS201H1 or HIS208Y1

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions(3)

CJS444H1F Topics in the Study of Antisemitism

Fall Semester, Mondays 11:00-1:00

Ron Levi and Sol Goldberg

This seminar explores in depth one of the many theoretical or methodological issues that confront scholars of antisemitism.

Possible topics include: definitions of antisemitism and their purposes; philosemitism and its conceptual and real connection with antisemitism; Jewish self-hatred; contextualist vs eternalist accounts of antisemitism; classic and contemporary theories of antisemitism.

Recommended Preparation: RLG344H1

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

CJS498Y1Y Independent Study

A scholarly project on an approved topic supervised by a faculty affiliated with the Centre for Jewish Studies. For details, please visit the ATCJS webpage on Independent Studies Courses. Not eligible for CR/NCR option. Pre-requisites: CJS200H1 or CJS201H1, and permission from the CJS Undergraduate Director. At least 2.0 credits in Jewish Studies courses

CJS499H1F Independent Study

A scholarly project on an approved topic supervised by a faculty affiliated with the Centre for Jewish Studies. For details, please visit the ATCJS webpage on Independent Studies Courses. Not eligible for CR/NCR option. Pre-requisites: CJS200H1 or CJS201H1, and permission from the CJS Undergraduate Director. At least 2.0 credits in Jewish Studies courses

CJS499H1S Independent Study

A scholarly project on an approved topic supervised by a faculty affiliated with the Centre for Jewish Studies. For details, please visit the ATCJS webpage on Independent Studies Courses. Not eligible for CR/NCR option. Pre-requisites: CJS200H1 or CJS201H1, and permission from the CJS Undergraduate Director. At least 2.0 credits in Jewish Studies courses.



DTS300H1S Qualitative and Quantitative Reasoning

Winter Semester, Thursday 10:00-12:00

Padraic Scanlan

Focuses on research design and training in methods from history, geography, anthropology, literary and cultural studies, and other disciplines appropriate to Diaspora and Transnational Studies. Prepares students to undertake primary research required in senior seminars.

Prerequisite: Completion of 9.0 credits

Prerequisite: The Physical and Mathematical Universes (5)



Anthropology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ANT426H1S “The West” and Its Others

Winter Semester, Wednesday 1:00-3:00

Ivan Kalmar

The history and present of western concepts and images about the ‘Other’, in anthropological and other scholarship and in popular culture.

Prerequisite: 0.5 credit at the 300-level from Anthropology Group C: Society, Culture, and Language, or Near and Middle Eastern Civilization or Jewish Studies or Diaspora and Transnational Studies or History

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)



FAH381H1F Problems in Jewish Art

Fall Semester, Thursday 3 pm - 5 pm

TBA

This course investigates the changing definition of Jewish art and the status of Jewish artists. Other issues explored include Jewish-Christian visual polemics, the construction of individual and communal Jewish identity through art, architecture, and texts, and the conceptual transformation of Jewish craft and ritual objects into art.

Prerequisite: 1.0 FAH credit

Prerequisites: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)



Germanic Languages & Literatures
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

GER261H1F Elementary Yiddish I

Fall Semester, Monday 10:00-12:00 and Wednesday
10:00-11:00

TBA

This course introduces Yiddish language, literature, music, theatre, and cinema through interactive multi-media seminars, designed to build proficiency in reading, writing and comprehending. No prior knowledge of Yiddish is required.

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

GER262H1S Elementary Yiddish II

Winter Semester, Monday 10:00-12:00 and
Wednesday 10:00-11:00

TBA

This course is the continuation of GER261H1, Elementary Yiddish 1. While learning the language the course will also introduce students to Yiddish literature & culture, providing a greater understanding of the historical and contemporary, religious and secular communities that speak and spoke this language.

Pre-requisites: GER261H1

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

GER360H1F Intermediate Yiddish

Fall Semester, TBA

TBA

The course conducted in Yiddish offers a review of basic grammar, stylistics, study of short literary texts.

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

GER367H1F Topics in Yiddish or German Jewish Literature and Culture

Fall Semester, Monday 1:00-3:00

TBA

Topics in modern Yiddish or German Jewish literature and culture from the beginning of the 19th century to the present, featuring a selection of readings of modern Yiddish prose, poetry, drama and cinema. Taught in English and open to students across disciplines.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 4.0 credits

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

GER460H1S Advanced Yiddish

Winter Semester, Tuesday 2:00-5:00

TBA

This course conducted entirely in Yiddish focuses on advanced reading, writing, vocabulary and conversation, the study of poetry, short fiction, and memoir literature by leading authors. Selected advanced grammatical topics are presented in conjunction with the study of texts.

Exclusion: GER462H1

Prerequisite: GER360H1

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)



HIS101Y1Y Histories of Violence

Full Year, Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00-5:00

M. Meyerson /A. Guerson

Ranging widely chronologically and geographically, this course explores the phenomenon of violence in history. It examines the role and meanings of violence in particular societies (such as ancient Greece and samurai Japan), the ideological foundations and use of violence in the clash of cultures (as in slavery, holy wars, colonization, and genocide), and the effects and memorialization of violence.

Exclusions: HIS100Y1, HIS102Y1, HIS103Y1, HIS106Y1, HIS107Y1, HIS108Y1, HIS109Y1, HIS110Y1

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3), Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

HIS195H1S Remembering and Forgetting

Winter Semester, Thursday 11:00-1:00

Jennifer Jenkins

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary study of history by exploring processes of remembering and forgetting intrinsic to every society. Topics include the ideas of history and memory, memory cultures and narratives and counternarratives and the study of legal trials, museums, monuments, novels and films as popular vehicles of historical knowledge. The course analyzes in particular how the experiences of war and violence have been both remembered and forgotten. The intersection, and dislocation, between trauma and remembrance is a main theme, as is the topic of collective memories in post-conflict societies. Restricted to first-year students. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Exclusions: AMS199H1

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

HIS242H1S Europe in the 20th Century

Winter Semester, Monday 1:00-3:00

Instructor: Gavin Weins

The evolution of European politics, culture, and society from 1914: the two world wars, Fascism and Nazism, the post-1945 reconstruction and the movement towards European integration.

Exclusion: EUR200Y1/EUR200Y5/FGI200Y5/HIS242H5/HISB94H3

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

HIS247H1S The Second World War: A Global History

Winter Semester, Wednesday 9:00-11:00

TBA

This course offers an introduction to the global history of the Second World War. It aims to expose students to historiographical debates regarding the war, the use of primary sources, and the scholarly and intellectual challenges that come with studying an event of this magnitude and horror. In general, students will examine the origins

and causes of the conflict, survey the factors that shaped the course of the war, and consider how and why the fighting came to an end when it did. These broad approaches will be supplemented with consideration of specific examples from around the world.

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

HIS301H1S World War II France

Winter Semester, Tuesday 1:00-3:00.

Eric Jennings

This third-year lecture course examines the experience of the Second World War in France. Special attention is paid to questions of collaboration, resistance and accommodation. Other topics include the role of the French overseas colonies in this era, the issue of internal vs. external resistance, and the fate of civilian populations. Students engage with a set of primary and secondary sources as well as visual material that includes films.

Exclusions: VIC102H1

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

HIS304H1S Topics in Middle East Histories: French Colonialism and the Jews

Winter Semester, Tuesday 1:00-3:00

TBA

This course examines the place of Jews—politically, socially, and conceptually—within both metropolitan France and its Middle Eastern and North African colonies in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In an era of liberalism and emancipation at home, the conquest of foreign lands and rule over their diverse peoples raised new questions around minority status and civil and political rights abroad. Jews, as a minority group native both to France and several of its colonies, present a unique case study of for the ways these questions were answered. Readings will include both primary sources and historical scholarship on topics including civil and political emancipation, national belonging, the “civilizing mission,” philanthropy, and antisemitism. Special focus will be paid to French

Algeria, at once the only overseas territory in which most Jews attained French citizenship and a central node of Francophone antisemitism.

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

HIS317H1S 20th Century Germany

Winter Semester, Monday, 10:00-1:00

Tobias Hof

A survey of modern German history in the twentieth century. Topics include World War I and the postwar settlement, the Weimar Republic, the National Socialist dictatorship, the Holocaust, the division of Germany, the Cold War, German reunification, Germany and the European Union, nationalism, political culture, war and revolution, religious and ethnic minorities and questions of history and memory.

Prerequisite: HIS103Y1/HIS109Y1/(HIS241H1, HIS242H1)/EUR200Y1

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

HIS338H1F The Holocaust, to 1942

Fall Semester, Friday 10:00-12:00

Gavin Weins

German state policy towards the Jews in the context of racist ideology, bureaucratic structures, and varying conditions in German-occupied Europe. Second Term considers responses of Jews, European populations and governments, the Allies, churches, and political movements.

Exclusion: HIS388Y1/HIS398Y1/HIS338H5

Prerequisite: Completion of 6.0 FCE.

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

HIS361H1S The Holocaust, from 1942

Winter Semester, Friday 10:00-12:00

Gavin Weins

Follows on HIS338H1. Themes include: resistance by Jews and non-

Jews; local collaboration; the roles of European governments, the Allies, the churches, and other international organizations; the varieties of Jewish responses. We will also focus on postwar repercussions of the Holocaust in areas such as justice, memory and memorialization, popular culture and politics.

Exclusion: HIS338Y1/HIS361H5

Prerequisite: Completion of 6.0 credits and HIS338H1

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

HIS364H1F From Revolution to Revolution: Hungary Since 1848

Fall Semester, Wednesday 9:00-11:00

Robert Austin

This course offers a chronological survey of the history of Hungary from the 1848 revolution until the present. It is ideal for students with little or no knowledge of Hungarian history but who possess an understanding of the main trends of European history in the 19th and 20th centuries. The focus is on the revolutions of 1848-1849, 1918-1919, the 1956 Revolution against Soviet rule and the collapse of communism in 1989. The story has not been invariably heroic, violent and tragic.

Prerequisite: A 100 level HIS course

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

HIS386H1 Fascism

Fall Semester, Wednesdays 11:00-1:00

Andres Kasekamp

A comparative and transnational examination of fascist movements and regimes in Europe during 1919-1945. Beginning with Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany, this course analyzes manifestations of the phenomenon in various European countries, including France, Spain, the Baltic states, Central Europe and Scandinavia. We analyze the factors that led to fascist movements obtaining power in certain countries and to their failure in others. Collaboration with Nazi Germany during the Second World War is also explored. Finally, we

discuss whether the concept of 'generic' fascism can also be applied to other regions and periods.

Prerequisite: 9.0 credits, including 1.0 HIS credit excluding HIS262H1

Exclusion: HIS389H1 (Topics in History: Fascism), offered in Winter 2018 and Winter 2019

Recommended Preparation: A course in European History

Prerequisites: Society and its Institutions (3)

**HIS402H1S Sephardim: The Jews of Spain and their
Diasporas**

Winter Semester, Tuesday 11:00-1:00

Alan Verskin

This course follows the journey of Sephardic Jews from their beginnings in Iberia to their diasporas in the Ottoman Empire and the New World. We begin by studying Jewish life and culture in Iberia itself. We then study the expulsion from Spain and Portugal and how Sephardic Jews managed to reconstruct their communities and maintain their identity in new lands until the Nineteenth Century. Themes discussed include mysticism and messianism, conversos and heresy, and trade and exploration. We will conclude by looking at how Sephardic Jews shaped ideas of modernity that were distinct from those of their Ashkenazi coreligionists.

Prerequisite: 9.0 credits including 1.0 HIS/ JHA/ JHM/ JHN/ JIH/ JSH credit HIS317H1/HIS330H1 or permission of the instructor

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

HIS433H1S Polish Jews from the Partition of Poland

Winter Semester, Friday 9:00-11:00

TBA

To explore the history of Polish Jews from the Partitions of Poland to the present time, concentrating on the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries: situation of Polish Jews in Galicia; Congress Kingdom of Poland; Prussian-occupied Poland before 1914; during World War II; and post-war Poland. Focus on an analysis of primary sources. (Joint undergraduate-graduate)

Pre-requisites: HIS208Y1/HIS251Y1/permission of the instructor
Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

**HIS452H1 Advanced Topics in European History: War and
Sites of Memory in Poland and Ukraine Since
1914: Poles, Ukrainians, and Jews**

Winter 2026, Thursdays 5:00-7:00

Michal Mylnarz

This advanced fourth-year seminar explores the intertwined histories of Poland and Ukraine during the 20th and 21st centuries, with a focus on how war, genocide, and shifting borders have shaped historical memory and national identity. Centered on contested spaces like Galicia and Volhynia—what historian Timothy Snyder has termed “the Bloodlands”—the course examines how political regimes, war, and imperial collapse have led to the destruction and redefinition of culture, space, heritage and memory across the region.

Students will study key episodes of violence, erasure, and resistance, including the Polish-Ukrainian War of 1918–1919, the Nazi German and Soviet occupations of Poland and Ukraine, the Holocaust by bullets in smaller communities, mass population transfers, the Volhynian massacres, and Operation Vistula. Through archival sources, memoirs, museum reports, maps, film, and scholarly analysis, we will explore how these events are remembered—or silenced—in public discourse, and how memory has become a new battleground in the wake of Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Some familiarity with the history and cultures of Poland, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe—particularly 20th-century nationalism, the Holocaust, empire, and memory—will enhance your experience in this seminar. This course assumes a high level of critical thinking, close reading skills, and above all an interest in primary source interpretation and the subject matter.

Prerequisite: 9.0 credits including one of HIS241H1, HIS242H1, HIS243H1, HIS244H1, and a minimum 1.0 HIS credit

Prerequisites: Society and its Institutions (3)



NMC104H1F The Biblical World

Fall Semester, Thursday 12:00-1:00

Robert Holmstedt

Examine the history, lands, peoples, religions, literatures and cultures that produced the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Topics to be covered include an overview of the geography and history of Ancient Israel and Judea, the role of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages, the literary genres reflected in biblical and some contemporary non-biblical texts, and the scholarly methods by which the Bible is studied.

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

NMC252H1S Hebrew Bible

Winter Semester, Wednesday 3:00-5:00 (ONLINE)

Robert Holmstedt

An introduction to the critical study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the related literature of ancient Jewish communities (Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Dead Sea Scrolls). English translations used; no knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

NMC276H1F Introduction to Israeli Society from Mizrahi

Perspectives: Literature and Cinema (Topics in
Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations)

Fall Semester, Tuesday 3:00-5:00

Oren Yirmiya

This course examines Israeli society through the lens of Mizrahi experiences as depicted in literature and cinema. “Mizrahi,” derived from the Hebrew word for “easterner,” refers to Jews with origins in Middle Eastern and North African communities, primarily those who

immigrated to the State of Israel after 1948. By engaging with works by Mizrahi authors, thinkers, filmmakers, and poets from the late 19th century to the present, we will explore how Mizrahi perspectives challenge dominant narratives of Israeli national identity and history.

NMC284H1F Judaism and Feminism: Legal Issues from Menstruation to Ordination

Fall Semester, Thursday 11:00-1:00

TBA

Agitation for change exists in religious practice worldwide in areas of access, status, inclusion, and egalitarianism. Traditional religion is often in conflict with egalitarian modernity. This sometimes results in difficulties with religious identification. This course will explore the interaction between feminism and Judaism. We will examine how Jewish law (halakhah) sometimes conflicts with ideas of egalitarianism particularly in legal disabilities for women such as divorce, lack of access to high-level Torah study, and discrimination in public religious roles. The traditional exemption of women from the obligation of Torah study had great impact on women's religious responsibility and status. Various movements within Judaism competed in efforts to resolve these difficulties. In this course we will consider to what extent inclusion and egalitarianism have become complementary to traditional Judaism.

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

NMC330H1F King David: Musician, Monarch, or Murderer

Fall Semester, Friday, 10:00-12:00

Jeremy Schipper

For many people, King David is one of the most beloved characters in the Bible. But where did our ideas about David come from? Was he a brilliant poet who wrote many of the Psalms, a youthful champion who defeated the giant Goliath or as a ruthless monarch capable of killing his political opponents? This course will explore attempts to reconstruct the historical David from various biblical texts,

comparable ancient literature, and what historians know (and don't know) about the time in which his story is set. All readings will be in English. No knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Pre-requisites: 4.0 credits at the 200-level

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

NMC331H1F Samson: Lover, Liar, lion-slayer

Fall Semester, Friday 10:00-12:00

Jeremy Schipper

Over the centuries, Samson has captured the imagination of countless scholars, artists, and poets. Although often stereotyped as little more than a thoughtless strong man prone to violent outbursts, he is actually one of the most complex and enigmatic characters in the Bible. This course will explore biblical depictions of this often misunderstood figure and his complicated relationships with his family, his lovers, and his enemies. We will analyze his story within its ancient historical context and in some more recent interpretations. All readings will be in English. No knowledge of Hebrew is required. Prerequisite: 4.0 credits at the 200-level
Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

NMC351H1F Dead Sea Scrolls

Fall Semester, Monday and Wednesday 9:00-11:00

TBA

This course provides an examination of the historical and cultural context in which the Dead Sea Scrolls were authored and copied, the types of writings included in the Scrolls, and the ancient Jewish groups behind these texts. It also discusses the significance of the Scrolls for understanding the textual development of the Hebrew Bible, ancient scriptural interpretation, and the thought world of the Jews during the period that gave birth to both Rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity. No knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is required. (Offered alternate years)

Pre-requisites: 9.0 credits

Recommended Preparation: NMC104H1 or NMC252H1, or equivalent

in another humanities department

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

**NMC371H1F Topics in Hebrew Bible: Biblical Migrations:
Literary Perspectives**

Fall Semester, Tuesday, 1:00-3:00

Ilana Pardes

Migration is one of the pivotal themes in the Bible and as such has had much resonance in different modes of biblical reception. Modern writers, artists, filmmakers, theologians, and political theorists continue to turn to the Bible to make sense of modern crises of mass migrations and questions of acculturation. The Bible by no means presents a single view of migration. Indeed, it is the diversity of viewpoints, always situated in particular narratives, that makes the Bible such a fertile resource for thinking about migratory experiences. This course focuses on the literary afterlives of biblical migrations with special attention to Joseph's story, the story of the Exodus, and the Book of Ruth. We will also explore modern adaptations of these texts in art and film.

Pre-requisites: 2.0 credits at the 200+-level

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

**NMC386H1S Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Ottoman
Empire**

Winter Semester, Monday 1:00-3:00

TBA

Although ruled by a Muslim dynasty and frequently characterized as an Islamic empire, the Ottoman state was inhabited by diverse religious and ethnic populations, many of them non-Muslim. This course examines how the Ottoman Empire governed and organized its subjects, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, of various ethnic backgrounds. It explores the relations among these communities and their interactions with the state, raising questions about tolerance, co-existence, conflict, loyalty, and identity. By looking into a selection of topics from the wide territorial span of the Ottoman

Empire (Anatolia, the Balkans, and the Arab Middle East) the course seeks to provide insights into the organization, functioning, and transformation of a multi-confessional state and society in the premodern and modern eras.

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

NMC450H1S Research Seminar on Ancient Jewish Literature

Winter Semester, Thursday 1:00-3:00

TBA

A seminar focusing on the critical analysis of the Hebrew Bible and related ancient Jewish texts. Literary genre and critical topics will vary according to instructor's research interests. Focus will be given to developing research skills by working with accepted critical methodologies. Not eligible for CR/NCR option

Pre-requisites: Permission of the instructor

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

NMC471H1S Hebrew Without Borders: The Contemporary

Diasporic Hebrew Novel (Advanced Topics in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations)

Winter Semester, Tuesday 3:00-5:00

Oren Yirmiya

Can there be Hebrew literature beyond the State of Israel? In this course, we will read selected prose and poetry, with special emphasis on novel chapters (all in English) from the last two decades to explore Hebrew literature written in and about places outside Israel and Palestine. Through these texts, we will examine loaded terms like "homeland," "diaspora," and "nation" while exploring how they connect to personal experiences of love, estrangement, belonging, loneliness, and more. Students will explore themes of linguistic exile, Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jewish heritages, the relationship between Jewish and Israeli identities in the 21st century, and how literature responds and reflects historical developments and crises. The works selected include texts translated from Hebrew and works originally written in English by Israeli authors, with a special focus on

literature about the Israeli experience in North America and Germany. The authors discussed will include Maya Arad, Ruby Namdar, Ayelet Tsabari, Mati Shemoelof, Sayed Kashua, Hila Amit, and others. Alongside these literary works, we will read key theoretical texts in diaspora studies to develop frameworks for understanding cultural movement, identity across borders, and how Hebrew literature positions itself between Middle Eastern and Global North contexts.

No prior knowledge of Hebrew or literature is required.

HEBREW LANGUAGE LEARNING COURSES

NML155H1F Elementary Modern Hebrew I

Fall Semester, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-1:00

Yigal Nizri

See MHB155H1 in Religion.

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

NML156H1S Elementary Modern Hebrew II

Winter Semester, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-1:00

Yigal Nizri

See MHB156H1 in Religion.

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

NML220Y1Y Introductory Aramaic

Full Year, Monday 3:00-5:00

TBA

Introduction to Aramaic grammar. Readings from biblical Aramaic.

Pre-requisites: NML250Y1

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

NML250Y1Y Introductory Biblical Hebrew

Full Year, Monday 11:00-12:00, and Wednesday,
11:00-1:00

TBA

An introduction to biblical Hebrew prose. Grammar and selected texts. For students with no previous knowledge of Hebrew.

Exclusion: Those who have completed Grade 8 Hebrew

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

NML255H1F Intermediate Modern Hebrew I

Fall Semester, Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00-5:00

Yigal Nizri

Intensive study of written and spoken Hebrew.

Exclusion: Those who have completed Grade 8 Hebrew, MHB255H1

Prerequisite: MHB156H1/ NML156H1

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

NML256H1S Intermediate Modern Hebrew II

Winter Semester, Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00-5:00

Yigal Nizri

Continued intensive study of written and spoken Hebrew.

Exclusion: Those who have completed Grade 8 Hebrew, MHB256H1

Prerequisite: NML255H1/ MHB255H1, Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

NML350H1F Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I

Fall Semester, Monday and Wednesday 1:00-3:00

TBA

A continuation of the study of ancient Hebrew grammar and texts.

Focus is given to covering a wide variety of genres, e.g., narrative, chronicle, genealogy, oracle, prayer, hymn, and proverb.

Prerequisite: NML250Y1

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

NML351H1S Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II

Winter Semester, Monday and Wednesday, 1:00-3:00

TBA

A continuation of the study of ancient Hebrew grammar and texts. Focus is given to covering a wide variety of genres, e.g., narrative, chronicle, genealogy, oracle, prayer, hymn, and proverb.

Prerequisite: NML350H1

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

NML359Y1Y Eastern Aramaic: Babylonian Talmud

Full Year, Thursday 11:00-1:00

TBA

This course introduces the student to Talmudic texts through selections from a particular tractate for representative study. We shall study the Mishnah of the chapter in preparation for the Talmud. Recognition of the dialogic structure of the legal discussions centered on the Mishnah and its elucidation is emphasized. The classical commentaries (Rashi, Tosafot, R. Hananel), the use of dictionaries, concordances, biographies of sages, parallels and other sources will gradually become familiar to the student as aids in understanding the text under consideration. A brief presentation of the essential features of Babylonian Aramaic will be included in the course to facilitate study. Students will also be taught to make use of the Bar Ilan Responsa Project, the Lieberman database, and the Friedberg Jewish Manuscript Society database. We shall also discuss redactional issues as they appear.

Pre-requisites: Intermediate-level Hebrew or experience in Babylonian Talmud

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

NML455H1F Modern Hebrew Poetry

Fall Semester, Monday 1:00-3:00

TBA

This course is designed for the advanced students of Modern Hebrew who wish to pursue the study of Hebrew literature. We will examine the way in which this literature relates to ideas of land, homeland,

peoplehood, and religious identities. We will continue with Yehuda Amichai's poetry with particular attention to his love poetry. Our major concentration will be on Haim Nahman Bialik's poetry and include at least one of his major epic poems. We shall focus on what makes Amichai and Bialik national poets. Our method of poetic analysis will include an inter-textual examination of the sources of poetic inspiration. Students will be taught to use the Bar Ilan Responsa Project as an aid to tracking allusions. We will also use historical Hebrew dictionaries.

Pre-requisites: High Intermediate-level Modern Hebrew

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)



PHL338H1S Jewish Philosophy

Winter Semester, Tuesday 11:00-1:00 and Thursday
11:00-12:00

Michael Rosenthal

A selection of texts and issues in Jewish philosophy, for example, Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed, Buber's The Prophetic Faith, prophecy and revelation, Divine Command and morality, creation and eternity, the historical dimension of Jewish thought.

Prerequisite: 7.5 FCE (in any field) with at least 1.5 in philosophy

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)



POL377H1S Israeli Politics and Society (Topics in Comparative

Politics I)

Winter Semester, Tuesdays 3:00-5:00

Chagai Weiss

This course examines core social and political dynamics in contemporary Israeli politics from social-scientific and historical perspectives. The objective of the course is to provide students with a historical background and analytical understanding of contemporary Israeli politics. Attention will be paid to political history, institutions, economic development, coalition formation, ethnic politics, and religious divisions in Israel, examined through the lens of comparative politics.

Prerequisite: Society and its Institutions (3)

POL378H1S Topics in Comparative Politics II: The Politics of Identity and Intergroup Relations in Israel

Winter Semester, Tuesday 5:00-7:00

Chagai Weiss

This course will examine the role of identity in shaping political, social, and economic dynamics in Israel. Students will learn about cutting-edge social scientific research that empirically examines questions relating to identity and intergroup relations in the Israeli context. Focusing on empirical studies in political science, economics, and social psychology, the course will familiarize students with various theoretical frameworks and data-driven studies that answer pressing questions regarding identity and intergroup relations in Israel from a comparative perspective.

Prerequisites: 1.0 credit in POL/ JPA/ JPF/ JPI/ JPR/ JPS/ JRA courses, Society and its Institutions (3)



RLG107H1F “It's the End of the World as We Know It”

Fall Semester, Thursdays, 11:00-1:00

John Marshall

Throughout history, many religious movements have envisioned the end of the world. This course will explore the ways in which different religious movements have prepared for and expected an end time, from fears, symbols, and rituals to failed prophecies and social violence. By examining traditions such as Jewish and Christian apocalyptic texts through to fears of nuclear apocalypse and zombies, the course seeks to understand the ways in which ancient and modern claims of “the end” reflect the aspirations, anxieties, and religious concerns of communities.

Exclusions: RLG101H1 offered in Fall 2017 and Fall 2018

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief, and Behaviour (2)

RLG108H1S The Question of God

Winter Semester, Mondays, 1:00-3:00

Robert Gibbs

What is God? Who is God? Is Yahweh the same as the Christian God? What about Allah? How do people come to see, hear, or feel God? Belief in God is a core tenet of all monotheistic religions, yet the figure of God is elusive and contested. This course offers an introduction to the study of religion and to how the discipline has engaged with the figure of God. Issues covered include histories of God (including proclamations of the “death of God”); psychological and anthropological views on prayer, divine interventions, and God-human relations; God and empire/colonialism; feminist (and other subversive) re-imaginings of God; and atheism. Regardless of their own belief, students will learn to grapple with an inescapable figure,

will learn about lived Islam and Christianity (and to a lesser extent Judaism), and will gain insights into a range of thinking tools offered by the study of religion.

Exclusions: RLG239H1 (Special Topics: The Question of God), offered in Fall 2021

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

RLG202H1S Judaism

Winter Semester, Mondays 1:00-3:00

Yigal Nizri

An introduction to the religious tradition of the Jews that explores key themes as they change from ancient times to today. The set of themes will include: the Sabbath, Study, Place, Household, Power. Each year will focus on one theme. We will read holy texts, modern literature, history, ethnography, and philosophy, covering each theme in a range of genres and across the diverse span of Jewish experience.

Exclusion: RLG202H5, RLG202Y1

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief, and Behaviour (2)

RLG209H1F Justifying Religious Belief

Fall Semester, Thursdays 9:00-11:00

Harry Fox

Beliefs typically characterized as “religious” concern such things as the existence and nature of the deity, the afterlife, the soul, miracles, and the universe’s meaningfulness, ultimate purpose, or interest in the distribution and realization of justice. Common to these and other religious beliefs is that they lack empirical evidence to support them – at least so say religious skeptics. They insist that rational beliefs require justification and that justification comes from perceptions anyone could have or solid scientific reasoning. Anyone who harbors religious beliefs thus violates a basic epistemic responsibility. How might people who hold—and want to continue to hold—religious beliefs respond to these accusations and doubts? The course examines these basic epistemological and moral challenges to

religious belief as well as the various strategies available to religious believers who are confronted with such demands for justifications. By doing so, we will aim to understand better whether religious beliefs of various sorts could count as rational, whether reasonable people might disagree with each other about the very nature of reality and morality, and whether anyone who falls short of common intellectual and social ideals of rationality and reasonableness ought to be tolerated.

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief, and Behaviour (2)

RLG242H1S Bible in America

Winter Semester, Wednesdays 9:00-11:00

Nyasha Junior

This course offers a critical examination of the role of biblical texts (Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and New Testament) within the history, literature, and culture of the United States of America. It will employ a range of methodological perspectives to explore the use, influence, and impact of biblical interpretation especially regarding claims of American identity. All readings will be in English. No knowledge of Hebrew or Greek is required.

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

RLG243H1F Naked and Not Ashamed: The Book of Genesis

Fall Semester, Wednesdays 3:00-5:00

Nyasha Junior

This course provides a critical introduction to the book of Genesis. It examines the historical and literary contexts of Genesis and engages diverse methods of contemporary biblical scholarship, such as narrative analysis, gender analysis, and history of interpretation. This course highlights the use of Genesis in various Jewish and Christian communities and in popular culture, including music, film, and visual arts. All readings will be in English. No knowledge of Hebrew or Greek is required.

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

RLG321H1F Women and the Hebrew Bible

Fall Semester, Wednesdays 9:00-11:00

Nyasha Junior

This course provides a critical examination of the Hebrew Bible (sometimes called the Old Testament) with an emphasis on women characters. It examines the historical and literary contexts of Hebrew Bible texts and engages diverse methods of contemporary biblical scholarship with particular attention to issues of gender. All readings will be in English. No knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 4.0 credits

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

RLG325H1S The Uses and Abuses of the Bible

Winter Semester, Fridays, 11:00-1:00

Jeremy Schipper

From politics to popular culture, the Bible has shaped people and nations for good and for ill. This course introduces the Jewish and Christian Bibles and considers case studies of how biblical texts have been interpreted. The Bible has been used to bolster slavery and white supremacy and to inspire political liberation movements. It has been used to justify annihilation of Indigenous people by Christian colonists yet given hope to Jews that next year in Jerusalem might be better. How can the same “book” be used for such different purposes? This course focuses on the cultural and political consequences of biblical interpretation. An underlying premise is that the Bible is not static but is rather a nomadic text as it is continuously interpreted in ways that sometimes contribute to human flourishing, but also can result in violence, human diminishment, or death.

Prerequisite: Completion of 4.0 credits

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

**RLG327H1S Hospitality and Ethics in Judaism, Christianity,
and Islam**

Winter Semester, Mondays, 3:00-5:00

Harry Fox

Refugee crises in modern times have raised questions concerning what degree of hospitality is owed the stranger or foreigner whose motivation is a new, safe, and secure home rather than being treated as a guest passing through on a time-limited visa. Jacques Derrida's ideas of both conditional hospitality (e.g., tourists) and unconditional hospitality (e.g., strangers) need to be explored from the perspective of philosophical and ethical traditions including Jewish, Christian, and Muslim ethics.

Prerequisite: Completion of 4.0 credits

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

RLG328H1S Religion, Race, and the Legacy of Cain and Abel

Winter Semester, Friday, 1:00-3:00

Jeremy Schipper

Cain's killing of his brother Abel is one of the best known but least understood stories in the Bible. For thousands of years, interpreters have puzzled over the gaps and ambiguities of the story in order to piece together the how, what, where and why of this violent incident. This course explores the legacies of Cain and Abel across various religious traditions and in art, literature, and popular culture. It considers the surprising roles that this biblical story has played in modern ideas about religion, politics, and race. All readings will be in English. No knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 4.0 credits

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief, and Behaviour (2)

RLG338H1F Religion and Religiosity in Israel/Palestine

Fall Semester, Mondays, 1:00-3:00

Yigal Nizri

Focusing on present-day Israel/Palestine, this interdisciplinary

course is intended for students interested in exploring a wide range of theoretical questions and examining their applicability to the study of sites, texts, rituals, and politics in the region. We will address the history of the land's consecration from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim perspectives. Students will analyze specific sites associated with religious congregations and ritual practices, and study them within their local and regional contexts. Looking at the complex relationships between religious-political movements and institutions within Jewish and Muslim societies, we will delve into various attempts to secularize (and theologize) Jewish and Palestinian communities and their discontents. Rather than providing the typical emphasis on conflict, the course is a journey into the history and present of the land and its diverse communities.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 4.0 credits

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief, and Behaviour (2)

RLG341H1 Dreaming of Zion: Exile and Return in Jewish Thought

Fall Semester, Mondays 11:00-1:00

Kenneth Green

An inquiry into the theme of exile and return in Judaism, often called the leading idea of Jewish religious consciousness. Starting from Egyptian slavery and the Babylonian exile, and culminating in the ideas of modern Zionism, the course will examine a cross-section of Jewish thinkers--ancient, medieval, and modern.

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

RLG344H1S Antisemitism

Winter Semester, Wednesdays, 11:00-1:00

TBA

Explores how Jews have been viewed (often mistakenly and confusedly) in various contexts from pre-Christian antiquity to the contemporary world. Emphasis is on problems involved in defining and explaining antisemitism, especially concerning the difference between religious and racial forms of antisemitism.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 4.0 credits
Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

RLG346H1S Time and Place in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Winter Semester, Thursdays, 9:00-11:00
Harry Fox

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam each have their own sets of prayer times, frequency of prayers and their locations such as home, synagogue, temple, church or mosque. They have completely different calendrical systems. Holiness is also connected to geographical locations, which often serve as destinations of pilgrimage. This course will examine linear and cyclical times and the concepts of holiness in time and place by looking at primary sources in translation. We will investigate the persistence of holy places, how their names continue, and how gender issues are part of the jurisdictional politics of disputes over place and time.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 4.0 credits
Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

RLG382H1S God and Communism: State Policies and Religious Practices in the Soviet Union and Post-Soviet Space

Winter Semester, Tuesdays, 11:00-1:00
Anna Shternshis

The Russian Revolution of 1917 proclaimed the separation of Church and State in the newly created Soviet Russia and later, Soviet Union. How did it work in practice? This course will examine both policies that addressed Orthodox Christianity, Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and other religious practices and practices of how these policies were received and interpreted on the ground. We will read anti-religious propaganda materials created in the 1920s, memoirs and diaries of priests, rabbis and imams making sense of the 1930s, often when imprisoned in Gulag for their work, press materials and ego-documents of World War II, novels, poems and short stories

addressing religious beliefs in the post-war Soviet Union. Finally, we will discuss the religious revival of the 1990s, when both indigenous religions and those brought in by Western missionaries have entered post-Soviet public sphere. All course materials will be provided in English translation.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 4.0 credits

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

RLG434H1F Modern Jewish Thought

Fall Semester, Thursdays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Kenneth Green

Close study of major themes, texts, and thinkers in modern Jewish thought. Focus put on the historical development of modern Judaism, with special emphasis on the Jewish religious and philosophical responses to the challenges of modernity. Among modern Jewish thinkers to be considered: Spinoza, Cohen, Rosenzweig, Buber, Scholem, Strauss, and Fackenheim.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 9.0 credits

Prerequisite: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

RLG453H1F Christianity and Judaism in Colonial Context

Fall Semester, Fridays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Ronald Charles and John Marshall

Sets the study of early Christianity and Second Temple Judaism into relation with postcolonial historiography. Topics include hybridity, armed resistance, the intersection of gender and colonization, diaspora, acculturation, and the production of subaltern forms of knowledge. Comparative material and theories of comparison are also treated.

Pre-requisites: Completion of 14.0 credits

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

HEBREW LANGUAGE LEARNING COURSES

MHB155H1F Elementary Modern Hebrew I

Fall Semester, Tuesdays, 11:00-1:00, Thursdays,
11:00-1:00
Yigal Nizri

This course is designed for students with little or no experience in Hebrew. As such, it offers intensive training in the basics of 4 language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will be able to recognize the Hebrew verb system's fundamental structures, learn its primary forms, and acquire the necessary basic vocabulary for everyday conversations. We will focus on reading: easy dialogues, passages without vowels, and short texts in simple Hebrew. Writing: short dialogues and paragraphs. Conversation: simple dialogues and stories. Comprehension: listening to short stories and recorded conversations.

Exclusion: Grade 4 Hebrew/ NML155H1

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

MHB156H1S Elementary Modern Hebrew II

Winter Semester, Tuesdays, 11:00-1:00, Thursdays,
11:00-1:00
Yigal Nizri

The second half of a two-semester Modern Hebrew course for beginners is intended to strengthen the students' conversation skills and their reading, writing, and listening comprehension while further developing the cultural context of the language.

Materials include simple stories and poems, digital media, film, comics, textbook exercises, and complementary class activities. In addition, students will be expected to deliver presentations in Hebrew and write about a range of topics, demonstrating an ability to acquire new vocabulary using print and digital dictionaries independently.

Exclusion: Grade 4 Hebrew/ NML156H1

Prerequisites: MHB155H1/ NML155H1 permission of the instructor

based on previous language knowledge

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

MHB255H1F Intermediate Modern Hebrew I

Fall Semester, Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00, Thursdays,
3:00-5:00

Yigal Nizri

This course will further enhance students' Hebrew language skills. With the context of contemporary Israeli and Jewish culture in mind, the course focuses on (1) Reading: unadapted texts and simple articles in regular Hebrew. (2) Writing: the beginning of practical writing on topics discussed in class, writing about personal experiences, and writing structured compositions. (3) Conversation: conversational skills developed by regular participation in class presentations and discussions of current events and cultural issues; role play and participation in dialogues and informal expressions. (4) Comprehension: listening to recorded short stories in easy Hebrew. (5) Grammatical Skills: Completing the syntactic study of verb conjugation in different tenses.

Exclusion: Grade 8 Hebrew/ NML255Y1

Prerequisites: MHB156H1/ NML156H1 or permission of the instructor based on previous language knowledge

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

MHB256H1S Intermediate Modern Hebrew II

Winter Semester, Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00 pm, Thursdays,
3:00-5:00

Yigal Nizri

This course of Intermediate Hebrew is intended for those who completed the requirements of intermediate Hebrew I. Intermediate Hebrew aims to instill more excellent proficiency, enrich vocabulary, and deepen the student's understanding of the cultural context of Israeli Hebrew. Subjects include current affairs, Israeli society, and cultural traditions. Added emphasis will be placed on language registers and grammatical and syntactic nuances, with materials

ranging from children's books to television programs. By the end of the semester, students will complete their understanding of the Hebrew verb system and main preposition words.

Exclusion: Grade 8 Hebrew/ NML255Y1

Prerequisites: MHB255H1/ NML156H1 or permission of the instructor based on previous language knowledge

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)



Slavic Languages & Literatures UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SLA199H1F Invisible Kingdom, Imaginary Space

Fall Semester, Tuesday 1:00-3:00

TBA

The Central European Region of Galicia gave rise to a remarkable array of literary representations—Austrian, Jewish, Polish, and Ukrainian—animating fantastic creatures, powerful myths, deviant pleasures, and sublime stories. Bruno Schulz created shimmering peacocks, Leopold von Sacher-Masoch seized ecstasy through pain, and Ivan Franko investigated the effects of avarice and social decay.

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

SLA266H1S War and Culture

Winter Semester, Tuesdays 11:00-1:00

TBA

Poland and Europe 1914-1945. As we commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WWI, this cataclysmic event that launched the 20th century and was followed by another total war soon after still defines our view of the world and understanding of it. It may be time now to look anew at how various forms of expression, including literature, film, theatre, painting and sculpture produced during the two wars, between them or many decades later deal with the extreme and everyday experiences, with shattered worlds of

individuals, ethnicities, and nations.

Pre-requisites: SLA216H1 or permission of the instructor

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)

SLA268H1F Cossacks!

Fall Semester, Wednesday 1:00-3:00

TBA

How are Cossacks depicted in literary and visual works? Were they the agents of a repressive Russian government, the hirelings of Polish kings, the tormentors of Eastern European Jews, the protectors of Europe from the Ottomans, or the liberators of the Ukrainian nation? We read works from the Jewish, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian cultural traditions.

Exclusion: CCR199H1 (First-Year Seminar: The Cossacks), offered in Winter 2012, Winter 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, and Fall 2017

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representations (1)



School of the Environment
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ENV330H1 Waste Not: Faith-Based Environmentalism

This course explores religious environmentalism, its proponents and opponents, and its core values within the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Religious environmentalists have used teachings from sacred texts as exemplars of sustainability. Some, however, claim that these texts teach domination, anthropocentrism and hierarchical values. Looking at a range of worldviews, we focus on the topics of wastefulness, consumption, and simplicity. Readings about barriers, motivations, and values that inform environmental behaviour are complemented with field trips to places of worship where we will hear religious leaders speak about the environmental initiatives undertaken in their communities and see sacred spaces.

Prerequisite: Completion of 8.0 credits including ENV221H1/ ENV222H1. Students who do not meet the prerequisites are encouraged to contact the Undergraduate Associate Director.
Exclusion: ENV382H1 (Special Topics in Environment: Waste Not, Want Not: Stories of Wastefulness in Religion & Society), offered in Winter 2018, Fall 2018, and Winter 2020
Breadth Requirements: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)



CDN280H1F Canadian Jewish History

Fall Semester, Thursday 1:00-3:00

TBA

This course focuses on initial settlement patterns of Jews in Toronto and elsewhere, community growth including suburbanization, and contemporary challenges such as anti-Semitism and assimilation.

Prerequisite: Society and Its Institutions (3)

CDN380H1S Contemporary Jewish Canadian Communities

Winter Semester, Tuesday 11:00-1:00

TBA

This course examines: the relationship between prominent Canadians who happen to be Jews and those whose works are founded in Jewish identity; the diversity of the community on the basis of religion, language, class, ideology, etc.; contributions to the arts and scholarship; and the role and contribution of Jewish women.

Prerequisite: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)



VICTORIA COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

CRE373H1F Archives and the Art of Memory

Fall Semester, Wednesday 1:00-3:00

Anna Shternshis

What is an Archive? What kind of history and culture does it Preserve? Or does it bury things forever? Who gets to be an archivist and who gets to tell the story? How can an archive preserve the stories of marginalized people? Can voices from the archive be brought back to life? In the context of a series of readings, presentations and projects the course focuses on case studies of government-housed and sponsored archives, family archives, archives of cultural institutions, grassroots archival initiatives, and of course digital archives. Each student will have an opportunity to produce an artistic project based on an archival research or create their own imaginary archive.

Prerequisites: 4.0 credits

Breadth Category: Creative and Cultural Representation (1)