Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto

2021/2022 Graduate Course Handbook

Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
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GRANOVSKY-GLUSKIN GRADUATE COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS
IN JEWISH STUDIES

The Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies offers collaborative graduate degrees at the MA and PhD levels. The purpose of the collaborative degree is to institutionalize, enhance, and ensure the provision of a well-rounded graduate training in Jewish Studies. Both in the MA and PhD collaborative programs, an effective balance is struck between the need for disciplinary depth and the need for interdisciplinary breadth. Future scholars and teachers in the field of Jewish Studies whom the CJS trains master the methods, theoretical frameworks, and body of knowledge special to their discipline, but also benefit both intellectually and professionally from exposure to the breadth of Jewish civilization.

The collaborative programs are motivated by the belief that a sophisticated understanding of any one of the major subfields of Jewish Studies—the study of texts (biblical, rabbinic, philosophical, theological, literary, etc.), the study of contexts (historical, social, political, etc.), and the study of concepts (creation, covenant, messianism, etc.)—requires some knowledge of the others. CJS graduate students also succeed professionally because academic positions in Jewish Studies programs throughout North America assume that job candidates are familiar with many aspects of Jewish civilization outside of their particular discipline and area of specialization. This process of broad, interdisciplinary learning is offered to graduate students in the various fields of Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. Upon successful completion, students receive, in addition to the degree in their home department, the notation “Completed Collaborative Program in Jewish Studies.”

Application to the Collaborative Programs
Students apply to a home department (one of the collaborating units listed under “Participating Degree Programs”). When applying, students should select the Jewish Studies program as a collaborative program option. Once admitted to the home department,* students should contact the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies in order to formalize their admission to our graduate program. * Students may join the Collaborative Program at any point during their graduate studies, though it is preferable that students join in the first year of their studies.

Participating Degree Programs
• Anthropology—MA, PhD
• Art History—MA, PhD
• Classics—MA, PhD
• Comparative Literature—MA, PhD
• Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies—MA, PhD
• English—MA, PhD
• European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies—MA
• Geography—PhD, MA
• Germanic Languages and Literatures—MA
• German Literature, Culture and Theory—PhD
• History—MA, PhD
• Information Studies—MA, PhD
• Law—JD, PhD
• Linguistics—PhD
• Medieval Studies—MA, PhD
• Museum Studies—MMSt
• Music—MA, DMA, PhD
• Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations—MA, PhD
• Philosophy—MA, PhD
• Political Science—MA, PhD
• Religion—MA, PhD
• Slavic Languages and Literatures—MA, PhD
• Sociology—MA, PhD
• Women and Gender Studies—MA

**MA Program Requirements**
• CJS1000H1: Completion of the core methods seminar in Jewish Studies. This seminar will introduce students to the different disciplines, methods, and approaches within Jewish Studies.
• One half-course in Jewish Studies taken within the student’s home department or in another department (may count towards the course requirements of the student’s home department).
• A comprehensive exam in Jewish Studies, supervised by the Graduate Director, in which the student will be asked to show knowledge of areas of Jewish Studies relevant to his or her disciplinary focus.
• If the student’s home program requires a major research paper or thesis, the paper must pertain to Jewish Studies and the topic must be approved by the Graduate Director of the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies.

**MMSt Program Requirements**
• CJS1000H1: Completion of the core methods seminar in Jewish Studies. This seminar will introduce students to the different disciplines, methods, and approaches within Jewish Studies.
• Students must complete one of the following: a course listed in the CJS Graduate Handbook; an independent reading course on a topic in Jewish Studies; or a supervised internship at a museum related to Jewish cultural heritage or historical experience.
• A comprehensive exam in Jewish Studies, supervised by the Graduate Director, in which the student will be asked to show knowledge of areas of Jewish Studies relevant to his or her disciplinary focus.
• Those students who opt for the MMSt Exhibition Course should carry out an exhibition project that focuses on some aspect of Jewish culture. Those who opt to do a thesis should research a topic that relates to museums and Jewish Studies.

**JD Program Requirements**
• CJS1000H1: Completion of the core methods seminar in Jewish Studies. This seminar will introduce students to the different disciplines, methods, and approaches within Jewish Studies.
• One course listed in the CJS Graduate Handbook at some point during their law school course work.
• One paper presentation during the course of their law degree at the annual Schwartz-Reisman Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies.
**PhD and DMA Program Requirements**

- CJS2000H1: Completion of the Doctoral Seminar in Jewish Studies. This seminar will introduce students to the different disciplines, methods, and approaches within Jewish Studies.
- Two half-courses, one within and one outside of the student’s home department, taught by a member of the CJS faculty (may count towards the course requirements of the student’s home department).
- Paper presentation at the annual Schwartz-Reisman Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies before completion of the program.
- A doctoral dissertation that deals with topics in Jewish Studies and is supervised or cosupervised by a CJS graduate faculty member
GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY DEPARTMENT FOR 2021-22

Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies

CJS1000H1Y Jewish Studies Masters Seminar (“Core Methods”)
M4–7, Fall 2021/Winter 2022, Full-Year
Instructors Seidman, N. and Krongold, J.
This year-long, half-credit course exposes students to advanced methods employed in understanding texts, contexts, and concepts in the main areas of Jewish Studies. A diverse team of scholars from a range of academic disciplines will model methods such as textual exegesis and criticism; history of interpretation; social history; cultural studies; comparative approaches; and analysis of philosophical and theological problems and arguments. Students participate in group discussions after the twelve, scheduled guest lectures and write three short responses each semester to specific presentations.

CJS2000H1Y Jewish Studies Doctoral Seminar
M4–7, Fall 2021/Winter 2022, Full-Year
Instructors: Seidman, N. and Krongold, J.
This year-long, half-credit course exposes students to advanced methods employed in understanding texts, contexts, and concepts in the main areas of Jewish Studies. A diverse team of scholars from a range of academic disciplines will model methods such as textual exegesis and criticism; history of interpretation; social history; cultural studies; comparative approaches; and analysis of philosophical and theological problems and arguments. Students participate in group discussions after the twelve, scheduled guest lectures and write three short responses each semester to specific presentations.

Centre for Comparative Literature

JGC1855HS CRITICAL THEORY – THE FRENCH-GERMAN CONNECTION (cross-listed with German)
Time: Wednesdays 2-4, Winter Semester 2022
Instructor: W. Goetschel

This course examines central theoretical issues in Critical Theory with particular attention to the role that the “Frankfurt School” and its affiliates such as Benjamin, Kracauer, Horkheimer, Adorno, and others play in the context of modern German social and cultural thought. In France, thinkers like Foucault and Derrida respond to this tradition and enrich it. The course explores in which way the continuing dialogue between these thinkers informs current critical approaches to rethinking issues and concerns such as theorizing modernity, culture, secularization, multiculturalism, difference, and alterity.

JCD5135H RACE POLITICS AND JEWISHNESS
Time: Thursdays, 10-12, Winter Semester 2022
Instructor: N. Seidman
This course will trace the complicated history of Jewish racialization from the Spanish conception of limpieza de sangre (“the cleanness of blood”) to the “whitening” of (some) Jewish Americans and Jewish racial positioning today; we will also follow the tensions and coalitions of Jews and other racialized others, including Indigenous peoples, Palestinians, and Black, paying particular attention to Jewish-Black relations from the slave trade to the labor movement, the Women’s March, and Black Lives Matter. Alongside these historical studies, we will collaboratively build a theoretical apparatus for understanding the often-charged nexus between Jewish Studies and Critical Race Theory, reading Max Weinreich’s mobilization of the W.E.B. Du Bois’s “double consciousness”, Frantz Fanon’s dialogue with Sartre’s Anti-Semite and Jew, the controversy around Nadia Abu El-Haj’s The Genealogical Science, and Jewish responses to Frank Wilderson III’s Afropessimism. We will watch Al Jolson’s 1927 The Jazz Singer and Anna Deveare Smith’s 1992 Fires in the Mirror, and read early-twentieth-century Yiddish anti-lynching poetry, Toni Morrison’s 1977 Song of Solomon, and Philip Roth’s 2000 The Human Stain.

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

**GER1050H F Methods in Yiddish**
Time: Tue 10-12, Room: TBA, Fall Semester 2021
Instructor: Miriam Schulz

This is the core course for the field of Yiddish Studies, focusing on methods of analysis (from literary and gender studies to postcolonial and critical race theory etc.) of major religious, literary, and scholarly texts created in the Yiddish language from 1500 onwards. Conducted both in Yiddish (reading) and English (discussion), students are trained both in advanced understanding of Yiddish cultures as well as in how they hybridized with co-territorial communities through the ages. The texts analyzed include Tsene-Rene (Woman’s Companion to the Bible), stories by Nakhman from Bratslav (1700s), works by di klasiker (three classic Yiddish writers) – Sholem Yankev Abramovitsh (Mendele Moykher Sforim), Sholem Rabinowitch (Sholem-Aleichem), Y.L. Perets –, Dovid Bergelson, Peretz Markish, Avrom Sutzkever, Bashevis Singer and others.

**JGC1855H S Critical Theory – The French-German Connection** *(cross-listed with the Centre for Comparative Literature)*
Time: Wed 2-4, Room: tba, Winter Semester 2022
Instructor: Willi Goetschel

This course examines central theoretical issues in contemporary thought with particular attention to the role that the “Frankfurt School” and its affiliates such as Benjamin, Kracauer, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas and others play in the context of modern German social and cultural thought. In France, thinkers like Foucault, and Derrida respond to this tradition and enrich it. The course explores in which way the continuing dialogue between these thinkers informs current critical approaches to rethinking issues and concerns such as theorizing modernity, culture, secularization, multiculturalism, and the vital role of cultural difference.
This course explores theories and histories of gender with particular attention to Europe over four-and-a-half centuries. We will consider gender and sexuality as connected and entangled with religion, violence, the state, and everyday life. The chronological and geographic boundaries of the course are porous, and we will be especially attentive to linkages between Europe and Africa, Asia, and the Americas and the ways gender shaped those interactions and intersections and how people experienced them. Assigned readings will pair older scholarship with new work to reveal continuities and changes in the discipline. Students will explore an area of particular interest in a historiographic analysis and participate in peer-review workshops.

This course will examine how Europeans and North Americans confront the memory of both Nazi mass murder and the Allied bombing of Germany through the law, literature, left wing agitation, film, memorials and museums, and political debates. How do postwar representations of German atrocities and the Allied liberation of Europe, or conversely, German suffering and Allied war crimes shift throughout the postwar period, and what do these representations mean for “overcoming the past?” We will juxtapose generational responses, national reactions (including Germany, Poland, Israel, and the US and Canada), and official vs. unofficial representations of the atrocities of the Second World War. Among the focal points: the Nuremberg and postwar West German trials of Nazis, the fascination with Anne Frank, anti-fascist terror in 1970s Germany, The Berlin Memorial and the US Holocaust Museum, and films such as Shoah and Schindler’s List, and the explosion of debate on the bombing of Germany between 1943-45.

The history of the Polish Jews and of Polish-Jewish relations are among the most interesting and controversial subjects in the history of Poland. The Jewish experience in Poland can contribute to an understanding of the Holocaust and of the non-Jewish minorities in Central and Eastern Europe. The course will explore the history of Polish Jews from the Partitions of Poland to the present time, concentrating on the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries: the situation of Polish Jews in Galicia, the Congress Kingdom of Poland, and Prussian-occupied Poland before 1914; during World War I; in the first years of reborn Poland; in the 1930s; during WW II; and in post-war Poland. The course will examine the state policies of Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Poland towards Jews; the rise of Jewish political movements; the life of Jewish shtetls in Christian neighbourhoods; changes in the economic position and cultural development of Jewish communities in Poland, and the impact of communism on Jewish life. Materials for the course are in English. Sessions will focus on an analysis of primary sources, translated from Polish.
German, Russian, Yiddish, and Hebrew, as well as on secondary sources, representing diverse interpretations and points of views.

Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

NMC484H1S/NMC1608HS  Gender Issues in Jewish Law
R, 12:00-2:00, In-Person, Winter Semester 2022
Instructor: Meacham

NMC1314HS Law in Ancient Judaism
R, 12:00-2:00, In-Person, Winter Semester 2022
Instructor: Metso

Law reflects the way in which society understands and organizes itself through common agreements and forms of restraint. This course examines the different ways religious legislation was generated in ancient Jewish communities and the different functions such legislation served in these communities. Special attention will focus on the legal codes embedded in the Torah, exploring the many similarities with and dependence upon other ancient Near Eastern legal corpora and judicial systems. Extra-canonical Jewish texts from the Second Temple and early rabbincic period will be studied as well, since they illumine the processes of scriptural exegesis and community development through which legal codes evolved.

NMC1406YY Problems in the Archaeology of Bronze Age Syria-Palestine
W, 9:00-11:00, In-Person, Fall 2021/Winter 2022, Full-Year
Instructor: Harrison

The Levant (modern day Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria) is one of the most intensively explored archaeological regions in the world. While substantial regionalism exists, the entire area nevertheless constitutes a distinct cultural region with (broadly speaking) more similarities than differences. In addition to reviewing research methods historically employed by archaeologists working in the region, attention will be devoted to exploring new and innovative approaches and methodologies, while focusing on current issues and debates in the field. Emphasis will be on in-depth analysis of archaeological sources (in combination with documentary sources where appropriate), from a broadly anthropological perspective, with the aim of enhancing understanding of the social and economic history of the region.

NML459H1F/NMC1310HF Readings in Second Temple Period Texts
R, 12:00-2:00, In-Person, Fall Semester 2021
Instructor: Metso

This course provides an advanced investigation of selected issues in ancient Jewish texts stemming from the Second Temple Period (5th cent. BCE – 1st cent. CE) and includes comparative study of biblical writings, apocrypha and pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and writings of ancient Jewish historians and philosophers. The specific topic of the course varies from one semester to another, and can deal with, e.g. language, scriptural interpretation, poetry
and liturgy, theology, legal developments, and social and political history. The course has a strong research and writing component.
Prerequisites: Knowledge of Hebrew required. Greek or Aramaic may be recommended

**NMC1305HF Hebrew Epigraphy**
T, 9:00-12:00, In-Person, Fall Semester 2021
Instructor: Holmstedt

A seminar on ancient Hebrew inscriptions, as well as the closely related Moabite, Edomite, Ammonite, and Phoenician texts. Knowledge of biblical Hebrew is supposed. A basic bibliography is supplied, and a grasp of the scholarly literature is required. The texts are prepared in advance and presented by the students, with emphasis on grammatical, syntactic, literary, historical, and religious questions, and with consideration of orthographic and paleographical issues.

**NML432H1S/NMC1318HS Midrash Halakhah**
T, 10:00-1:00, In-Person, Winter Semester 2022
Instructor: Meacham

Halakhic Midrash, the rabbinic continuation of biblical law, is one of the three major literary creations of the Tannaitic period, making it one of the most important sources for Middle Hebrew. Midreshei Halakha are the ancient Jewish biblical interpretations and constitute the earliest and closest reading of the Pentateuch excluding Genesis. A study of terminology and methodology indicates the existence of two midrashic systems: D’vei R. Yishmael and D’wei R. Aqiva. We will examine the scholarly debate concerning the exact time in which midreshei halakha were composed and redacted and concerning the transfer of terminology and material between the schools. In this course we shall study selections from the cultic and purity texts from Leviticus in Sifra or Torat Kohenim and/or from Numbers in Sifrei and Sifrei Zuta. In the course of our study, we shall develop facility with midrashic terminology and midrashic logic. We shall compare the texts in the standard scholarly editions with the manuscripts of those texts, parallel material in other compositions in Middle Hebrew (Mishnah and Tosefta) and the Talmudim. Students will gain facility in reading and creating a critical apparatus. This course will demonstrate the context of ancient Jewish law in matters of purity and cultic practice for students of Hebrew Bible, Dead Sea Scrolls, and Rabbinics.
Prerequisites: Solid knowledge of Hebrew (grade 12 or advanced Hebrew).

**NML455H1F/ NMC1318HF Modern Hebrew Poetry**
F, 10:00-12:00, In-Person, Fall Semester 2021
Instructor: Fox

Extensive reading in the works of a major poet. Emphasis will be on the poetry of Bialik and Amichai. Conducted in Hebrew.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor.

**NML359Y1Y/NMC1111YY Babylonian Talmud**
M, 10:00-1:00, In-Person, Fall 2021/Winter 2022, Full-Year
Instructor: Meacham

Learning the syntax of Babylonian Aramaic and building vocabulary will be accomplished through study of the text of a Babylonian Talmud tractate and its traditional commentaries. Comparisons to Biblical Aramaic and other Aramaic dialects will be noted. Y. N. Epstein’s Aramit Bavlit will be the reference for grammar study. M. Sokoloff’s A Dictionary of Jewish Babylonian Aramaic is the required dictionary. Jastrow’s Dictionary of Talmud Babli, Yerushalmi, Midrashic Literature and Targumim may also be helpful. Strong Hebrew background and/or introductory Aramaic required.

Department for the Study of Religion

RLG1004HS Religions of Mediterranean Antiquity Gateway course
Mon 2-4pm JHB319, Winter Semester 2022
Instructors: John Marshall and Judith Newman

This gateway seminar will introduce students to approaches to the study of religions of Mediterranean antiquity. The purpose of the course is to provide a broad understanding of the history of the discipline and how methods have evolved in the study of Hebrew Bible, Early Christianity, and Early Judaism in the context of Greco-Roman antiquity. Topics covered in the course include source and form criticism; archaeology; social sciences; conceptualization of diversity; the material text; and positionality. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to teach a range of methods at the introductory level and equipped to refine an approach to frame their own research projects.

RLG2025H / RLG421 Fragments of Redemption: Sigmund Freud and Theodor W. Adorno
Mon 11am-1pm, Winter Semester 2022
Instructor: Marsha Hewitt

The psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud and the critical theory of Theodor Adorno together represent the most compelling critical indictment of the rationalistic and scientistic legacies of the Enlightenment. At the same time, Freud and Adorno are both Enlightenment thinkers who expose its unconscious irrationalities. This course will challenge the prevailing view that the thought of Sigmund Freud and Theodor Adorno are so deeply pessimistic as to be devoid of hope. Freud’s psychoanalytic theories are widely (mis)interpreted in the register of a crude pansexualism and biological determinism. Adorno’s critique of society and the individual is often (mis)interpreted as so ruthlessly pervasive that it forecloses on any possibility for emancipatory transformation. These are distorted view of both thinkers, that are blind to the hopeful, utopian currents that motivate and shape psychoanalysis and critical theory. The course will explore the emancipatory currents in Freud and Adorno, and their implications for potentialities of individual, social and ecological transformation.

RLG3249 / RLG452H Synoptic Gospels: Synoptic Passion Narratives
Wed 9am - 12pm Trinity TBD, Fall Semester 2021
This course examines the accounts of the passion and death of Jesus in their original historical and literary contexts. Topics include: Roman and Jewish judicial procedures; crucifixion and burial in the ancient world; the editorial tendencies of the gospel writers; incipient anti-Judaism in the gospels; conceptual trajectories of the passion narratives.

**RLG3634HF/EMB5401 Ritual and Scripture at Qumran**  
Mon 1-3pm JHB213, Fall Semester 2021  
Instructor: Judith Newman

This graduate seminar will examine selected psalms, prayers, and hymns and other less overtly "liturgical" texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. We will consider the performative role of such texts in the Qumran movement and their relation to the evolving growth of the Hebrew Bible in the two centuries before and after the common era. The relationship of these texts to later Jewish and Christian liturgical texts (e.g., the book of Psalms) and the New Testament will also be considered. Seminar participation, seminar presentations, major paper. Requires working knowledge of Hebrew.

**Directed Reading / RLG430 Adv. Topics in Judaism: Judaism and Kantian Philosophy**  
Thurs 10am-12pm, Winter Semester 2022  
Instructor: David Novak

This course will deal with the philosophy of the great Kantian philosopher Hermann Cohen (1842-1918), especially his posthumous book, Religion of Reason Out of the Sources of Judaism. We will examine how Cohen used Kantian philosophy to reinterpret the Jewish tradition, and how he used the Jewish tradition to reinterpret Kantian philosophy. Cohen profoundly influenced such 20th century Jewish thinkers as Franz Rosenzweig, Joseph Soloveitchik, and Emmanuel Levinas and, also, the Christian theologian Karl Barth

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures  
No courses listed for 2021/22.