JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM
(JWST)

JWST 016 Freshman Seminar
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 022, MUSC 018
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 031 Beginning Yiddish
Yiddish is a 1000-year-old language with a rich cultural heritage.
YDSH 101, the first in the Beginning Yiddish language series, introduces
the student who has no previous knowledge of the language to the skills
of reading, writing, and speaking Yiddish. Starting with the alphabet,
students study grammar, enriched by cultural materials such as song,
literature, folklore, and film, as well as the course's on-line Blackboard
site, to acquire basic competency. By the end of the first semester,
students will be able to engage in simple conversations in the present
tense, know common greetings and expressions, and read simple
texts, including literature, newspapers, songs, and letters. Students are
encouraged to continue with YDSH 102/ JWST 032/ YDSH 501 in the
Spring. Four semesters of Yiddish fulfill the Penn Language Requirement.
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: YDSH 101, YDSH 501
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 032 Beginning Yiddish II
In this course, you can continue to develop basic reading, writing and
speaking skills. Discover treasures of Yiddish culture: songs, literature,
folklore, and films.
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: YDSH 102, YDSH 502
Prerequisites: JWST 031 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 033 Intermediate Yiddish I
A continuation of JWST 032/ YDSH 102, Beginning Yiddish II, this course
develops the skills of reading, writing and speaking Yiddish on the
intermediate level through the study of grammar and cultural materials,
such as literature, newspapers, films, songs, radio programs.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Hellerstein
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: YDSH 103, YDSH 503
Prerequisite: GRMN 402 or equivalent
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 034 Intermediate Yiddish II
Continuation of JWST 033, emphasizes in reading texts and conversation.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Taught by: Hellerstein
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: YDSH 104, YDSH 504
Prerequisite: GRMN 403 or permission of the instructor
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 051 Elementary Modern Hebrew I
An introduction to the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern
Hebrew. This course assumes no previous knowledge of Hebrew.
For BA Students: Language Course
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: HEBR 051, HEBR 651
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 052 Elementary Modern Hebrew II
A continuation of HEBR 051, First Year Modern Hebrew, which assumes
basic skills of reading and speaking and the use of the present tense.
Open to all students who have completed one semester of Hebrew at
Penn with a grade of B- or above and new students with equivalent
competency.
For BA Students: Language Course
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: HEBR 052, HEBR 652
Prerequisite: HEBR 051 or permission of instructor
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 053 Intermediate Modern Hebrew III
Development of the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in modern
Hebrew on an intermediate level. Open to all students who have completed
two semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or above and new
students with equivalent competency.
For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HEBR 053, HEBR 653
Prerequisites: HEBR 052 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 054 Intermediate Modern Hebrew II
This course constitutes the final semester of Intermediate Modern
Hebrew. Hence, one of the main goals of the course is to prepare the
students for the proficiency exam in Hebrew. Emphasis will be placed on
grammar skills and ability to read literary texts. Open to all students who
have completed three semesters of Hebrew at Penn with a grade of B- or
above and new students with equivalent competency.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HEBR 054, HEBR 654
Prerequisites: HEBR 053 or permission of instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
JWST 059 Advanced Modern Hebrew: Reading and Composition
After four semesters of language study, it's time to enter the vibrant world of contemporary Israeli culture. In this course students read some of the best plays, poems, short stories, and journalism published in Israel today. They also watch and analyze some of Israel's most popular films, TV programs, and videos. Themes include Jewish-Arab relations, the founding of the State, family ties and intergenerational conflict, war and society, and the recent dynamic changes in Israeli society. HEBR 054 or permission of instructor. Since the content of this course may change from year to year, students may take it more than once (but only once for credit).

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Engel
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HEBR 059, HEBR 552
Prerequisite: HEBR 054 or permission of instructor
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 100 THEMES JEWISH TRADITION: Iberian Conversos: Jew-Christian?
Course topics will vary; they have included The Binding of Isaac, Responses to Catastrophes in Jewish History, Holy Men & Women (Ben-Amos); Rewriting the Bible (Dohrmann); Performing Judaism (Fishman); Jewish Political Thought (Fishman); Jewish Esotericism (Lorberbaum)
Democratic culture assumes the democracy of knowledge - the accessibility of knowledge and its transparency. Should this always be the case? What of harmful knowledge? When are secrets necessary? In traditional Jewish thought, approaching the divine has often assumed an aura of danger. Theological knowledge was thought of as restricted. This seminar will explore the "open" and "closed" in theological knowledge, as presented in central texts of the rabbinc tradition: the Mishnah, Maimonides and the Kabbalah. Primary sources will be available in both Hebrew and English. Spring 2017: IBERIAN CONVERSOS: JEW? CHRISTIAN? STUCZYNSKI This course is simultaneously an introduction to the converso (Marrano, New Christian or Anusim) phenomenon and a historiographical reassessment of many of its central debated issues such as: religious identity, theology, ethnicity, economy and society, the influence of suspicion, persecution and exclusion in the converso group, and the question of modernity. Primarily focused on late medieval and early modern Spain and Portugal, including their colonies in America, Africa and Asia, the course will also deal with the converso diaspora, whether Jewish-Sephardic or Christian, as well as with later reverberations during the 20th-21st centuries, in Portugal’s Belmonte, the American Southwest and Spanish Majorca.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Ben-Amos/Dohrmann/Fishman (Spring 2017: Claude Stuczynski)
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: NELC 252, RELS 129
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 103 The Messianic Impulse in Jewish History
Taught by: Ruderman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 101
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 113 Major Western Religious Thinkers
Introduction to the writings of one or two significant western religious thinkers, designed for those who have no background in religious thought. Possible thinkers to be studied: Augustine, Maimonides, Spinoza, Luther, Teresa of Avila, Edwards, Mendelssohn, Kierkegaard, DuBois, Bonhoeffer, King.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 113
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 122 Religions of the West
This course surveys some of the core beliefs and practices within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. To do so, we will focus on history and memory, exploring how key figures and formative events from the past have been made present, from generation to generation, through scripture, ritual, liturgy, and remembrance. Special attention will be given to points of interaction between Jews, Christians, and Muslims, as well as to the impact of their intertwined histories on the formation and development of Western cultures. Fulfills History & Tradition Sector.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Reed
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: RELS 002
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 126 Jewish Mysticism
Survey of major periods of development of mystical speculation and experience within Judaism. Mystical symbolism as a basis for theosophical interpretations of Torah, Immanentist theologies, mystical ethics. Types of experiences and practices which were cultivated by Jewish mystics in order to achieve intimate communion with the Divine and to facilitate a sacred transformation of themselves and the world. Includes "Riders of the Chariot", The Zohar (Book of Splendor), Lurianic Kabbalah, Hasidism.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: NELC 186, RELS 126
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 130 American Jewish Experience
This course offers a comprehensive survey of American Jewish history from the colonial period to the present. It will cover the different waves of Jewish immigration to the United States and examine the construction of Jewish political, cultural, and religious life in America. Topics will include: American Judaism, the Jewish labor movement, Jewish politics and popular culture, and the responses of American Jews to the Holocaust and the State of Israel.
Taught by: Wenger
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 150, RELS 124
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
**JWST 131 How To Read the Bible**

While the Bible may be the most read text in the world, it is not clear that anyone understands what it actually means. Secular scholars read the Bible as they would any other ancient document, trying to understand who wrote it and what it reveals about the past, but that is not how the Bible is understood by hundreds of millions of readers who embrace it as a message from God and read its contents not just to learn about the past but to understand what the meaning of life is, how to be a good person, and where the world is headed. How is it that the Bible is read in such different ways by the secular and the religious? Who is right in the struggle over its meaning, and how does one go about deciphering that meaning in the first place?

Taught by: Weitzman  
Also Offered As: NELC 153, RELS 130  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit

**JWST 136 Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Judaism and Christianity**

This course surveys the development of concepts about death and the afterlife in Judaism and Christianity, exploring the cultural and socio-historical contexts of the formation of beliefs about heaven and hell, the end of the world, martyrdom, immortality, resurrection, and the problem of evil. Readings cover a broad range of ancient sources, including selections from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, as well as other Jewish and Christian writings (e.g., "apocrypha," "pseudoepigrapha," Dead Sea Scrolls, classical rabbinic literature, Church Fathers, "gnostic" and "magical" materials). In the process, this course introduces students to formative eras and ideas in the history of Judaism, Christianity, and Western culture.

One-term course offered either term  
Also Offered As: RELS 136  
Activity: Lecture  
1 Course Unit

**JWST 150 Introduction to the Bible (The "Old Testament")**

A survey of the major themes and ideas of the Bible, with special attention paid to the contributions of archaeology and modern Biblical scholarship, including Biblical criticism and the response to it in Judaism and Christianity.

For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science S  
Taught by: Tigay  
Course usually offered in fall term  
Also Offered As: NELC 150, RELS 125  
Activity: Lecture  
1 Course Unit

**JWST 151 Re-Reading Aggadah Talmud**

The Babylonian Talmud, known simply as the Bavli, is the collaborative effort of generations of sages and the foundational legal and ethical document of rabbinic Judaism. It is one of the best read works of world literature, and it is the most widely disseminated and revered rabbinic work. Part of the magnetic pull of this text is the fact that it not only contains legal discussions and rulings but rather it encompasses also theology, magic, rabbinic stories, medicine and history. These non-legal narratives are an essential part of the Talmud and its interpretation was always as varied as the schools of interpreters and it evolved creatively throughout the generations. In the past century, advances in theories of how to read these narratives have opened up new avenues for understanding what the text says and its meanings. This course will examine in-depth several demonstrative non legal narratives (aggadah) of the Talmud through the lens of the evolution of the major critical schools of the past century and contrast them with the interpretation approach of the various traditional schools throughout the ages. The course will start with an analysis of the definition of aggadah and its distinction from the legal content of the Talmud, moving on to analyzing narratives and evaluating chronologically how these various interpretative schools dealt with the text. The course will further investigate how these various schools dealt with the evolution of sugyot between the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmuds. All Texts will be read in the original but translations will be provided. Basic knowledge or previous study of Talmud is recommended.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector  
Taught by: Bergmann  
Course usually offered in fall term  
Also Offered As: COML 057, NELC 156, RELS 027  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit

**JWST 152 Introduction to Jewish Law**

An introduction to the literary and legal sources of Jewish law within an historical framework. Emphasis will be placed upon the development and dynamics of Jewish jurisprudence, and the relationship between Jewish law and social ethics.

Course usually offered in fall term  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit  
Notes: Freshman Seminar

**JWST 153 Jewish Literature in the Middle Ages in Translation**

Course explores the cultural history of Jews in the lands of Islam from the time of Mohammed through the late 17th century (end of Ottoman expansion into Europe) – in Iraq, the Middle East, al-Andalus and the Ottoman Empire. Primary source documents (in English translation) illuminate minority-majority relations, internal Jewish tensions (e.g., Qaraism), and developments in scriptural exegesis, rabbinic law, philosophy, poetry, polemics, mysticism and liturgy. Graduate students have additional readings and meetings. Spring 2015  
Taught by: Fishman  
One-term course offered either term  
Also Offered As: COML 257, NELC 158, NELC 458, RELS 223  
Activity: Seminar  
1 Course Unit
JWST 154 Modern Hebrew Literature and Culture in Translation
This course follows and analyzes the transformations in Israeli literature and cinema. The focus and the specific topic of the study changes from semester to semester. Topics include: The Holocaust; The Image of Childhood; Dream, Fantasy and Madness; Love and War; The Many Voices of Israel; The Image of the City; and other topics. While Israeli works constitute much of the course’s material, European and American film and fiction play comparative roles. 5-6 film screenings per semester; The content of this course changes from semester to semester, and therefore, students may take it for credit more than once. This topic course explores aspects of Hebrew Literature, Film, and Culture. Specific course topics vary from semester to semester. See the Cinema and Media Studies (NELC, JWST, ENGL, COML) website for a description of the current offerings. This course will follow and analyze the transformation of Israeli literature and cinema from instruments of suppression into a means of processing this national trauma. While Israeli works constitute much of the course’s material, European and American film and fiction play comparative roles.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Gold
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 159, COML 282, NELC 159
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: There will be five film screenings; the films will also be placed on reserve at the library for those students unable to attend. The content of this course changes from year to year, and therefore, students may take it for credit more than once.

JWST 156 Jews and Judaism in Antiquity: History of Jewish Civilization I
The course is an overview of Jewish history, culture, and society from its biblical settings through the Hellenistic-Roman, and rabbinic periods. We will trace the political, social, and intellectual-religious, and literary development of Judaism from its beginnings through the Second Temple period to the formation and evolution of Rabbinic Judaism. Topics to be covered include: the evolution of biblical thought and religious practice over time; Jewish writing and literary genres; varieties of Judaism; Judaism and Imperialism; the emergence of the rabbinic class and institutions.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Dohrmann
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 139, NELC 451, RELS 120
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 157 Medieval and Early Modern Jewry
Exploration of intellectual, social, and cultural developments in Jewish civilization from the rise of Islam in the seventh century to the advent upon established conceptions of faith and religious authority in 17th century Europe, that is, from the age of Mohammed to that of Spinoza. Particular attention will be paid to the interaction of Jewish culture with those of Christianity and Islam.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Ruderman
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 140, NELC 451, RELS 121
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 158 Jews in the Modern World: History of Jewish Civilization III
This course offers an intensive survey of the major currents in Jewish culture and society from the late middle ages to the present. Focusing upon the different societies in which Jews have lived, the course explores Jewish responses to the political, socio-economic, and cultural challenges of modernity. Topics to be covered include the political emancipation of Jews, the creation of new religious movements within Judaism, Jewish socialism, Zionism, the Holocaust, and the emergence of new Jewish communities in Israel and the United States. No prior background in Jewish history is expected.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Wenger
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HIST 141, NELC 053, RELS 122
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 159 The Historical Origins of Racism: Views of Blacks in Early Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
The course examines views and attitudes towards black Africans as found in the ancient and medieval sources of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will attempt to discover the relationship between these views and racism in Western civilization.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 119
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 162 Women in Jewish Literature
This course will introduce Penn students of literature, women’s studies, and Jewish studies – both undergraduates and graduates – to the long tradition of Jewish women’s writing. Authors include Glikl of Hameln, Cynthia Ozick, Anzia Yezierska, Kadya Molodovsky, Esther Raab, Anne Frank, and others. "Jewish woman, who knows your life? In darkness you have come, in darkness do you go." J. L. Gordon (1890)
Taught by: Hellerstein
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GRMN 262
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 171 Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
This course is an introduction to Biblical Hebrew. It assumes no prior knowledge, but students who can begin to acquire a reading knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet before class starts will find it extremely helpful. The course is the 1st of a 4-semester sequence whose purpose is to prepare students to take courses in Bible that demand a familiarity with the original language of the text.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Carasik
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HEBR 151, HEBR 451, JWST 471
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
JWST 173 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
This course will focus on using the grammar and vocabulary learned at the introductory level to be able to read Biblical texts independently and take advanced Bible exegesis courses. We will also work on getting comfortable with the standard dictionaries, concordances, and grammars used by scholars of the Bible. We will concentrate on prose this semester, closely reading Ruth, Jonah, and other prose selections. We will begin to translate from English into Biblical Hebrew, and there will also be a unit on the cantillation/punctuation marks used in the Bible. A suitable entry point for students who know modern Hebrew or have previously learned Biblical Hebrew in a less demanding framework.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Carasik
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HEBR 153, HEBR 453, JWST 473
Prerequisites: Successful completion of HEBR 152 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 199 Directed Readings
A tutorial under the direction of a member of the Jewish Studies Program faculty. Student and faculty member will create a reading list designed to achieve specific goals. The students will meet regularly with the faculty member and submit written assignments. Prior approval and sponsorship by a Jewish Studies Program faculty member is needed to take the course.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit

JWST 201 Major Seminar in History: Europe Before 1800
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 211
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 202 Major Seminar in History: Europe After 1800
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 202, JWST 502
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 213 The Religious Other
Course explores attitudes toward monotheists of other faiths, and claims made about these "religious Others" in real and imagined encounters between Jews, Christians and Muslims from antiquity to the present. Strategies of "othering" will be analyzed through an exploration of claims about the Other’s body, habits and beliefs, as found in works of scripture, law, theology, polemics, art, literature and reportage. Attention will be paid to myths about the other, inter-group violence, converts, cases of cross-cultural influence, notions of toleration, and perceptions of Others in contemporary life. Primary sources will be provided in English.
Taught by: Fishman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 205, NELC 383, RELS 203
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 215 Re-Reading the Holocaust
This course explores how the Holocaust has been constructed as an historical event. Beginning in the mid-1940s, with the first attempts to narrate what had transpired during the Nazi era, this seminar traces the ways that the Holocaust became codified as a distinct episode in history. We will examine documentary films, memoirs, survivor testimonies, as well as other scholarly and popular representations of the Holocaust. Students will be introduced to unfamiliar sources and also asked to reconsider some well-known Holocaust documents and institutions.
Taught by: Wenger
Also Offered As: HIST 231
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 222 Topics in Medieval Jewish Cultures
Topics vary
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 222
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 225 Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls
Exploration of the issues relating to the identification and history of the people who produced and used these materials as well as the claims made about the inhabitants of the Qumran site near the caves in which the scrolls were discovered, with a focus on what can be known about the community depicted by some of the scrolls, its institutions and religious life, in relation to other known Jewish groups at that time (the beginning of the common era). This will involve detailed description and analysis of the writings found in the caves -- sectarian writings, "apocrypha" and "pseudepigrapha," biblical texts and interpretations.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: NELC 251, RELS 225
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 227 Modern Jewish Thought
Through a reading of such thinkers as Martin Buber, Gershom Scholem and Franz Rosenzweig, the course will address some of the fundamental issues in modern Jewish thought and experience.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: PHIL 255, RELS 227
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 233 Jesus and Judaism
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 231
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 236 Topics in Israeli Culture
This course examines general themes and trends in Israeli history, culture, and society. The specific focus of this course will vary, depending on topic and instructor.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SOCI 231
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 241 Topics in Judaism and Islam
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
JWST 244 Miracles to Mindfulness
In 1902, the most famous philosopher in America, William James, revolutionized the study of religion by analyzing religion as an experience rather than as a set of doctrines or scriptures. In this course, we will pick up the inquiry that James and scholars such as Sigmund Freud began by exploring new approaches to the science and philosophy of religious experience. We will invite a series of experts from a wide range of fields neuroscience, psychoanalysis, phenomenology, psychology, anthropology, to name only a few to present their cutting-edge research on the nature of religious experience. How can religious experience be studied? What does the research reveal about religious experience? And what can we learn from such experiences about the workings of the human mind and human society? The course has two components: 1) a discussion-centered mini-seminar from 3:30-5:00 will open consideration of the subject with help from relevant readings 2) a guest lecture series every Tuesday from 5:00-6:30, nary angles or in light featuring leading scholars who approach religious experience from different disciplinary angles or in light of different questions. Taught by: Steve Weitzman, Phil Webster Also Offered As: RELS 244 Activity: Lecture 1 Course Unit

JWST 248 Arab Israeli Relations
One-term course offered either term Also Offered As: PSCI 251 Activity: Recitation 1 Course Unit

JWST 249 Ultimate Meanings
Does life have some ultimate meaning? In their search for an answer to this question, people tell stories—stories about the creation of the world, about great human beings confronted with the mysteries of existence, about what happens to people after death. To explore the role of stories in finding meaning in life, we will focus on some of the most meaningful stories ever composed: the biblical stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham and his family, the Exodus, Job and his friends, and the life and death of Jesus. One of our goals is to try to retrieve the original meaning of these narratives, what their authors intended, but we will also explore what they have come to mean for readers in our own day for believers and skeptics, scientists and artists, fundamentalists and feminists. For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector Taught by: Weitzman Also Offered As: RELS 259 Activity: Seminar 1 Course Unit

JWST 255 The Bible in Translation
This course introduces undergraduates and graduate students to one specific Book of the Hebrew Bible. "The Bible in Translation" involves an in-depth reading of a biblical source against the background of contemporary scholarship. Depending on the book under discussion, this may also involve a contextual reading with other biblical books and the textual sources of the ancient Near East. Although no prerequisites are required, NELC 250 is a perfect follow-up course for NELC 150 "Intro to the Bible." Taught by: Cranz One-term course offered either term Also Offered As: COML 380, NELC 250, NELC 550, RELS 224 Activity: Seminar 1 Course Unit Notes: May be repeated for credit.

JWST 256 Studies in the Hebrew Bible
This course introduces students to the methods and resources used in the modern study of the Bible. To the extent possible, these methods will be illustrated as they apply to a single book of the Hebrew Bible that will serve as the main focus of the course. The course is designed for undergraduates who have previously studied the Bible in Hebrew either in high school or college. The course is designed for undergraduates who have previously studied the Bible in Hebrew either in high school or college. It presupposes fluency in reading and translating Biblical Hebrew and a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar. One-term course offered either term Also Offered As: COML 228, HEBR 250, RELS 220 Activity: Lecture 1 Course Unit

JWST 258 Studies in Medieval Hebrew Literature
This course will introduce students to the modern academic study of the different genres of medieval Jewish literature—poetry, narrative, interpretation of the Bible, liturgy, historiography, philosophy, sermonic, mystical and pietistic writings. In addition to studying the primary texts, the course will also explore the historical, religious, and cultural contexts in which these texts were first produced and then studied, and the aspects of Jewish historical experience that these texts reflect. The specific topic of the course (eg. Medieval Biblical Interpretation, Kabbalah) will vary from semester to semester. In some cases, the specific topic may also be the work of a specific author, like Maimonides. Primary sources will be read in their original Hebrew. While no previous experience in studying these texts is required, students should be able to read unpointed Hebrew texts. If there is a question as to whether the course is appropriate for you, please contact the professor. Taught by: Stern/Fishman Course usually offered in fall term Also Offered As: FOLK 258, HEBR 258, NELC 285, RELS 228 Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of Hebrew Activity: Seminar 1 Course Unit

JWST 259 Introduction to Modern Hebrew Literature
The objective of this course is to develop an artistic appreciation for literature through in-depth class discussions and text analysis. Readings comprised of Israeli poetry and short stories. Students examine how literary language expresses psychological and cultural realms. The covers topics such as: the image of the Israeli city, the conflict between individual dreams and national/Zionist goals, etc. Because the content of this course changes from year to year, students may take it for credit more than once. For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector Taught by: Gold Course usually offered in fall term Also Offered As: COML 266, HEBR 259, HEBR 559 Prerequisites: HEBR 059 or equivalent. Activity: Seminar 1 Course Unit Notes: This course is conducted in Hebrew and all readings are in Hebrew. (HEBR 054 or equivalent required)
JWST 260 Jewish Folklore
The Jews are among the few nations and ethnic groups whose oral tradition occurs in literary and religious texts dating back more than two thousand years. This tradition changed and diversified over the years in terms of the migrations of Jews into different countries and the historical, social, and cultural changes that these countries underwent. The course attempts to capture the historical and ethnic diversity of Jewish folklore in a variety of oral literary forms.
Taught by: Ben-Amos
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 283, FOLK 280, NELC 258
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 261 Topics in Jewish-American Literature
From the 1922 silent film "Hungry Hearts" through the first "talkie," "The Jazz Singer," produced in 1927, and beyond "Schindler's List," Jewish characters have confronted the problems of their Jewishness on the silver screen for a general American audience. Alongside this Hollywood tradition of Jewish film, Yiddish film blossomed from independent producers between 1911 and 1939, and interpreted literary masterpieces, from Shakespeare's "King Lear" to Sholom Aleichem's "Teyve the Dairyman," primarily for an immigrant, urban Jewish audience. In this course, we will study a number of films and their literary sources (in fiction and drama), focusing on English language and Yiddish films within the framework of three dilemmas of interpretation: a) the different ways we "read" literature and film, b) the various ways that the media of fiction, drama, and film "translate" Jewish culture, and c) how these translations of Jewish culture affect and are affected by their implied audience.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Hellerstein
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 279, COML 265, COML 277, GRMN 261, GRMN 263
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 262 Jewish Literature in Translation
The course explores an aspect of 20th-century literature intensively; specific course topics will vary from year to year. Fall 2016 - REPRESENTATION OF THE HOLOCAUST IN LITERATURE AND FILM: This discussion-centered course is about the enormous difficulties faced by those who felt the urgent need to describe their own or others’ experiences during the genocide of the European Jews, 1933-1945. We will explore the complex options they have faced as narrators, witnesses, allegorists, memoirists, scholars, teachers, writers and image-makers. Some linguistically (or visually) face the difficulty head on; most evade, avoid, repress, stutter or go silent, and agonize. One purpose of the course is for us to learn how to sympathize with the struggle of those in the latter group. This is not a history course, although the vicissitudes of historiography will be a frequent topic of conversation. Students will write frequent short papers, called position papers, due before class, in order to provide a basis for discussion. Students need not know anything about the Holocaust, although enrollees should consider historical reading over the summer.
Taught by: Filreis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 261, ENGL 261
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 263 Topics in Jewish Literature
Also Offered As: ENGL 255
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 265 Yiddish in Eastern Europe
This course presents the major trends in Yiddish literature and culture in Eastern Europe from the mid-19th century through World War II. Divided into four sections - "The Shtetl," "Religious vs. Secular Jews," "Language and Culture," and "Confronting Destruction" - this course will examine how Jews expressed the central aspects of their experience in Eastern Europe through history, literature, and song. Taught by Hellerstein
One-term course offered every term
Also Offered As: EEUR 265, GRMN 265, GRMN 565, JWST 465
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: All readings and lectures in English.

JWST 266 Jewish Art
Jewish Art provides a survey of art made by and for Jews from antiquity to the present. It will begin with ancient synagogues and their decoration, followed by medieval manuscripts. After a discussion of early modern representation of Jews in Germany and Holland (esp. Rembrandt), it focuses most intently on the past two centuries in Europe, American, and finally Israel and on painting and sculpture as Jewish artists began to pursue artistic careers in the wider culture. No prerequisites or Jewish background assumed.
Taught by: Silver
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 260, ARTH 660
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 299 Independent Study
An independent study course culminating in a final written project. Prior approval and sponsorship by a member of the Jewish Studies Program faculty is needed to take the course.
One-term course offered every term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit


JWST 303 Power and Peril: The Paradox of Monarchy among Ancient Greeks, Romans, and Jews
We imagine Ancient Greece and Rome as the cradles of democracy and republicanism, the early Judea as pious theocracy, but the evidence tells us that monarchy was the most common and prevalent form of government in antiquity (and the premodern world in general). Despite their ubiquity, the King was a polarizing figure in reality and in conception. On the one hand, some idealized the monarchy as the ideal leader, and monarchy provided the language with which to describe and even imagine the very god but on the other, monarchs were widely reviled in both theory and practice, from the Greek tyrant to biblical Saul. The Emperor Augustus loudly denied his own affinity to the office of king, even as he ruled alone and was revered as a god. In other words, kings stood both for the ideal ruler and the worst form of government. This class confronts the paradox of the King. This class will take a special look at the idea and institution of kingship in the Near East, among the Jews, Greeks, and Romans to assess and discuss similarities, differences, and mutual influences among these cultures. Through the lens of the king we will explore the idea of god, government, human frailty, and utopianism. Why did the rule of one prevail, why was it so attractive to so many? How was royal rule legitimized? What role did religious beliefs play for keeping a monarchical system stable? What did people expect from their rulers and what happened if the ruler failed to fulfill these expectations? How was the concept of monarchical rule adopted and transferred into other spheres, such as religious belief systems or hopes for messianic kingship? While kingship is a rich field of scholarly inquiry, the question of its ubiquity, and the entanglement and divergences of these three cultures is rarely studied in context and in comparison. Taught by: Julia Wilker, Natalie Dohrmann
Also Offered As: ANCH 305, RELS 303
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 305 Jewish Diaspora in the Roman Empire
Under the Roman Empire, Jewish communities developed and flourished especially in the cities of the Eastern Mediterranean, in Egypt, Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, Northern Africa, and Italy proper. In many of these cities, the Jews formed a considerable part of the population; they influenced the cultural, social, and political communal life and developed an identity that was distinctively different from that in Judea. In this seminar, we will trace Jewish life in the Diaspora under Roman rule. How did Jews and non-Jews interact? What was the legal status of Jewish communities under the Roman Empire? What caused conflicts and how were they solved? What can the history of Jewish Diaspora communities tell us about minorities in the Roman Empire in general? We will use literary texts, inscriptions, papyri, and archaeological material to answer these questions and many more. Taught by: Wilker
Also Offered As: ANCH 305
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 320 Spirit and Law
While accepting “the yoke of the commandments”, Jewish thinkers from antiquity onward have perennially sought to make the teachings of revelation more meaningful in their own lives. Additional impetus for this quest has come from overtly polemical challenges to the law, such as those leveled by Paul, medieval Aristotelians, Spinoza and Kant. This course explores both the critiques of Jewish Law, and Jewish reflections on the Law’s meaning and purpose, by examining a range of primary sources within their intellectual and historical contexts. Texts (in English translation) include selections from Midrash, Talmud, medieval Jewish philosophy and biblical exegesis, kabbalah, Hasidic homilies, Jewish responses to the Enlightenment, and contemporary attempts to re-value and invent Jewish rituals. Taught by: Fishman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: JWST 520, NELC 454, RELS 321, RELS 520
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 322 Israeli News Coverage Through Prism of Beat Reporting
This undergraduate seminar uses the case study of the Israeli news media in order to illustrate one of the most important lessons for the analysis of news processes and news products: how to stop thinking about the media as a monolithic entity and to adopt instead a more contextual, nuanced, domain-specific focus on news beats. The seminar is based on a combination of reading, discussion and a series of live Skype interviews with nine Israeli national news reporters in fields such as politics, business, the Arab world and Jerusalem affairs. These and other news beats constitute unique micro-cultures or subuniverses, each of which has its own standards, norms, dynamics, pressures and power relations. In each beat, journalists can develop interactional expertise in the reported matters. Their standards of knowledge and expertise are becoming especially consequential in this era of crisis in the media, when fewer news organizations have fewer resources, and reporters have less time and less encouragement to investigate what they report on, and during which new modes of knowledge and expertise continue to emerge as digital technologies advance.
Taught by: Reich
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 351 A Book of the Bible
In-depth textual study of a book of the Hebrew Bible studied in the light of modern scholarship (including archaeology and ancient Near Eastern literature) as well as ancient and medieval commentaries. The book varies each semester and the course may be repeated for credit.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HEBR 350, HEBR 550, RELS 322
Prerequisites: Thorough command of Biblical Hebrew and prior experience studying the Bible in the original in high school, college, or a comparable setting. Language of instruction is in English.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: The course is designed primarily for undergraduates who have previously studied the Bible in Hebrew either in high school or college. It presupposes fluency in reading Biblical Hebrew, including a working knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar.
JWST 352 Classical Midrash & Aggadah
Readings in Rabbinic lore from classical Midrashic texts.
Taught by: Stern
Two terms, student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: HEBR 357, HEBR 657, JWST 552
Prerequisites: Students must be able to read an unpointed Hebrew text.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 355 Siddur and Piyyut
A study of the institution of Jewish prayer, its literature, and synagogue poetry. Texts will be read in Hebrew with supplementary English readings.
Taught by: Stern
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HEBR 358, HEBR 658
Prerequisites: AMES 052 or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 356 Ancient Interpretation of the Bible
Christianity and Judaism are often called "Biblical religions" because they are believed to be founded upon the Bible. But the truth of the matter is that it was less the Bible itself than the particular ways in which the Bible was read and interpreted by Christians and Jews that shaped the development of these two religions and that also marked the difference between them. So, too, ancient Biblical interpretation -- Jewish and Christian -- laid the groundwork for and developed virtually all the techniques and methods that have dominated literary criticism and hermeneutics (the science of interpretation) since then. The purpose of this course is to study some of the more important ways in which the Bible was read and interpreted by Jews and Christians before the modern period, and particularly in the first six centuries in the common era. We will make a concerted effort to view these interpretive approaches not only historically but also through the lens of contemporary critical and hermeneutical theory in order to examine their contemporary relevance to literary interpretation and the use that some modern literary theorists (e.g. Bloom, Kermode, Derrida, Todorov) have made of these ancient exegetes and their methods. All readings are in English translation, and will include selections from Philo of Alexandria, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Rabbinic midrash, the New Testament and early Church Fathers, Gnostic writings, Origen, and Augustine. No previous familiarity with Biblical scholarship is required although some familiarity with the Bible itself would be helpful.
Taught by: Stern
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HEBR 358, HEBR 658
Prerequisites: AMES 052 or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 359 Seminar Modern Hebrew Literature
Spring 2017: Giants of Hebrew Literature - This course focuses on the central pillars of the Modern Hebrew literary canon and their impact on Israeli literature. Drawing from the ancient wells of Bible, Talmud, and Midrash, the poets H. N. Bialik (1873-1934), Saul Tchernichovsky (1875-1943), and the author S. Y. Agnon (1887-1970) provided future writers with the tools to express modern and post-modern sensibilities. They forged a new diction for passion and love and for representing the inner world, psychological insight and political assertions. Bialik's personal/political poems echo in Dahlia Ravikovitch's verse, and Tchernichovsky's haunting lines resurface in the recent poems of Natan Zach. Agnon's short stories inspired Amos Oz and Yehuda Amichai. We will compare the classic to the contemporary, and discuss the lasting power of these giants in the context of modern Israel. The class is conducted in Hebrew and the texts are read in the original. For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Gold
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CIMS 359, COLL 227, COML 359, HEBR 359
Prerequisites: HEBR 059 or HEBR 259 or permission of the instructor.
This class is conducted in Hebrew and the texts are read in the original. The syllabus serves solely as an outline. The amount of material we cover depends on the pace of the class. Additionally, the packet contains significantly more material than will be studied in class to compensate for the difficulty of obtaining Hebrew texts in America. The content of this course changes from year to year and therefore students may take it for credit more than once.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 380 Modern Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History
An overview of Jewish intellectual and cultural history from the late 18th century until the present. The course considers the Jewish enlightenment Reform, Conservative and Neo-Orthodox Judaism, Zionist and Jewish Socialism thought, and Jewish thought in the 20th century, particularly in the context of the Holocaust. Readings of primary sources including Mendelsohn, Geiger, Hirsch, Herzl, Achad-ha-Am, Baeck, Buber, Kaplan, and others. No previous background is required.
Taught by: Ruderman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 380, RELS 320
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 390 Senior Research Seminar
JWST 390 is required of all students majoring in the Interdisciplinary Jewish Studies major, but all majors and minors in the various departmental programs are encouraged to take the seminar. Students will conduct independent research and complete a 20-30 page paper.
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit
Notes: Permit required

JWST 399 Senior Honors Thesis
Jewish Studies Honors majors must take JWST 399 in which they will design, with the guidance of an advisor, an individualized directed reading program culminating in the writing of an honors thesis.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit
JWST 410 Topics in Medieval History
This seminar introduces students to the development of Jewish and Christian biblical interpretation by focusing on ancient, medieval, and modern interpretations of the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount is part of the Gospel of Matthew and is often considered to summarize the essential teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Students will encounter a variety of important interpreters (including Origen, John Chrysostom, Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, Leo Tolstoy, Albert Schweitzer, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Clarence Jordan, and Hans Dieter Betz), guided by appropriate secondary materials. The seminar will utilize a combination of lecture, discussion, student presentations, reports, close reading, and a research paper. Students will be encouraged to do original research in the primary sources. This course has no prerequisites. The readings will be made available in English. The class will utilize a combination of lecture, discussion, student presentations, reports, close reading, and a research paper.
Taught by: Fishman
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: RELS 438
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 419 Jewish-Christian Relations Through the Ages
This is a Bi-directional course which explores attitudes toward, and perceptions of, the religious "Other", in different periods of history. Themes include legislation regulating interactions with the Other, polemics, popular beliefs about the Other, divergent approaches to scriptural interpretation, and cross-cultural influences, written and unwritten. Different semesters may focus on Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages, Early Modern period, or contemporary times. May be repeated for credit.
Taught by: Fishman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 419
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 426 Rabbinic Writers on Rabbinic Culture
The course traces reflections on rabbinic culture produced within Jewish legal literature of the classic rabbinic period - Midrash, Mishna and Talmud - and in later juridical genres - talmudic commentary, codes and responsa. Attention will be paid to the mechanics of different genres, the role played by the underlying prooftext, the inclusion or exclusion of variant opinions, the presence of non-legal information, the balance between precedent and innovation. Reading knowledge of Hebrew is required.
Taught by: Fishman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HEBR 486, RELS 426
Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of Hebrew
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 438 Readings in Modern Yiddish Literature
This course will survey modern Yiddish literature through readings of Yiddish prose and poetry from the end of the 19th century through the late 20th century. The class will be conducted in both Yiddish and English. Reading knowledge of Yiddish is required, although some texts will be available in English translation.
Taught by: Hellerstein
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: YDSH 108, YDSH 508
Prerequisites: Reading knowledge of Yiddish.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 449 God and Nature: Readings on the Encounter between Jewish Thought and Science
God and Nature examines the place of the natural world, medicine, and science in Jewish thought from antiquity to the modern era. It looks especially at a body of primary sources in Hebrew written during the age of the so-called "scientific revolution" and during its aftermath. The course is a seminar open to undergraduate and graduate students with a reading knowledge of classical Hebrew. Students without Hebrew with special interest in the subject might enroll with special permission from the instructor.
Taught by: Ruderman
Also Offered As: HIST 449
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 457 Spring 2016: Forbidden Talmud: Magic Demons, and Sex
Course will examine several key legal passages (sugyot) in the Babylonian Talmud from both a traditional and an academic perspective. After identifying important tensions and inconsistencies in each text, we will consider the disparate solutions posed by the early medieval rabbis (Rishonim) and contemporary scholars, and compare their respective approaches. Through these in-depth readings we will highlight how modern assumptions and goals for Talmud study differ from earlier generations and how contemporary approaches allow us to uncover new structures and meanings in the text. Attention will be paid to the comprehension of Aramaic lexical and grammatical forms. Open to students with prior experience studying the Babylonian Talmud in the original.
Taught by: Goldstone
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: ANEL 575
Prerequisite: Prior experience studying the Babylonian Talmud in the original
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 465 Yiddish in Eastern Europe
This course presents the major trends in Yiddish literature and culture in Eastern Europe from the mid-19th century through World War II. Divided into four sections - "The Shtetl," "Religious vs. Secular Jews," "Language and Culture," and "Confronting Destruction" - this course will examine how Jews expressed the central aspects of their experience in Eastern Europe through history, literature (fiction, poetry, drama, memoir), film, and song.
Taught by: Hellerstein
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EEUR 265, GRMN 265, GRMN 565, JWST 265
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: All readings and lectures in English.
JWST 471 Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
This course is an introduction to Biblical Hebrew. It assumes no prior knowledge, but students who can begin to acquire a reading knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet before class starts will find it extremely helpful. The course is the 1st of a 4-semester sequence whose purpose is to prepare students to take courses in Bible that demand a familiarity with the original language of the text.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Carasik
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HEBR 151, HEBR 451, JWST 171
Prerequisite: For the second semester: Completion of the first semester or permission of the instructor
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 473 Intermediate Biblical Hebrew I
This course will focus on using the grammar and vocabulary learned at the introductory level to be able to read Biblical texts independently and take advanced Bible exegesis courses. We will also work on getting comfortable with the standard dictionaries, concordances, and grammars used by scholars of the Bible. We will concentrate on prose this semester, closely reading Ruth, Jonah, and other prose selections. We will begin to translate from English into Biblical Hebrew, and there will also be a unit on the cantillation/punctuation marks used in the Bible. A suitable entry point for students who know modern Hebrew or have previously learned Biblical Hebrew in a less demanding framework.
For BA Students: Language Course
Taught by: Carasik
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HEBR 153, HEBR 453, JWST 173
Prerequisites: Successful completion of HEBR 152 or permission of the instructor.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 490 Topics in Jewish History
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in Jewish history.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: GRMN 581, HIST 490, RELS 429
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 499 Independent Study
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 509 Modernist Jewish Poetry
Also Offered As: COML 509, GRMN 509, YDSH 509
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 520 Spirit and Law
While accepting “the yoke of the commandments”, Jewish thinkers from antiquity onward have perennially sought to make the teachings of revelation more meaningful in their own lives. Additional impetus for this quest has come from overtly polemical challenges to the law, such as those leveled by Paul, medieval Aristotelians, Spinoza and Kant. This course explores both the critiques of Jewish Law, and Jewish reflections on the Law’s meaning and purpose, by examining a range of primary sources within their intellectual and historical contexts. Texts (in English translation) include selections from Midrash, Talmud, medieval Jewish philosophy and biblical exegesis, kabbalah, Hasidic homilies, Jewish responses to the Enlightenment, and contemporary attempts to re-value and invent Jewish rituals.
Taught by: Fishman
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: JWST 320, NELC 454, RELS 321, RELS 520
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 523 Studies in Medieval Jewish Culture
Primary sources include readings from ancient, medieval and early modern Jewish texts. Students must be able to read unvocalized Hebrew. Open to undergraduates only with the instructor's permission.
Taught by: Fishman
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HEBR 583, HIST 523, RELS 523
Prerequisites: Reading knowledge of Hebrew.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 540 Memory, Trauma, Culture
In recent years, studies of memory (both individual and cultural) have rivaled those of history, and have produced alternative narratives of events. At the same time, research has also focused on the rupture of narrative, the inability to find appropriate forms of telling, and the experience of a loss of words. The notion of trauma (Greek for “wound”) may stand for such a rupture. Many kinds of narratives, most prominently the recollections of Holocaust survivors, are instances in which memories are invoked not only to come to terms with traumatic events, but also to inscribe trauma in various ways. In this seminar, we will read theoretical work on memory and trauma, discuss their implication for the study of literature, art, and culture, read select examples from Holocaust survivors’ autobiographies (i.e. Primo Levi, EliWiesel), and discuss visual art (i.e. Boltanski, Kiefer) and film (i.e. Resnais, Lanzmann, Spielberg).
Taught by: Weissberg
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 539, GRMN 540
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: All readings and lectures in English.

JWST 550 Topics in Jewish History
Reading and discussion course on selected topics in Jewish history.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 550
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
JWST 552 Classical Midrash and Aggadah
See description for JWST 352.
Taught by: Stern
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HEBR 357, HEBR 657, JWST 352
Prerequisites: Students must be able to read an unpointed Hebrew text.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

JWST 553 Seminar in Rabbinic Literature
This seminar will investigate biblical and other precedents for the idea of the messiah and the messianic age, and their interpretation and extension into both ancient Judaism and ancient Christianity. To what degree are Second Temple Jewish and early Christian ideas about the messiah an extension of ancient Israelite concepts? To what degree might they reflect a response or reaction to Hellenistic and Roman imperial ideologies? How (and when) did beliefs surrounding Jesus depart meaningfully from Jewish ideas about the messiah? How do Rabbinic Jewish traditions about the messiah and messianic age differ from their Christian counterparts, and is there evidence of any "influence"? These questions will be explored with a focus on primary source readings.
Taught by: Stern
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HEBR 557, NELC 557, RELS 557
Prerequisites: Proficiency in Hebrew and/or Greek recommended.
Undergraduates need permission to enroll.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: May be repeated for credit

JWST 555 Ancient Interpretation of the Bible
See NELC 356 for description. Graduate option would require a lengthier research paper.
Taught by: Stern
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 556, JWST 356, NELC 356, NELC 556, RELS 418
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: May be repeated for credit

JWST 556 Seminar Modern Hebrew Literature: LITERATURE & IDENTITY
This course is for students who are interested in taking a literature course in Hebrew and are proficient in it. Grading is based primarily on students' literary understanding. There will be four 2-page written assignments over the course of the semester. We will discuss literary works that reflect Israelis' struggle with their national identity, from the patriotic 1948 generation for whom self and country overlapped to contemporary writers who ask what it means to be Israeli. While Yehuda Amichai's 1955 poem "I want to die in my bed" was a manifesto for individualism, the seemingly interminable Arab-Israeli conflict returned writers to the national, social, and political arenas starting in the 1980's. Readings include poems by Natan Alterman, Amir Gilboa, Meir Wieseltier and Roni Somek as well as fiction by Amos Oz, David Grossman, Sayed Kashua, Alona Kimhi and Etgar Keret. The content of this course changes from year to year so students may take it for credit more than once.
Taught by: Gold
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: HEBR 059 or HEBR 259 or permission of the instructor.
This class is conducted in Hebrew and the texts are read in the original. The syllabus serves solely as an outline. The amount of material we cover depends on the pace of the class. Additionally, the packet contains significantly more material than will be studied in class to compensate for the difficulty of obtaining Hebrew texts in America. The content of this course changes from year to year and therefore students may take it for credit more than once.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 560 Topics in Philosophy and Literature
Taught by: Weissberg
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 559, GRMN 560, PHIL 551
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Topics vary.

JWST 582 Topics in Aesthetics
The course will study Arendt's political theory, as developed in The Origins of Totalitarianism, and her controversial book Eichmann in Jerusalem. It will also consider essays collected in Men in Dark Times. (Fall 2016 course)
Taught by: Weissberg
Also Offered As: ARTH 560, COML 582, GRMN 580, PHIL 480
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 620 Modern Jewish History
JWST 620 will be offered when the HIST 620 Colloquium subject matter is appropriate.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 620, RELS 621
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 650 Seminar in Biblical Studies
In-depth study of a special topic or problem in biblical studies.
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HEBR 556, RELS 620
Prerequisite: Facility in Biblical Hebrew
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
JWST 655 Siddur & Piyyut
A study of the institution of Jewish prayer, its literature, and synagogue poetry. Texts will be read in Hebrew with supplementary English readings.
Taught by: Stern
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: HEBR 658
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

JWST 699 Independent Study
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit

JWST 726 Readings and Research in Near Eastern Archaeology
Advanced seminar for students wishing to pursue study of field data, methods, theoretical problems in archaeology of Near East.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: May be repeated for credit

JWST 735 Seminar in Judaism and/or Christianity in the Hellenistic Era
Selected topics from current research interests relating to early Judaism and early Christianity.
Taught by: Kraft
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: CLST 735, RELS 735
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
Notes: Knowledge of Greek Presupposed. Student may enter either term

JWST 999 Independent Study
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit