



STROUM JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies

Jewish Studies Course Guide

2013-2014

For more information about Jewish Studies courses, visit
jewishstudies.washington.edu
or contact Assistant Director Lauren Spokane
at laurenjs@uw.edu or 206-543-0138

Autumn 2013

JSIS C 145 Introduction to Judaism *Noam Pianko*

MW 1:30-3:20pm

Credits: 5 I&S (required for Jewish Studies major & minor)

This class explores the question: what is Judaism? However, the course will not provide a single definitive answer—such as a specific belief, set of ritual practices, or shared texts and myths. Judaism, this course argues, can only be understood as a dynamic religious tradition that has developed many forms during a more than 3000 year history that has spanned nearly the entire globe. Particular attention will be paid to innovations introduced during the last two hundred years in Europe and the United States.

JSIS C 489 Language and Ethnicity in Israel Today *David Bunis*

TTH 3:30-4:50pm

Credits: 5 I&S

The fabric of contemporary Israeli society is woven of diverse ethnic and religious groups. With the help of guided readings, visual images, and sound recordings, the course introduces these groups, with a particular emphasis on their variegated languages, cultural traditions, and ethnic and religious identities. David Bunis is a world-famous expert on Ladino and Jewish languages at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He will be spending the 2013-2014 academic year at the UW as a Schusterman Visiting Professor of Israel Studies.

HEBR 411 Elementary Modern Hebrew *Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz*

M-F 9:30 - 10:20am

Credits: 5 (restrictions apply)

Modern Israeli Hebrew. Core vocabulary, grammar, conversational text, and oral and written communication. Excerpts from modern Hebrew prose and poetry.

HEBR 421 Intermediate Modern Hebrew *Tovi Romano*

M-F 10:30 - 11:20am

Credits: 5 VLP (restrictions apply)

Readings of selected texts in modern Hebrew with continuing emphasis on grammar, syntax, composition, and conversation. This is the first course in a sequence of three.

Prerequisite: HEBR 413

Course information subject to change. Latest info found on UW Time Schedule.

Learn more at jewishstudies.washington.edu!

Autumn 2013 (cont'd)

HEBR 427 Biblical Hebrew Poetry *Gary Martin*

MWF 10:30-11:50am

Credits: 5 VLP

Explores select poetic sections of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in conjunction with English translations and commentaries. Emphasis on close readings, the grammatical insights of textual criticism, and the interpretive strategies and agendas of the English translations. Prerequisite: either HEBR 402 or HEBR 426.

NEAR E 240 / JSIS C 240 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: Old Testament

Gary Martin

MWF 1:30-2:50

Credits: 5 I&S/VLP

Examines the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in translation and its relationship with literatures of ancient Near East. Comparisons drawn between Biblical text and literary works of Canaan, Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia. Emphasis on the sophisticated literary techniques employed by Biblical writers.

NEAR E 414 Moses, Muhammad and Malcolm X: Prophecy in Judaism, Christianity and Islam *Hamza Mahmood Zafer*

TTH 8:30-9:50am

Credits: 3 VLP/I&S

Examines the phenomenon of prophecy in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim thought and writing from antiquity to modernity. Traces the development of prophetic expression in the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Quran. Surveys major themes and covers various eras, including prophecy in the American context.

HEBR 457 Hebrew in Song *Naomi Sokoloff*

MW 2:30-3:50pm

Credits: 3 VLP

Popular song has played a central and very lively role in the shaping of modern Hebrew culture and Israeli identity. In this class we will examine a range of diverse lyrics, including selections from folksongs, pop, rock, *musika mizrahit*, children's songs and more. Prerequisite: HEBR 423 or permission of the instructor

Winter 2014

JSIS A 101 / NEAR E 150 Israel: Dynamic Society/Global Flashpoint *Noam Pianko, Naomi Sokoloff, Joel Migdal, Paul Burstein*

MWF 12:30-1:20pm

Credits: 5 I&S

This survey introduces the people, institutions, and culture of Israel in the context of larger global forces. Students will examine domestic, regional, and international elements, both historically and in the contemporary period, that have shaped Israel's culture, politics, and special role in world affairs. Topics include nationalism, ethnicity, politics, religion, film, literature, and culture.

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Winter 2014 (cont'd)

JSIS C 175/GERMAN 195/C LIT 397 Popular Film and the Holocaust *Richard Block*

MWF 12:30-1:20pm

Film screenings, Mondays at 2:30 until end of film. (Many films can be viewed by students on their own).

Credits: 5 VLPA

The horror of the Holocaust challenges the very limits of the imagination; the desperation of what the victims experienced is outside the realm of human speech. Thus arises the absolute necessity, the moral imperative to represent what by definition cannot be represented. In this course we will examine the strategies various filmmakers have developed to respond to this imperative. Films to be screened include: *Shoah*, *Night and Fog*, *The Great Dictator*, *Schindler's List*, *The Night Porter*, *The Pawnbroker*, *The Reader*, *The Garden of the Finzi Contini*.

JSIS C 438 / GWSS 438 Jewish Women in Contemporary America *Kathie Friedman*

TTH 10:30-12:20pm

Credits: 5 I&S

Examines how Jewish women's identities are socially constructed and transformed in contemporary America, using social histories, memoirs, and ethnographies to analyze scholars' approaches to Jewish women's lives. Topics include the role of social class, religion, migration, the Holocaust, and race relations in Jewish women's lives. Offered: jointly with GWSS 438.

JSIS C 489/NEAR E 496 Life in Israel *Naomi Sokoloff*

W 7:00p-9:20p (dates TBD) at UW Hillel C/NC

Credits: 2 I&S (VLPA possible)

This C/NC course explores aspects of contemporary life in Israel through film and popular culture. Taught in English. Open to all UW students; no prerequisites.

JSIS C 489 Special Topics: Sephardim on Jerusalem *David Bunis*

TTH 1:30-2:50pm

Credits: 5 I&S

Jerusalem has always stood at the center of Jewish consciousness. Depictions of the city, its inhabitants and their lifestyle are to be found in sacred sources such as the Bible, Talmud and Jewish liturgy, and also in medieval and modern poetry and song, exegetical, kabbalistic and responsa works, historical and travel literature, the periodical press, and fictional works such as the novel and drama, in Hebrew, in other Jewish languages, and in the major languages of the world. The present course focuses on Jerusalem as portrayed in writings by Sephardic authors of the former Ottoman regions and its successor states, from the sixteenth century through the modern era.

Course information subject to change. Latest info found on UW Time Schedule..

Learn more at jewishstudies.washington.edu!

Winter 2014 (cont'd)

JSIS C 489 / SPAN 394 Special Topics: Ladino for Beginners

David Bunis

TTH 3:30-4:50pm

Credits: 3 I&S / VLPA

An introduction to the fundamental elements of Modern Ladino—the traditional language of the Sephardic Jews of the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East. Through the reading of simple folkloric and literary texts in the traditional Hebrew-based alphabet and in romanization, participants acquire the basics of Modern Ladino grammar, syntax and lexicon, as well as an acquaintance with the history, and social and cultural life of Ladino speakers in the modern era. No prior knowledge of Spanish or Hebrew is necessary.

HEBR 420 Hebrew Conversation *Tovi Romano*

TTH 12:20-1:30PM

Credits: 2 VLPA C/NC

For students who have one year of Hebrew (HEBR 411-412-413) or above. Promoting cultural proficiency as an integral and essential component of language learning, this course provides opportunities to communicate using authentic language derived from current cultural and social life. Students will acquire the necessary vocabulary, patterns and forms in order to communicate successfully in predictable social situations including discussing personal information related to self, family, home, daily activities, interests and needs. Conversations will revolve around topics such as food, shopping, transportation, orientation, accommodation, weather, current events, and other typical travel encounters and real-life communication with native Hebrew speakers.

HEBR 452 - Intro to Hebrew Literature *Sokoloff*

MW 2:30-3:50pm

Credits: 3 VLPA

Explore the city of Tel Aviv through works by Etgar Keret, Rutu Modan, S. Yizhar, and S.Y. Agnon. This course presents modern Hebrew literary texts and analysis, with continued emphasis on grammar and composition. Review of language skills and dictionary work is included in each unit to reinforce the students' knowledge of Hebrew. In addition, the class covers fundamentals of narrative theory as students practice close readings of texts. *Prerequisite: HEBR 423 or permission of instructor.*

HEBR 412 Elementary Modern Hebrew *Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz*

MW 9:30am-11:20am, F 9:30-10:20am

Credits: 5 VLPA (restrictions apply) Prerequisite: HEBR 411

HEBR 422 Intermediate Modern Hebrew *Tovi Romano*

TTH 9:30-11:20am, F 10:30-11:20am

Credits: 5 VLPA Prerequisite: HEBR 421.

Course information subject to change. Latest info found on UW Time Schedule.

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Spring 2014

JSIS C 250/HIST 250 Jewish Cultural History *Devin Naar*

TTH 1:30-3:20pm

Credits: 5 I&S (required for Jewish Studies major & minor)

Explore various expressions of Jewish culture including biblical, Hellenistic, Judeo-Arabic, Sephardic, Ashkenazic, Eastern European, American and Israeli. As we analyze Jewish culture across time and space, we will discuss how Jews both adopted the cultural assumptions of their neighbors and adapted these traditions to preserve a distinct identity.

JSIS C 336A/HSTAA 336A Digital American Jewish History *Noam Pianko*

TTH 11:30am-1:20pm

Credits: 5 I&S

This course provides an introduction to American Jewish History through archival research, digital storytelling and public history. In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore digitized archival material related to Jewish History in the Pacific Northwest, interpret these documents in light of broader historical trends, and create on-line, public exhibits. Learn Jewish history while gaining crucial skills for communicating with new media and technology. No prerequisites or technical skills required.

JSIS C 489A/SPAN 394 A History of the Ladino Language and its Literature

David Bunis

TTH 3:30-4:50pm

3 Credits I&S / VLPA

Ladino is the traditional language of the Sephardic Jews of the Balkans and Middle East. The course surveys the historical stages in the development of Ladino, from its roots in Middle Iberia to its use on the internet as the international language of a virtual speech community. The lectures are presented against a backdrop of the history and traditional lifestyle of the speakers.

JSIS C 377/SOC 377 American Jewish Community *Paul Burstein*

MW 12:30-2:20pm

Credits: 5 I&S

Tens of millions of Americans are immigrants and the children of immigrants. This course focuses on the way of life Jews brought with them to America; their hopes for religious freedom and economic opportunity; how their developing views of race, ethnicity, and cultural pluralism helped other immigrant groups—including those arriving today—find their place in American society. The course concludes with an analysis of the opportunities and challenges faced by Jewish young adults as they try to define the American Jewish community of the 21st century.

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Learn more at jewishstudies.washington.edu!

Spring 2014 (cont'd)

JSIS C 360/CLAS 360 Jews, Greeks, & Romans in the Ancient World *Sarah Culpepper Stroup*

M-F 11:30am - 12:20pm

Credits: 5 VLPA

This course examines the wide-ranging and intertwined social, political, intellectual, economic, and religious histories of the Jews, Greeks, and Romans in the ancient Mediterranean world, from the Bronze Age through to the 2nd century CE.

HEBR 250 Introduction to Hebrew Language and Culture *Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz*

Time TBD

Credits: 2 VLPA/I&S C/NC

An introduction to modern Hebrew language and culture, focusing on fundamental structures of the language, the revival of Hebrew in modern times, and connections between contemporary usage and Jewish traditions. Topics include: the alphabet, the verb system, the Hebrew calendar, Jewish and Israeli holidays, names, songs, popular sayings, and more.

HEBR 413 Elementary Modern Hebrew *Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz*

MW 9:30am-11:20am, F 9:30-10:20am

Credits: 5 VLPA (restrictions apply) Prerequisite: HEBR 411

HEBR 423 Intermediate Modern Hebrew *Tovi Romano*

TTH 9:30-11:20am, F 10:30-11:20am

Credits: 5 VLPA Prerequisite: HEBR 421.

C LIT 441/NEAR E 441 Literature and the Holocaust *Naomi Sokoloff*

TTH 1:30-3:20pm (tentative)

Credits: 5 VLPA, W

By examining fiction, poetry, memoir, diaries, monuments and aspects of popular culture, this course will explore representations of the Holocaust. Among the topics to be covered: bearing witness and survivor testimony; the shaping of collective memory; the second generation; Holocaust education and children's literature; gender and the Holocaust; fantasy and humor in literary responses to catastrophe.

NEAR E 414 Islam in Jewish Contexts, Judaism in Muslim Contexts *Hamza Mahmood Zafer*

TWTH 8:30-9:20am

This course is an introduction to the Jewish-Muslim encounter in the pre-modern era, from the rise of Islam (~570 C.E.) to the end of its Classical Age (1258 C.E.)—an era wherein the majority of the world's Jewish population lived in Muslim polities and/or among Muslim majorities. We will explore various arenas of this dynamic encounter and examine the formative impacts of this dialectic on Jewish and Muslim thought, cultural production and religious practice from this period.

Course information subject to change. Latest info found on UW Time Schedule.

Spring 2014 (*cont'd*)

NEAR E 454 / JSIS C 454: Israel, the First Six Centuries BCE *Gary Martin*

MW 1:30-2:50pm

Credits: 3 I&S/VLPA

Traces the Israelites, from the Babylonian destruction of the Jerusalemite Temple (586 BCE) to events following the destruction of the second Temple (first century CE). Focuses on primary historical and literary sources as well as archaeological and artistic evidence. No knowledge of Hebrew or the Bible is required.

ARAMIC 421 Biblical Aramaic *Gary Martin*

MWF 10:30-11:50am

Credits: 5 VLPA

Fundamentals of Aramaic grammar and the differences that distinguish Aramaic from Hebrew, includes select Aramaic portions of the Bible. Emphasis on grammar and comprehension. Designed for students with some knowledge of Hebrew. Prerequisite: HEBR 402 or HEBR 426.

Course information subject to change. Latest info found on UW Time Schedule..

Extended course descriptions, sample syllabi, faculty bios, and more at

jewishstudies.washington.edu

***Contact Assistant Director Lauren Spokane
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Jewish Studies Student Committee.***