

# Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies

## Spring 2013 Courses

### IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

#### **HIST W3616 Jews and Christians in the Medieval World**

Call Number: 96648 Points: TBD

Day/Time: MW 11:40am-12:55pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Elisheva Carlebach

Medieval Jews and Christians defined themselves in contrast to one another. This course will examine the conditions and contradictions that emerged from competing visions and neighborly relations. It is arranged to comprehend broad themes rather than strict chronology and to engage both older and very recent scholarship on the perennial themes of tolerance and hate.

#### **AMHS W4462 Jewish Immigrant New York**

Call Number: 92647 Points: 4

Day/Time: R 2:10pm-4:00pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Rebecca Kobrin

For the past century and a half, New York City has been the first home of millions of immigrants to the United States. This course will compare immigrants' encounter with New York at the dawn of the twentieth century with contemporary issues, organizations, and debates shaping immigrant life in New York City. As a service learning course, each student will be required to work 2-4 hours/week in the Riverside Language Center or programs for immigrants run by Community Impact.

#### **HIST W4644 Modern Jewish Intellectual History**

Call Number: 64699 Points: 4

Day/Time: M 2:10pm-4:00pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Michael Stanislawski

This course analyzes Jewish intellectual history from Spinoza to 1939. It tracks the radical transformation that modernity yielded in Jewish life, both in the development of new, self-consciously modern, iterations of Judaism and Jewishness and in the more elusive but equally foundational changes in "traditional" Judaisms. Questions to be addressed include: the development of the modern concept of "religion" and its effect on the Jews; the origin of the notion of "Judaism" parallel to Christianity, Islam, etc.; the rise of Jewish secularism and of secular Jewish ideologies, especially the Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah), modern Jewish nationalism, Zionism, Jewish socialism, and Autonomism; the rise of Reform, Modern Orthodox, and Conservative Judaisms; Jewish neo-Romanticism and neo-Kantianism, and Ultra-Orthodoxy.

### IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH STUDIES

#### **JWST W3945 The Image of Jerusalem in Modern Hebrew Literature**

Call Number: 16503 Points: 4

Day/Time: R 9:00am-10:50am Location: 513 Fayerweather

Instructor: Rafi Tsirkin-Sadan

In this course we will read and discuss Jerusalem as it is portrayed in major Modern Hebrew novels. Jerusalem serves as a dynamic setting whose changes correspond to different stages of Israeli history. Despite its almost mythological status in Zionist ideology, we will discover different and critical perspectives on this city, which is, surprisingly, portrayed as the anti-thesis for the Zionist idea. In Y. H. Brenner's *Breakdown and Breavement*, early 20<sup>th</sup> century Jerusalem appears as the symbol of *Galut*. In his classic *Only Yesterday*, which reveals a panorama of the Zionist revolution, S.Y. Agnon presents Jerusalem as a counter-myth of secular Zionism. Three decades later, Jerusalem appears as a sanctuary for Holocaust survivors in Haim Be'er's *The Pure Element of Time*. In his *My Michael*, Amos Oz captures Jerusalem and its young generation one brief moment before the Six Day War, which fixed its central image in Zionist ideology. Each of these periods finds its counterpart in A. B. Yehoshua's historiosophical novel *Mr. Mani*. We will conclude the course with David Grossman's *Someone to Run with* and Yehuda Amichai's *Jerusalem poems*, both of which represent a secular myth of 1990s Jerusalem.

Knowledge of Hebrew is not required; all readings will be in English.

## IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EAST AND ASIAN LITERATURES AND CULTURES

### **MDES W1511 1st Yr Modern Hebrew: Elem II**

#### Section 001:

Call Number: 73875 Points: 5

Day/Time: MTWR 11:40am-12:45pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Rina Kreitman

#### Section 002:

Call Number: 72165 Points: 5

Day/Time: MTWR 10:10am-11:15am Location: TBD

Instructor: Illan Gonen

Prerequisite: MDES W1510, or the equivalent, based on performance on the placement test. Continued introduction to Hebrew, with equal emphasis on all languages skills. (See MDES W1510.)

### **MDES W1513 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr Modern Hebrew: Inter II**

#### Section 001:

Call Number: 18450 Points: 5

Day/Time: MTWR 1:10pm-2:15pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Rina Kreitman

#### Section 002:

Call Number: 26743 Points: 5

Day/Time: MTWR 11:40am-12:45pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Illan Gonen

#### Section 003:

Call Number: 77947 Points: 5

Day/Time: MTWR 10:10am-11:15am Location: TBD

Instructor: Rina Kreitman

Prerequisites: MDES W1512 Equal emphasis is given to all language skills. Irregular categories of the Hebrew verb, prepositions and syntax are taught systematically. Vocabulary building. Daily homework

includes grammar exercises, short answers, reading, or writing short compositions. Frequent vocabulary and grammar quizzes. (Students completing this course fulfill Columbia College and Barnard language requirement.)

**MDES W1518 Hebrew for Heritage Speakers**

Call Number: 62206 Points: 4

Day/Time: TBD Location: TBD

Instructor: Rina Kreitman

**MDES W4511 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr Modern Hebrew**

Call Number: 19203 Points: 4

Day/Time: TR 9:00am-10:50am Location: TBD

Instructor: Nehama Bersohn

Prerequisites: MDES W4510 or MDES W1515 or the instructor's permission. Focus on transition from basic language towards authentic Hebrew, through reading of un-adapted literary and journalistic texts without vowels. Vocabulary building. Grammar is reviewed in context. A weekly hour is devoted to practice in conversation. Daily homework includes reading, short answers, short compositions, listening to web-casts, or giving short oral presentations via voice e-mail. Frequent vocabulary quizzes.

**MDES W3541 Zionism: A Cultural Perspective**

Call Number: 25193 Points: 3

Day/Time: MW 2:40pm-3:55pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Dan Miron

The course, based on Zionist texts of various kinds, will offer a view of Zionism as a cultural revolution aimed at redefining Judaism and the Jewish Identity.

**CLME G6530 Dynamics of Israeli Culture**

Call Number: 21513 Points: 3

Day/Time: T 9:00am-10:50am Location: TBD

Instructor: Dan Miron

The course will survey the development of Israeli Literature within three time sections and along the evolving process of its three main genres. The time sections are those a) the birth of Israeli literature in the aftermath of the 1948 War (the 1950s); b) the maturation of Israeli literature during the 1960s and 1970s; c) Israeli Literature in the era of the peace process and the Intifadas (1980s and 1990s). The genres are those of lyrical poetry, prose fiction (mainly novels), and drama. The course will also follow the crystallization of three sets of Israeli poetics: the conservative (realistic) one, the modernist, and the post-modernist ones. All texts will be available in English translations. Participation does not depend on former knowledge of Hebrew or Israeli literature.

**IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION**

**RELI V3525 Intro to Rabbinic Literature**

Call Number: 05169 Points: 3

Day/Time: TR 10:10am-11:25am Location: TBD

Instructor: Beth Berkowitz

Examines the differences between Halakha (the legal portion of the Talmud) and Aggadah (the more legal portion) with respect to both content and form. Special emphasis on selections from the Talmud and Midrash that reflect the intrinsic nature of these two basic genres of rabbinic literature.

**RELI W4807 Divine Human Animal**

Call Number: 07862 Points: 4

Day/Time: R 2:10pm-4:00pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Beth Berkowitz

This course focuses on "thinking with" animals (Levi-Strauss) through the lens of the religious imagination. The concentration will be primarily on "Western" religious cultures, especially Judaism and the question of Jewishness.

**IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES**

**WMST BC3515 Women in Israel: An Introduction**

Call Number: 01674 Points: 4

Day/Time: T 4:10pm-6:00pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Irena Klepfisz

Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 15 students. Sophomore standing. Focuses primarily on the contemporary status and experiences of Jewish and non-Jewish women living in Israel, with sessions on: women and the law; Jewish minorities; Palestinian women; Jewish women and the military; violence against women; Israeli feminism; pre-State Israel and women and the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

**WMST W4301 Early Jewish Women Immigrant Writers**

Call Number: 09334 Points: 4

Day/Time: T 9:00am-10:50am Location: TBD

Instructor: Irena Klepfisz

Prerequisites: Students must attend first day of class and admission will be decided then. Enrollment limited to 15 students. Covers significant pre-Holocaust texts (including Yiddish fiction in translation) by U.S. Ashkenazi women and analyzes the tensions between upholding Jewish identity and the necessity and/or inevitability of integration and assimilation. It also examines women's quests to realize their full potential in Jewish and non-Jewish communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

**WMST W3922 The Jazz Age: Fictional Representations of Jewish-American and African-American Women in the City**

Call Number: 89039 Points: 4

Day/Time: W 11:00am-12:50pm Location: 754 Schermerhorn Ext.

Instructor: Catherine Rottenberg

This course is meant to introduce students to classic Jewish-American and African-American works from the Jazz Age, the burgeoning field of feminist urban studies, and cultural historical and theoretical work on "New Womanhood."

## IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES – YIDDISH

### **YIDD W1102 Elementary Yiddish II**

Call Number: 61010 Points: 4

Day/Time: TRF 10:10am-11:25am Location: TBD

Instructor: Alyssa Quint

With the instructor's permission the second term may be taken without the first. Thorough study of elementary Yiddish grammar, with reading, composition, and oral practice. The cultural and linguistic background of the language is discussed.

### **YIDD W1202 Intermediate Yiddish II**

Call Number: 20428 Points: 4

Day/Time: TRF 1:10pm-2:25pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Alyssa Quint

Prerequisites: YIDD W1101-W1102 or the instructor's permission. Continuing study of grammar on a higher level. Continuing oral practice; readings from texts of significant literary value dealing with important aspects of Jewish life and culture.

### **YIDD W3334 Advanced Yiddish II**

Call Number: 91197 Points: 3

Day/Time: TR 2:40pm-3:55pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Alyssa Quint

### **YIDD G4200 Seminar in Yiddish Studies: The Family Singer**

Call Number: 12801 Points: 3

Day/Time: R 4:10pm-6:00pm Location: TBD

Instructor: Jeremy Dauber

Though many readers are familiar with the work of Yiddish literature's only Nobel laureate, Isaac Bashevis Singer, fewer know that two of his siblings - a brother and a sister - were also accomplished writers in their own right. Through an extensive look at the work of Isaac Bashevis Singer, Israel Joshua Singer, and Esther Kreitman, this seminar will not only explore the work of some of Yiddish literature's most important writers but investigate a practically unparalleled opportunity in literary history to observe the intersection between biography, family dynamic, and literary form and content.