

# **Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies**

## **Spring 2012 Courses**

### **IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FILM**

#### **JWST W4101 Israeli Film**

Call Number: 17654 Points: 3

Day/Time: M 6:00pm-10:00pm Location: 301M Fayerweather

Instructor: Avner Faingulernt

The aim of this class is to question and analyze the main thrust and thematic evolution of Israeli documentary cinema since 1960. The course will attempt to draw a portrait of Israel as seen through a collection of films. It will focus on the major conflicts that the new state of Israel and its society confronted and confront and how these conflicts expose the unconscious streams of identity within a society in conflict with itself.

### **IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

#### **HIST W3611 Jews & Judaism in Antiquity**

Call Number: 87042 Points: 3

Day/Time: MW 9:10am-10:25am Location: TBD

Instructor: Seth Schwartz

This course surveys the history of the Jews and Judaism from Cyrus the Great until the Muslim Conquest. It will focus on hellenization, the emergence of sectarianism, the beginnings of Christianity and of Rabbinic Judaism, and the crisis precipitated by the arrival of Rome.

#### **HIST W4615 Tradition: Growing Up in the Shtetl**

Call Number: 11501 Points: 4

Day/Time: R 11:00am-12:50pm Location: 302 Fayerweather

Instructor: David Assaf

The seminar will focus on traditional Jewish life, in the Eastern European towns known as shtetlekh, from the early modern period until late 19th century. Through study of various primary sources, mainly memoirs, autobiographies, stories and poetry, we will portray the everyday life, especially childhood and adolescence, and the confrontation between tradition and modernity.

#### **HIST G8612 Hasidism in the Eyes of Opponents**

Call Number: 63146 Points: 4

Day/Time: R 2:10pm-4:00pm Location: 302 Fayerweather

Instructor: David Assaf

The colloquium will look closely at the historical Hasidic movement, its doctrine, innovations and the nature of their leaders through the eyes of their ardent opponents. The religious and social confrontation between Hasidim and other circles of Eastern European Jewish traditional society, whether the Lithuanian Mitnagedim or the Galician Maskilim, will be studied in light of the



compositions in Hebrew. Students placed in this course have to take only one semester to fulfill their college language requirement in Hebrew.

**MDES W4511 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Modern Hebrew II**

Call Number: 77034 Points: 4

Day/Time: TR 10:00am-11:50am Location: 410 Knox Hall

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: 11787 Points: 3

Day/Time: MW 2:40pm-3:55pm Location: 516 Hamilton

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: 81784 Points: 3

Day/Time: T 9:00am-10:50am Location: 201D Philosophy

Instructor: Dan Miron

Sh. Y. Agnon - the Early Work (1908-1931). This graduate seminar will focus on Agnon's search for his own literary voice against the background of the poetic options Hebrew prose fiction of the beginning of the twentieth-century offered. Agnon's "dialogues" with I.L Peretz, M.J. Berdichevsky, J.H. Brenner, U.N. Gnessin as well as his attitude toward contemporary European Realism, Impressionism, and Symbolism, will be explored. Among the texts which will be analyzed: Agunot, The Good Years, Nights, Miriam's Well, The Crooked Shall Be Made Straight, The Tale of the Scribe, The Banished One, In the Prime of her Life, Ovadia the Cripple, Poland, With Our Young and with Our Old, and The Bridal Canopy.

**IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL V3910 Maimonides and Spinoza**

Call Number: 23384 Points: 3

Day/Time: M 11:00am-12:50pm Location: 513 Fayerweather

Instructor: Zev Harvey

*The Guide of the Perplexed*, written in Arabic by Moses Maimonides (1138-1204), is the most influential book in medieval Jewish philosophy. It is a difficult but enchanting book, composed in the form of a puzzle. It had a formative influence on Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677), whose early reading in philosophy was in Jewish texts and who read the *Guide* in Hebrew translation. We shall read Maimonides' *Guide*

together with Spinoza's *Theological-Political Treatise* and his *Ethics*, both written in Latin. Our focus will be on Spinoza's use and criticism of Maimonidean themes. All texts will be read in English translation.

**PHIL G4095 Medieval Hebrew Philosophic Texts**

Call Number: 67002 Points: 3

Day/Time: M 4:10pm-6:00pm Location: 513 Fayerweather

Instructor: Zev Harvey

This course will discuss readings from major medieval Hebrew philosophic works. We will look at Maimonides' (1138-1204) *Book of Knowledge*, his systematic presentation of the foundations of religion, science, law, and ethics; Shemtob Falaquera's (c. 1225-1295) *Epistle of the Debate*, a lively philosophic dialogue between a philosopher and a fundamentalist; *Wars of the Lord* by Levi Gersonides (1288-1344), the most important Jewish Aristotelian after Maimonides; *Light of the Lord* by Hasdai Crescas (c. 1340-1410/11), the most important Jewish anti-Aristotelian; and finally *Book of Principles* by Joseph Albo (d. after 1433). Discussions will be based on the original Hebrew texts, but readings are also available in English translation.

**IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION**

**RELI W4807 Divine Human Animal**

Call Number: 60530 Points: 4

Day/Time: R 2:10pm-4:00pm Location: 602 Northwest Co

Instructor: Jonathan Schorsch

This seminar offers coverage of an increasingly popular and important perspective on the construction of culture and the definition of the human, by means of animals. Taking a more or less historical approach, the course will focus on "thinking with" animals (in Levi-Strauss's phrasing) through the lens of the religious imagination. The concentration will be primarily on "Western" religious cultures, especially Judaism and questions of Jewishness.

**RELI W4812 Angels and Demons**

Call Number: 64691 Points: 4

Day/Time: T 2:10pm-4:00pm Location: 602 Northwest Co

Instructor: Jonathan Schorsch

Angels and demons -- and similar intermediary beings -- comprise a prominent and ubiquitous feature of the cultures influenced by the three major monotheisms, as well as of the cultures influenced by other spiritual traditions. With a focus on Jewish, Christian and post-religious environments of "The West," this seminar explores the history of angels and demons, and their changing theological meanings, psychological and cultural roles. We will first survey selected traditional sources from the ancient, medieval and early modern eras -- theology, mysticism, magic, politics.

**IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES – YIDDISH**

**YIDD W1102 Elementary Yiddish II**

*Section 001:*

Call Number: 63442 Points: 4

Day/Time: TRF 10:35am-11:50am Location: 315 Hamilton

Instructor: Miriam Hoffman

*Section 002:*

Call Number: 23442 Points: 4

Day/Time: TRF 2:40pm-3:55pm Location: 406 Hamilton

Instructor: