

**Welcome to campus! Listed below
are some courses offered through the
Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies.
For any questions, stop by 511 Fayerweather
or email us at iijs@columbia.edu.**



IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HIST W4601 Jews in the Later Roman Empire

Call Number: 69052 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: M 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 311 Fayerweather

Notes: Instructor Permission Required: See Undergrad Seminar Section of Department's Website

Instructor: Seth R Schwartz

This course will explore the background and examine some of the manifestations of the first Jewish cultural explosion after 70 CE. Among the topics discussed: the Late Roman state and the Jews, the rise of the synagogue, the redaction of the Palestinian Talmud and midrashim, the piyyut and the Hekhalot.

HIST W3657 Medieval Jewish Cultures

Call Number: 60951 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: MW 11:40am-12:55pm **Location:** 310 Fayerweather

Instructor: Elisheva Carlebach

This course will survey some of the major historical, cultural, intellectual and social developments among Jews from the fourth century CE through the fifteenth. We will study Jewish cultures from the Christianization of the Roman Empire, the age of the Talmuds, the rise of Islam, the world of the Geniza, medieval Spain, to the early modern period. We will look at a rich variety of primary texts and images, including mosaics, poems, prayers, polemics, and personal letters.

HIST W3628 History of the State of Israel, 1948-Present

Call Number: 10143 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: TR 10:10am-11:25am **Location:** 310 Fayerweather

Instructor: Michael F Stanislawski

The political, cultural, and social history of the State of Israel from its founding in 1948 to the present.

HIST W4609 Marriage and Kinship in Medieval Egypt

Call Number: 86533 **Points:** 4

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

Instructor: Eve Krakowski

How distinctively "Jewish" was the social world of ordinary Jews in the Middle Ages? To what extent did medieval Jews order their lives around the norms expressed in elite religious texts? How closely did their basic social values and cultural assumptions resemble those held by their Christian and Muslim neighbors? Thanks to the documentary Cairo Geniza, a huge corpus of medieval documents preserved by chance in an Egyptian synagogue, we are better positioned to answer these questions with regard to Jews in tenth- to thirteenth-century Egypt and Syria than for any other pre-modern Jewish society.

This class will explore the everyday culture reflected in the Geniza manuscripts through the lens of kinship relations and family life. The course will introduce a range of genres of Geniza documents (court records, contracts and deeds, legal responsa, and personal letters). We will read examples of these documents alongside contemporary Jewish legal and literary works, Islamic literature, and recent work in medieval Islamic social history. Taking a comparative approach to this material, we will work to understand how the authors of these documents understood marriage, divorce, and parenthood, and how these relationships positioned individuals economically and socially within the broader communities in which they lived. In the process, you will learn how to use documents and literary sources as evidence for social history, as well as learn a great deal about Jews' everyday life in medieval Egypt.

IN THE INSTITUTE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH STUDIES

JWST G4250 The Jewish Polity in Mandate Palestine (the Yishuv): Economic and Social Aspects

Call Number: 12347 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: R 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 201D Philosophy Hall

Instructor: David De Vries

The history of modern Palestine has for long been dominated by political history and the history of the national conflict. Without discarding the primacy of politics this seminar diverts attention to social and economic history, to the social bases of the Arab-Jewish conflict, and of the Zionist project in Palestine in particular. The seminar focuses on the history of the Yishuv – the Jewish polity in Palestine under British rule (1917-1947). Economic and social process, structures, social agents and ideologies are placed in Mandate Palestine's political and national-conflict contexts. Discussion begins with major themes, sources and historiography. It then focuses on developments in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, until the founding of the State of Israel. Each decade analysis mixes ideologies and perceptions, with material processes and social conflicts.

JWST G4125 The Holocaust and Its Literary Representation

Call Number: 24695 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: R 4:00pm - 6:00pm **Location:** 652 Schermerhorn Hall

Instructor: Alan Mintz

The course explores how the literary imagination has grappled with the destruction of European Jewry. Responses to the Holocaust written within the ghettos during the war will be compared to responses composed at different removes in time from the catastrophe. The course will follow the shaping of Holocaust memory within two distinct national settings: America and Israel. Among the writers we will read are Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel, Art Spiegelman, Philip Roth, Aharon Appelfeld, Dan Pagis, David Grossman, Ida Fink and W. G. Sebald.

JWST G4610 Environment and Sustainability in Israel – Between the Local and the Regional

Call Number: 91198 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: R 6:10pm-8:00pm **Location:** 402 Hamilton Hall

Instructor: Shahar Sadeh

Since the establishment of the state of Israel, and even prior to it, the land has been subject to massive spatial and demographic change. Rapid development, mass immigration waves, high rates of natural growth, conflicts and wars, local and regional political processes, all created a complex web of environmental challenges and problems, as well as environmental achievements. Hence, Israel's current environmental situation and the level of environmental protection that exists in it have much to do with past political decisions. Obviously, those decisions were influenced by the ongoing Israeli-Arab conflict.

By utilizing the concept of Sustainable Development the course will provide a bidirectional overview of environmental politics in Israel: We will explore the role of the environment in past and present political processes, and the way it was affected by such process. More specifically, the course will explore the relationship between the environment and Zionism as it was manifested during the nation-building process; Sustainable development in Israel; The environmental movement; Environmental education in Israel; Urbanism; The Israeli-Arab conflict and the environment; The role the environment in past peace negotiations; and the ways in which political conflicts create, sustain and escalate environmental problems.

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCI W3930 Immigration and Ethnicity in Israel

Call Number: 29729 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: M 10:10am-12:00pm **Location:** 201D Philosophy Hall

Instructor: Yinon Cohen

This seminar will focus on migration patterns to and from Israel and their effect on the ethnic composition and cleavages in Israeli society. We will discuss Jewish immigration and emigration in the pre-state period, Arab forced migration in 1948, Jewish immigration to Israel until the 1967 war, and migration patterns from the late 1960s until the present. In addition, we will discuss Jewish emigration from Israel, which is viewed as a major social problem. The focus will be on the number of emigrants, their composition, the causes for emigration, return migration, and on the question of the brain drain from contemporary Israel.

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

RELI W4518 The Formation of the Talmud

Call Number: 73598 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: T 6:10pm-8:00pm **Location:** 201 80 Claremont Ave

Instructor: Ari Bergmann

This seminar will explore the various theories about the formation of the Talmud, from the traditional view of Y. I. Halevy in Dorot Harishonim to the contemporary models of D. W. Halivni and Shamma Friedman. We will analyze their theories and their literary evidence while applying their models to the critical reading of the text. We will then explore a model which combines these theories in light of the oral matrix of the Talmud during its early phase. All texts will be read in the original but translations will be provided.

RELI W4522 The Production of Jewish Difference from Antiquity to the Present

Call Number: 06509 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: T 2:10pm – 4:00pm **Location:** 303 Altschul Hall

Instructor: Beth Berkowitz

Explores how Jews from antiquity to modernity have struggled to create a distinct Jewish identity in the context of dominant non-Jewish cultures. Examines the interpretive history of Leviticus 18:3, "...and in their laws you shall not go," a verse that instructs Israel to be different from surrounding peoples. Considers Bible-reading as a means for creating identity and highlights the dynamics of negative identity definition (the self/Other binary). Emphasis is on primary texts from the Bible to modern Jewish legal responsa, but contemporary scholarship will accompany the sources.

RELI V2505 Intro to Judaism**Call Number:** 06829 **Points:** 3**Day/Time:** MW 10:10am-11:25am **Location:** LL104 Diana Center**Instructor:** Beth Berkowitz

Historical overview of Jewish belief and practice as these have crystallized and changed over the centuries. Special attention to ritual and worship, the forms of religious literature, central concepts, religious leadership at institutions, Israel among the nations.

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN, AND AFRICAN STUDIES (MESAAS)**MDES W1510 1st Year Modern Hebrew: ELEM I***Section 001***Call Number:** 72376 **Points:** 5**Day/Time:** MTWR 11:40am-12:45pm **Location:** C01 Knox Hall**MDES W1510 1st Year Modern Hebrew: ELEM I***Section 002***Call Number:** 12222 **Points:** 5**Day/Time:** MTWR 1:10pm-2:15pm **Location:** 114 Knox Hall**MDES W1512 2nd Year Modern Hebrew: INTER I***Section 001***Call Number:** 10671 **Points:** 5**Day/Time:** MTWR 1:10pm-2:15pm **Location:** 101 Knox Hall**MDES W1512 2nd Year Modern Hebrew: INTER I***Section 002***Call Number:** 62734 **Points:** 5 Textbook Information**Day/Time:** MTWR 11:40am-12:45pm **Location:** 104 Knox Hall**MDES W4510 3rd Year Modern Hebrew I***Section 001***Call Number:** 63675 **Points:** 4**Day/Time:** TR 9:00am-10:50am **Location:** 114 Knox Hall**Instructor:** Nehama R Bersohn**MDES W1517 Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I****Call Number:** 81547 **Points:** 4**Day/Time:** MTWR 12:00pm-12:50pm **Location:** 502 Northwest Corner Building**Instructor:** Nehama R Bersohn**MDES G6530 Dynamics of Israeli Culture: Poetry****Call Number:** 68880 **Points:** 3**Day/Time:** TBD **Location:** 511 Kent Hall**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.

MDES W3542 Intro to Israeli Literature

Call Number: 80946 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: MW 2:40pm-3:55pm **Location:** 103 Knox Hall

Instructor: Dan Miron

The course traces the development of Israeli literature since its inception in the 1940s to the end of the twentieth century. It ponders the why and the how of its separation from the earlier Hebrew literature, focuses the new issues it tackled and the new themes and forms in which these issues were expressed. Both major poets (Alterman, Amichai, Zach, Ravikovich et al.), and major novelists (Yizhar, Shamir, Oz, Yehoshua, Shabtai, et al.) will be discussed. Texts can be read in the original Hebrew or in English translations.

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES

YIDD W1101 Elementary Yiddish I

Call Number: 12098 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: MW 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 404 Hamilton Hall

Instructor: Agnieszka Legutko

YIDD W1102 Elementary Yiddish II

Call Number: 19959 **Points:** 4

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

Instructor: Joshua Price

YIDD W1201 Intermediate Yiddish I

Call Number: 62819 **Points:** 4

Day/Time: TR 10:10am-12:00pm **Location:** 406 Hamilton Hall

Instructor: Agnieszka Legutko

YIDD G4200 Taste of Yiddish (ENG)

Call Number: 78497 **Points:** 3

Day/Time: W 4:10am-6:00pm **Location:** 404 Hamilton Hall

Instructor: Agnieszka Legutko

This course offers an introduction to 1,000 years of Yiddish culture represented in Yiddish language, literature, history, theater, film, music, food, jokes and more. We will travel Yiddishland, a land without borders spanning across the globe, and study the Yiddish cultural places in comparison with their non-Yiddish counterparts. We will also venture outside the classroom to explore one of the most Yiddish cities in the world – New York – through exciting field trips aimed at mapping Yiddish New York. No knowledge of Yiddish required.

YIDD W3800 Readings in Yiddish Lit (ENG)**Call Number:** 26048 **Points:** 3**Day/Time:** M 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 309 Hamilton Hall**Instructor:** Jeremy Dauber

Readings in modern Yiddish literature, focusing on the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

YIDD G9502 Seminar in Yiddish Studies**Call Number:** 78280 **Points:** 3**Day/Time:** M 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 309 Hamilton Hall**Instructor:** Jeremy Dauber

Readings in modern Yiddish literature, focusing on the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FILM STUDIES**FILM W4145 Topics in World Cinema: Contemporary Israeli Film****Call Number:** 78781 **Points:** 3**Day/Time:** M 6:10pm-9:00pm **Location:** 509 Hamilton Hall**Instructor:** Raz Yosef

The last decade has marked the growing visibility and worldwide interest in Israeli cinema. Films such as *Yossi and Jagger*, *Or, My Treasure*, *Beaufort*, and *Waltz with Bashir* have been commercially and critically successful both in Europe and the United States and have won a number of prestigious international awards. The course will examine the new ideological and aesthetic trends in contemporary Israeli cinema. One of the most striking phenomena in contemporary Israeli cinema is the number and scope of films dealing with past traumatic events – events that were repressed or insufficiently mourned, such as the memory of the Holocaust, traumas from wars and terrorist attacks, and the losses entailed by the experience of immigration. Traumatic events from Israeli society's past are represented as the private memory of distinct social groups: soldiers, immigrants, women, gays. These groups feel duty-bound to remember the past, recasting repressed memories through the cinema in order to return and to give meaning to their identity. The course will explore these issues, critically viewing contemporary Israeli films and using feminist, postmodern and trauma and memory theories.

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**MUSIC V2030 Jewish Music in New York****Call Number:** 14312 **Points:** 3**Day/Time:** MW 2:40pm-3:55pm **Location:** 716 Hamilton Hall**Instructor:** Tina Fruehauf

With the arrival of the first Jewish immigrants in New York in the mid-1600s until today, Jewish music in the City has oscillated between preserving traditions and introducing innovative ideas. This course explores the variety of ways people have used music to describe, inscribe, symbolize, and editorialize their Jewish experience. Along these lines, it draws upon genres of art music, popular music, and non-Western traditions, as well as practices that synthesize various styles and genres. Diverse musical experiences will serve as a window to address wider questions of identity, memory, dislocation, and connections to New York's dynamic and eclectic music culture. We will experience the City's Jewish soundscape by visiting various venues and meeting key players in today's music scene, in order to engage in the ongoing dialogues that define Jewishness in New York. Although a basic familiarity with Judaism and/or music is helpful for this course, it is by no means required. You do not need to know Jewish history to take this class, nor do you need to be musically literate. All translations will be provided, and all musical analysis will be well explained.