2014/15 - Hebrew and Jewish Studies: Course Descriptions

A Survey of Jewish History 1: The Ancient and Medieval Near East (Dr Alinda Damsma)
Undergraduate and First term JYA code: HEBR5771 - credit value: 0.5
HJS Finalists: N/A
Graduate Code: N/A
Description: This course introduces the student to Judaism in biblical times, beginning with the historical and cultural context in which Judaism developed. The syllabus compares biblical accounts of the Flood with contemporary Babylonian flood stories, and discusses the development of writing and literature among Israel's neighbours. The Exodus is also examined against the background of Egyptian archaeology. The development of the monarchy, beginning with David, is compared with the role of the priesthood in the Temple, and the respective roles of king and priest are followed into the Hasmonean period under the Second Commonwealth. The Dead Sea Scrolls are examined from the perspectives of Pharisee, Sadducee, and Essene groups in the period of the Mishnah, to see how Rabbinic Judaism developed from conflicting views of Jewish law and interpretations.
Duration of course: 1st term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and First term JYA:** 2 essays (100%)
Please note that students will also be expected to do a literature review.

Survey of Jewish History 2: From Medieval to Early Modern Europe (Dr Lars Fischer)
Undergraduate and 1st term JYA code: HEBR5772 - credit value: 0.5
HJS Finalists: N/A
Graduate Code: N/A
Description: In the aftermath of the destruction of the Second Temple, Rabbinic Judaism emerged and the variety of Second Temple Judaism largely receded. Several important classes and groups in society either disappeared or were absorbed in the Rabbinic movement. Its roots in the Second Temple area and its historical development in the Talmudic age will be explored, introducing the main literary works produced in the heydays of Rabbinic Judaism (200 -700 CE): Mishnah, Midrash and Talmud. The historical background and archaeological remains will set the sources discussed in this course in relief. With the rise of Islam the ideological and sociological contexts of Judaism changed. The Geonic leaders of the Babylonian academies set their seal on a Judaism, based on the Talmud, which was to be transmitted to North Africa and Europe in later periods. The rise of new literary genres and the emergence of the Karaite sect will be discussed against the background of the internal organisation of the Jewish communities. The course will conclude with the interaction between Islamic culture and one of the most prominent Jewish philosophers in history, Moses ben Maimon, or Maimonides.
Duration of course: 1st term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and First term JYA:** 2 essays (100%)
Please note that students will also be expected to do a literature review.

A Survey of Jewish History 3: The Modern World (Prof M. Berkowitz)
Undergraduate and Second term JYA code: HEBR5773 - credit value: 0.5
HJS Finalists: N/A
Graduate Code: N/A
Description: This section of the survey will explore the modern period in Jewish history, when traditional Jewish life was confronted with intensified transformation in all spheres of life: religion, economy, culture, society, and politics. The starting point is the rationalization and secularization of Christian attitudes towards European Jewry, exemplified by the

eighteenth-century Enlightenment Movement. At the same time, social and economic changes generated by emergent capitalism also transformed Jewish life in Europe. These phenomena set in motion the process of Jewish emancipation, and efforts to integrate Jews more closely into the host society. The result was a search for a new Jewish-Gentile relationship, expressed from the Jewish side in the *Haskalah*, or Jewish Enlightenment Movement.

Modernization, in all its guises, threatened the integrity of traditional Judaism by undermining old authorities and practices. The Jewish Reform Movement and its opponents represented divergent efforts to preserve the identity and integrity of Judaism. For some, the confessionalization of Judaism offered the option to integrate the Jews in the emergent nation states.

The apparent successes of Jewish emancipation were brought into question by the rise of popular and religious opposition to it. In the age of political mass mobilization, Antisemitism gained a prominent place as reactionary utopia, concomitant to the persistence of traditional prejudice and discrimination. Against this background there arose a variety of modern Jewish ideologies, including Zionism, and Jewish variants of socialism. These developments will be contrasted to the major shifts in the constitution of World Jewry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, marked by the emergence of two new centers of Jewish settlement, North America and Palestine.

The course will conclude with a review of major trends in Jewish history in Europe before the Second World War, the catastrophe of the Holocaust, and the creation of the State of Israel.
Duration of course: 2nd term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Second term JYA:** 2 essays (100%)
Please note that students will also be expected to do a literature review.

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*Introduction to Israeli Culture, Society and Politics (Dr Ronald Ranta)

Undergraduate and JYA code: HEBR5775 - credit value: 0.5
HJS Finalists: N/A
Graduate Code: N/A
Description: This course will offer a concise introduction to the major factors shaping contemporary Israeli society. It will discuss the societal and political tenets of the Zionist project, inasfar as it envisioned the society of the future Jewish state, look into the demographic transformations between 1948 and 2010, and deal with the most prominent features of Israeli society today. These include the formation of a Hebrew language culture, the main characteristics of the post-1948 immigration cohorts, the Israeli-Arab conflict as a factor shaping Israeli identity, the military as socializing agency, politics of remembrance, lieux de mémoire and archeology, the religious-cultural tensions between the various constituents of Israeli society, the impact of the economic development of the past two decades, the complexities of gender relations in contemporary Israeli society, new social movements, and the emergence of a transnational expat Israeli community.
Duration of course: 2nd term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and JYA:** essay 1 (40%) 1,500 words, essay 2 (60%) 2,000 words

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*Introduction to Hebrew Literature: Medieval to Modern (Dr Tsila Ratner)

Undergraduate and JYA code: HEBR5902 - credit value: 0.5
HJS Finalists: N/A

Graduate Code: N/A
Description: The course will introduce students to the historical development of Hebrew literature from medieval Spain, through Jewish enlightenment in Europe to Modern Israeli literature. The course will place literary works in their historical, cultural and political contexts through close reading of selected texts which will illustrate the main literary features of the time.

Duration of course: 1st term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and JYA:** essay 1 (40%) 1,500 words, essay 2 (60%) 2,000 words

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*Introduction to Jewish Languages (Dr Lily Kahn)

Undergraduate and JYA code: HEBR5326 - credit value: 0.5
HJS Finalists: N/A
Graduate Code: N/A
Description: This course will introduce students to the study of Jewish linguistic varieties throughout history. It will provide a solid grounding in key theoretical issues including the definition and classification of Jewish languages; common orthographic, morphological, syntactic, lexical, and sociolinguistic features; their relationship with Hebrew; and patterns of historical and geographical development. These issues will be illustrated by examination of the rich variety of languages used in Jewish communities through the ages. This will include languages with a long history and substantial written tradition such as Aramaic, Yiddish, Judezmo (Judeo-Spanish), Judeo-Greek, Judeo-Arabic, Judeo-Italian, and Judeo-Persian, in addition to primarily oral and newly evolving varieties such as Judeo-Malayaman, Jewish Russian, and Jewish English.

Duration of course: 2nd term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and JYA:** essay 1 (40%) 1,500 words, essay 2 (60%) 2,000 words

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Sources, Methods, Skills (Dr Lars Fischer)

Undergraduate and JYA code: HEBR5000 - credit value: 0.5
HJS Finalists: N/A
Graduate Code: N/A
Description: This course offers a survey of the most relevant methods of academic inquiry and argument in an academic field. Students will be introduced to the traditions and practices of the historical-critical method, literary criticism, the learning of languages, the analysis of visual materials including film, an appropriate use of internet and digitized resources, the ongoing transformation of academic research through digital humanities, the requirements for written assignments as well as oral presentations. The class will be structured by a training of analytical skills through discussions of selected items of primary source material in the above mentioned disciplines.

Duration of course: 1st term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and JYA:** essay 1 (40%) 1,500 words, essay 2 (60%) 2000 words

Compulsory course for HJS first year undergraduate students

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (Dr Lily Kahn)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR1005 - credit value: 1.0
First term JYA code: HEBR1005A - credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG045 - 30 credits
Description: This course is designed to familiarise complete beginners with Classical (Biblical) Hebrew language and literature in a lively and enjoyable manner. By the end of the year you will have acquired a solid grounding in Classical Hebrew grammar and vocabulary, become familiar with an extensive range of fascinating biblical narratives, and gained the ability to read the Hebrew Bible independently.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (40%), coursework (60%)
First term JYA: coursework (50%), end of term test (50%)
Graduate: coursework (50%), 1 exam (50%)

Required course for first year HJS undergraduate students

Modern Hebrew for Beginners* (Mrs Shosh Sharpe)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR1006 - credit value: 1.0
First term JYA code: HEBR1006A – credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG145 - 30 credits
Description: Basic grammatical outline; intensive acquisition of vocabulary; reading of easy Hebrew texts (e.g. simplified newspapers); introduction to essay-writing and conversation over a fairly limited range of topics.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (35%); coursework (45%); oral skills (5%); oral exam (15%)
First term JYA: coursework (50%), end of term test (50%)
Graduate: 1 exam (35%); coursework (45%), oral assessment (20%)

Required course for first year HJS undergraduate students

Modern Hebrew (Lower Intermediate) (Mrs Shosh Sharpe)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7302 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7302A – credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG017 - 30 credits
Description: The course will expand vocabulary relevant to a range of everyday topics and situations. It will develop fluency and more accurate use of basic grammatical structures and vocabulary. Students will develop the ability to engage in more involved written and spoken communication, such as expressing and understanding feelings and opinions.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (35%); coursework (45%); oral skills (5%); oral exam (15%)
First term JYA: coursework (50%), end of term test (50%)
Graduate: 1 exam (50%); coursework (40%); oral presentation (10%)

Modern Hebrew (Higher Intermediate) (Mrs Shosh Sharpe)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7303 - credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7303A - credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG048 – 30 credits

Description: The course aims at developing Modern Hebrew language skills that will enable students to express themselves fluently and is open to students with sufficient knowledge of the language (level 3). It will concentrate on developing reading, writing and oral skills.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA :** 1 exam (35%); coursework (45%); oral skills (5%); oral exam (15%)
First term JYA: coursework (50%), end of term test (50%)
Graduate: 1 exam (50%), coursework (50%)

Advanced Modern Hebrew (Mrs Shosh Sharpe)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7304 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7304A – credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG036 - 30 credits

Description: The course aims at developing Modern Hebrew language skills that will enable students to express themselves fluently, to read Israeli newspapers and literature. The course is open to students with sufficient knowledge of the language (level 4) to be determined by a placement test. It will concentrate on developing reading, writing and oral skills.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (35%); coursework (45%); oral skills (5%); oral exam (15%)
First term JYA: coursework (50%), end of term test (50%)
Graduate: 1 exam (50%), coursework (50%)

Prerequisite: Completion of either **HEBR7303** Modern Hebrew – Higher Intermediate or **HEBR7003** Further Classical Hebrew (or the graduate course equivalents)

Elementary Yiddish (Mr Wojciech Tworek)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7504 - credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7504A - credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG016 - 30 credits

Description: This course is designed to enable complete beginners to speak, read, write and understand Yiddish. Each lesson will include study of new vocabulary, grammar and various aspects of Yiddish culture. Upon completion of the course, students will have the ability to converse confidently on a variety of everyday topics and begin reading authentic Yiddish literature.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (35%); coursework (45%); oral skills (5%); oral exam (15%)
First term JYA: coursework (50%); end of term test (50%)
Graduate: 1 exam (50%); coursework (40%); oral presentation (10%)

Intermediate Yiddish – Yuri Vedenyapin

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7505 - credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7505A - credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG015 – 30 credits

Description: This course focuses on developing Yiddish speaking, listening, reading and writing skills at the second year level. Each lesson will incorporate conversation, grammar,

textual study and Yiddish cultural topics. Students will be introduced to classic Yiddish authors such as Y. L. Peretz and Sholem Aleichem, engage with topical issues through current Yiddish newspaper articles and learn to express themselves fluently in a wide range of situations.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (35%); coursework (45%); oral skills (5%); oral exam (15%)
First term JYA: coursework (50%); end of term test (50%)
Graduate: 1 exam (50%); coursework (40%); oral presentation (10%)

Prerequisite: Completion of **HEBR7504** Elementary Yiddish or equivalent

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Introduction to Judeo-Spanish and Its Literature (Mr Zeljko Jovanovic)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7819 - credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7819A; second term JYA code: 7819B
Graduate code: HEBRG217 – 30 credits, HEBRG155 – 15 credits

Description: This course is aimed at students who want to immerse themselves into a language and culture of a specific Jewish group such as the Sephardim or Spanish Jews. The course is intended mainly for students of the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies but it is also open to other departments, particularly to students of the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies due to the existing historical, linguistic and cultural links between the Sephardim and the Iberian Peninsula. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required.

The course corresponds to levels A1-A2, according to CEFR, which means acquiring basic grammar structures of Judeo-Spanish through different literary texts; poetry, theatre and narrative. The course will consist of lectures, interactive language work in class and reinforcement of language work through texts of both folk and religious literature as well as works of renowned Judeo-Spanish authors.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (35%); continuous language coursework (50%); exam (50%)
First term JYA: coursework (50%); end of term test (50%)
Graduate: continuous language work (40%); 1 essay (2,500) (20%), written exam (40%)

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* [Introduction to] Ugaritic (Dr Lily Kahn)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7603 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7603A - credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG050 – 30 credits

Description: This year-long course provides a solid grounding in Ugaritic, the oldest attested Northwest Semitic language and close linguistic relative of Biblical Hebrew. Students will gain familiarity with the alphabetic cuneiform writing system and the main grammatical features of Ugaritic; examine its relationship to Biblical Hebrew and other ancient Semitic languages; and read key mythological texts such as the Ba'al Cycle, Kirta, and Aqhat.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (50%) 3 hours, coursework (50%) 1,500 words x2 (equivalent in coursework)
First term JYA: coursework (50%), departmentally organized test (50%)

	Graduate: 1 exam (50%) coursework (50%)
Pre-requisite:	one year of Biblical Hebrew or Akkadian.

Jewish Literary Aramaic (Dr Willem Smelik)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7401 – credit value 1.0
First term JYA code: HEBR7402A - credit value 1.0
Graduate code: HEBRG110 – 30 credits
Description: An introduction to Jewish postbiblical Aramaic literature, beginning with Targum Onqelos, including selected texts from Aramaic poetry, Genesis Apocryphon, Midrashim (Bereshit Rabbah or Echa Rabbah), Targum Pseudo-Jonathan, Targum Neofiti, Tosefta-Targum to the Prophets. All texts will be read in Aramaic, with detailed attention to language, the Hebrew original and the mode of translation (if any), exegetical traditions and linguistic developments.

Jewish Aramaic literature belongs to the formative period of rabbinic Judaism, including Biblical Aramaic, Dead Sea Scrolls, Rabbinic documents such as letters, gemara, Bible translation and midrash, liturgical poems, responsa literature and zohar. As such, this course will provide an essential introduction to both language and literature.

On the first day of the course, the Aramaic texts will be distributed. Exercises in Aramaic (on average once every two weeks, with a higher frequency in the first term and a lower in the second term) and grammatical extracts will be distributed in class as well.

Duration of course:	1st and 2nd Term
Means of assessment:	**Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (50%), coursework (50%) **First term JYA:** 1 essay 3,000 words (60%), one piece of translation 1,000 words (40%) **Graduate:** 1 exam (80%) 1 essay (4,000 words)(20%)
Pre-requisite:	Adequate knowledge of Biblical Aramaic

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*Ancient Hebrew and Related Inscriptions (Dr Willem Smelik)

Undergraduate and 2nd term JYA code: HEBR7418 – credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG218 – 15 credits
Description: This course focuses on the ancient Hebrew and cognate epigraphy from Ancient Israel and its environment. It will provide a close reading of a selection of sources in view of philology, history, hermeneutics and politics. Among the ancient epigraphy to be read are the Tel Dan inscription, the Siloam inscription, the Mesa Stele, and ostraca from Kuntillet ‘Adzjrud.

Duration of course:	2nd Term
Means of assessment:	**Undergraduate and JYA:** 1 essay 4,000 words (100%) **Graduate:** 1 essay 4,000 words (75%), oral presentation 1,000 words (25%)

[Introduction to] Syriac (Dr Gillian Greenberg)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7416 – credit value 1.0 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG083 – 30 credits
Description: The course will include a comprehensive introduction to Syriac grammar and syntax and study of a wide range of texts including passages from the Peshitta, the Syriac translation of the Hebrew Bible and of the New Testament; commentary from the period of

the Church Fathers and from secular texts.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 3 tests during the course of year) (100%)
Graduate: 1 exam (100%)

Hasidism and Modernity (Dr Tali Loewenthal)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7812 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7812A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7812B – credit 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG026
Credit value: 1.0

Description: Hasidism began in the 18th century with a spiritual, inclusivist ethos, which could be characterized as controversially 'post-modern', breaking hierarchical borders in Jewish society. In the increasingly secular and religiously politicized modern world of the 19th and 20th centuries, would the spiritual teachings survive? Would the inclusivism survive? This text-based course investigates the variety of Hasidic views on topics such as rationalism, individualism, defectors from Judaism, the relationship between Jew and Gentile and the role of women in Hasidic life.

Duration: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (70%), 2 essays (2,500-3,000 words each) (30%)
First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5,000 words)
Graduate: 1 exam (50%), 1 essay (4,500 words) (50%)

Prerequisite: Knowledge of Hebrew

Moses Maimonides in Jewish Thought and History (Dr Tali Loewenthal)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7216 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7216A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7216B – credit 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG216 – 30 credits

Description: Hasidism began in the 18th century with a spiritual, inclusivist ethos, which could be characterized as controversially 'post-modern', breaking hierarchical borders in Jewish society. In the increasingly secular and religiously politicized modern world of the 19th and 20th centuries, would the spiritual teachings survive? Would the inclusivism survive? This text-based course investigates the variety of Hasidic views on topics such as rationalism, individualism, defectors from Judaism, the relationship between Jew and Gentile and the role of women in Hasidic life.

Duration: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (35%), 2 essays (2,500 words each) (65%)
First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (3,000 words)
Graduate: 2 essays (4,500 words each) (100%)

Prerequisite: Knowledge of Hebrew

Judaism and the Origins of Christianity (Prof Sacha Stern)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7769 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7759A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7759B – credit 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG069 – 30 credits

Description: In the past decades, increasing recognition has been given to the Jewish origins of Christianity and the Jewish context in which Christianity was formed. The scope and implications of this topic are wide. This course will restrict itself to the following, specific objectives: Firstly, to assess the nature of Judaism and Jewish life in the period when

Christianity arose. This will involve the study of various Jewish groups that were active in this period, such as Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, as well as the study of post-Biblical Jewish literature including the Dead Sea scrolls. Students will gain an appreciation of the complexity of Judaism and its importance in ancient society. Secondly, to assess the nature of early Christianity in relation to Judaism, and to discuss whether, when, and how, Christianity 'parted ways' from Judaism. Particular attention will be given to Jesus, Paul, and their successors' attitudes to the Jewish people, Jewish law, and Judaism. Thirdly, to consider Jewish-Christian relations, Christian attitudes to Judaism, and Jewish attitudes to Christianity, in the first few centuries of the Common Era.
Admission to this course is open to students of all backgrounds and disciplines. All texts will be studied in translation.

Duration: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (50%), 2 essays (3,000 words each) (50%)
First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5,000 words)
Graduate: 1 exam (50%), 2 essays (4,000 words each) (50%)

Representations of Trauma: Holocaust Writing (Dr Tsila Ratner)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7755A – credit value 0.5 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7755A – credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG038A – 15 credits

Description: The course will present a variety of Holocaust writing from different perspectives. Literary and non-literary writing from Jewish, and non-Jewish points of view. The course will cover survivors' testimonies and memoirs as well as writing by the second generation of survivors and contemporary writers. It will provide a wide scope of responses to the Holocaust as the formative experience of contemporary Western culture.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate:** 2 essays (2,000 words each) (50% each)
First or Second term JYA: 2 essays (2,000 words each) (50% each)
Graduate: 2 essays (50% each)

Rattling the Gender Agenda (Dr Tsila Ratner)

Undergraduate and JYA code: HEBR7310 – credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG039 – 15 credits

Description: Gender and feminism as critical categories for the exploration of social and cultural power structures have emerged in Israel only in the eighties. A testament to this late arrival of feminist awareness is the Hebrew word for gender to differentiate from sex, מיגדר, was coined only in the mid nineties by a group of women academics.

The position of women has been the subject of Jewish/Israeli women writers since the emergence of Modern Hebrew literature in the 19th century. Although marginalized by the literary canon until the eighties, women writers voiced their defiance in various ways. Whether located in a traditional or secular social context, pre-state or the present, in Israel or the Diaspora, women's writing has provided sharp critique and insights into women's lives and the social order that governs them. The mutual feeding of feminist scholarship, literature and politics since the mid eighties has led to an increasing volume of influential literary production whose impact has spread beyond the literary scene.

Israeli feminists like their counterparts elsewhere analyze, expose and challenge the mechanisms of political/social powers. In addition to these global objectives Israeli feminists

face particular struggles when they challenge gender bias and inequality in the initial, pre-state claim for women equality, amidst war threats, heightened militarism and deepening religiousness.

The course will look at Israeli women's writing from a feminist perspective and will focus on the following topics corresponding to the social/political intersections mentioned above:

- Writing woman / Writing the body
- The position of women in the family
- Women's coming of age (*Bildungsroman*) narratives
- Voices of orthodox women
- National women
- Rewriting the national
- Women and the Arab/Israeli conflict

Duration of course: 1st Term
Means of assessment: 1 exam (50%); 2 essays (2,500 words each) (50%)
Prerequisite: Adequate knowledge of Modern Hebrew

European Jewry and the Holocaust (Prof Michael Berkowitz)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7711 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7711A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7711B – credit 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG031 – 30 credits

Description: This course investigates the history of the systematic mass murder of Europe's Jews during World War II commonly known as the Holocaust. The main questions with which we shall be concerned are: how was it possible for a modern state to initiate and carry out the destruction of European Jewry? How did the Jews actually live in Eastern and Western Europe prior to the attempt to annihilate them? How might one characterize the Jews' experiences of life and death in the Holocaust? How did the policies and actions toward the Jews fit into the context of the history of the Second World War? How does the Holocaust fit into German history and historiography? How did Nazi racism affect other European communities? What does the Holocaust mean for the persistence of Jewish life in Europe?

The cultural underpinnings of Hitler's Germany, and the aspects of the western world that assisted, acquiesced, or opposed the "Final Solution" will be emphasized. Special attention will be devoted to the intersection of culture and politics, as it relates to European Jewish history, Nazi antisemitism, and how media has been used to transmit and modify the legacy of the Holocaust.

Although the process of destruction is at the center of this course, in order to put this into context it is essential to explore more general developments in German history, European history, and Jewish history. In other words, the course will not exclusively be focused on the horrors of mass shootings, extermination and concentration camps. We also will delve into various historiographic controversies in order to see how scholars have sought to understand the Holocaust.

The main purpose of the course is to provide a narrative of the principle circumstances and events leading to and comprising the Holocaust, and to have students think more analytically, critically, and historically about the Jewish people and the conditions that made possible the Holocaust.

Important historical background will be provided in evening lectures held under the auspices of the Institute for Jewish Studies, which students are expected to attend.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term
Means of assessment: **Undergraduate:** 1 exam (70%), 2 essays (2,500 words each) (30%)
First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5-6,000 words)

Graduate: 1 exam (80%), 1 essay (20%)

The Jews of Iberia and the Sephardi Diaspora (Dr Hilary Pomeroy)

Undergraduate and First term JYA code: HEBR7731 – credit value 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG106 - 15 credits
Description: An analysis of the cultural history of the Jews living in Muslim and Christian Spain, the Ottoman Empire and North Africa, in particular Morocco, encompassing various aspects of Sephardi culture (language, oral and written literature, visual arts, music, food and identity, etc). The course will examine the historical, economic and social factors that shaped Sephardi culture.

Duration of course: 1st term

Means of Assessment: **Undergraduate and Second term JYA:** 2 essays (one of 1,500 words and one of 2,000 words)
Graduate: 1 essay (5-6,000 words) (100%)

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*Jews of Central Europe: Histories, Entanglements, Transformations (Dr Lars Fischer)

Undergraduate code: HEBR7734 – credit value 1.0
First term JYA code: HEBR7734A – credit value 0.5
Graduate code: HEBRG012 – 30 credits
Description: This course will chart the development of Jewish life in central Europe from the medieval period to the present, focusing especially on Jews' interaction with their non-Jewish environment and the diverse ways in which Jewish life has been transformed in different settings.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate:** 2 essays (50%) (2,000 words), 1 essay (4,000 words) (50%)
First term JYA: 1 essay (5,000-words) (100%)
Graduate: 2 essays (100%) (4,000 words)

Anglo-Israeli Relations: 1948-2006 (Prof Neill Lochery)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7761 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7761A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7761B – credit 0.5cu
Graduate code: HEBRG104 – 30 credits
Description: The course will examine the relationship between the United Kingdom and Israel from 1i948 until the present. It will focus on the key issues that determined the relationship such as arms sales from the UK to Israel, UK diplomatic policy towards the Arab-Israelis conflict and in recent years the Middle East Peace Processes. The course will examine in detail the collusion between Israel and the UK during the Suez War of 1956. It will also examine the key relationship between the Foreign Office in Whitehall and Israel. The course will adopt a chronological approach – examining the key events and issues that impacted upon the relationship over time. The first session will cover the origins of the relationship, which went a long way to shaping the initial years of the relationship.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (70%), 2 essays (30%) (2,500-3,000 words each)
First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5,000 words)
Graduate: 1 exam (80%), 1 essay (20%)

The Arab-Israeli Conflict (Prof Neill Lochery)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7750 – credit value 1.0 cu
First term JYA code: HEBR7750A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7750B – credit 0.5cu
Graduate code: HEBRG009 – 30 credits

Description: The subject introduction adopts a chronological approach to the study of the Arab-Israeli conflict from its origins at the start of the 20th century through to the peace process of recent decades. It aims to provide an in-depth historical analysis of the complex development of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and assess its interaction with Arab and Israeli domestic politics. In specific terms, it introduces students to the main secondary literature and primary documentation on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Duration of course: 1st and 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (70%), 2 essays (30%) (2,500-3,000 words each)
First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5,000 words)
Graduate: 1 exam (80%), 1 essay (20%)

Israel and the Occupied Territories (Dr Ronald Ranta)

Undergraduate and First Term JYA code: HEBR7766 – credit 0.5 cu
Graduate code: HEBRG128 – 15 credits

Description: The course will cover Israel's complex relationship with the Occupied Territories. This will include the impact of the Occupied Territories on Israeli society and the political system. The course will detail the changes that occurred to Israel's Civil-Military relations, Israel's religious-Secular political problem, Israel-US relations and Israel's political party system as a result of Israel's relations with the Occupied Territories.

Duration of course: 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and First Term JYA:** 2 essays (1 essay 20% 1,500 words; 1 essay 80% (3-4,000 words)
Graduate: 2 essays (1 essay 20% 1,500 words; 1 essay 80% 5,000 words)

Undergraduate Final Year Dissertation

Undergraduate code: HEBR4901- credit value 1.0 cu

Description: Study of an approved topic, based on independent research, presented in no less than 7,500 and no more than 10,000 words (including bibliography and notes). Students are expected to work closely with a member of staff to formulate and research their topic. The topic must be approved by the student's supervisor and Personal Tutor.

COURSE BELOW FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY

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*MA Core Course (convenor: Dr Willem Smelik)

Graduate code: HEBRG333 – 30 credits

Description: This course offers a combination of in-depth reflection on the varied disciplinary roots of the field of Jewish Studies such as History, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Literature, Linguistics, area studies (Israel Studies, Eastern European Studies, Sephardi Studies), Cultural Studies, Holocaust Studies, Political Sciences. It will reflect on the impact of these disciplines on Jewish Studies, on the development of the discipline itself,

as well as on current debates and developments. It will put the emphasis on questions of theory and methodology, including discussions of ongoing methodological innovations e.g. in Digital Humanities. These disciplinary perspectives will be supplemented by classes preparing for professional academic activities like publishing and editing, public presentations, and academic institutions and associations.

Means of assessment: **Six varied assignments:**
Assignment 1 – 10% - 500 words
Assignment 2 – 20% - 1500 words
Assignment 3 – 20% - 25 min
Examination (3 hours) – 50%

Graduate Seminar - Introduction to Holocaust Studies (Prof Michael Berkowitz)

Graduate code: HEBRG030 – 30 credits
Description: The course will examine the Holocaust in historical context. Issues to be explored will include the concept of a holocaust, debates over the uniqueness of the Jewish Holocaust and major issues in Holocaust historiography.
Means of assessment: 1 seminar paper of 10,000 words

COURSES BELOW: RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES OFFERED BY KING'S COLLEGE AVAILABLE TO UCL STUDENTS

6AAT3040 Hebrew Texts: Prose

Credit value: 15
Module tutor: Dr Jonathan Stökl
Assessment: One 3,000-word essay (40%) and one two-hour examination in the summer term (Period II) (60%)
Teaching pattern: Two-hour weekly classes over ten weeks.
Pre-requisites: Basic biblical Hebrew

Students will be expected to prepare in advance a translation of a selected portion of the text. Sessions will then be based largely on translation and discussion of the text, and will consider questions of grammar and syntax as well as exegetical issues arising from the text. The set text for this module will be announced at the beginning of the academic year.

6AAT3041 Hebrew Texts: Poetry

Credit value: 15
Module tutor: Dr Jonathan Stökl
Assessment: One 3,000-word essay (40%) and one two-hour examination in the summer term (Period II) (60%)
Teaching pattern: Two-hour weekly classes over ten weeks.
Pre-requisites: Basic biblical Hebrew

Students will be expected to prepare in advance a translation of a selected portion of the text. Sessions will then be based largely on translation and discussion of the text, and will consider questions of grammar and syntax as well as exegetical issues arising from the text. The set text for this module will be announced at the beginning of the academic year.

This module complements 6AAT3040 Hebrew Texts: Prose

6AAT3052 European Jews and the 'Orient'

Credit value: 15
Module tutor: Dr Andrea Schatz
Assessment: One 2,500-word essay (30%); one 3,500-word essay (60%), and one oral presentation (10%)
Teaching pattern: Two-hour weekly classes over ten weeks
Availability: 20 places are available on a first come first served basis. **Pre-requisites:** none

With the emergence of colonialism and the European Enlightenment, “Europe” and the “Orient” were increasingly seen as two spheres, which, although interconnected, stood in complete opposition to each other. What did this mean for European Jews? On the one hand they had lived in Europe for centuries, on the other hand they were now depicted as “Orientals”, and, to make things even more complex, their diaspora networks spread across both “Europe” and the “Orient”. European Jews responded to the powerful idea of a “Jewish Orient” in many different ways, and their responses had a profound impact on how they understood their presence in Europe, their history and future as a nation (Zionism), and their religious commitments. In this module, we will ask:

- What is a diaspora?
- What is “Orientalism”?
- How did the notions of “Europe” and the “Orient” emerge, and how did European Jews take them up and transform them to define their place among European nation states and in the Jewish diaspora?
- How do Jews and the “Orient” figure in new approaches to Religious Studies in a post-secular world?

In the course of the term, we will be particularly attentive to the important role of British authors in negotiations on the meanings of “East” and “West” in Jewish and global contexts.

Primary sources (political, theoretical and literary texts), secondary literature, visual material and short lectures will form the basis of class discussions. Essays will allow students to systematically develop their writing skills; marked essays will be returned with comments and discussed in individual tutorials.

Sample topics

- Introduction: Identity & Diaspora
- The Enlightenment and the “Orient”
- Orientalising Judaism
- Disorienting Europe

- Orientalism
- East and West in London
- Jews and the “Orient” in Religious Studies
- Diasporas I: Egypt – India – Cambridge
- Diasporas II: Between Iraq, Israel, and New York

Preliminary Reading

Efron, John et al., *The Jews: A History*, 1st ed. 2009; 2nd ed. 2013 (in Maughan). Any chapter you find interesting will be useful.