COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2017/18
HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
HEBR1005 (UG)/HEBRG045 (PG)/ HEBR1005A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Ms Sonja Noll
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate – 1 term)

Description:
Introduction to Biblical Hebrew is designed to familiarise complete beginners with biblical Hebrew language and literature in a lively and enjoyable manner. We use a textbook that includes fun stories, authentic biblical texts, vocabulary and grammar help, and many on-line learning aids, including audio.

By the end of the year you will have acquired a solid grounding in biblical Hebrew grammar and vocabulary and will have read an extensive range of fascinating biblical narratives, starting with the creation story and including some of the best-known biblical stories such as the flood, the tower of Babel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the exodus from Egypt, Samuel and David, King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, Job, and more.

Assessment: HEBR1005
EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 40%
CW Coursework 60%

Assessment: HEBRG045
EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 50%
CW Coursework 50%

Assessment: HEBR1005A
CW Coursework 50%
TEST One test 50%

Modern Hebrew for Beginners
HEBR1006 (UG)/HEBRG145 (PG)/ HEBR1006A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Mrs Shosh Sharpe
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate – 1 term)

Description:
Modern Hebrew is the language spoken in Israel today. This course is designed for students with no prior knowledge of the language.

Students will learn the Hebrew alphabet; they will learn to speak, listen, read and write. Basic vocabulary on a range of topics (e.g. home, family, daily activities, shops, classroom) will be rapidly acquired. Students will learn basic syntax and Hebrew grammar, including all three tenses of different verbs.

Teaching will be carried out mainly in Hebrew. The textbook used will be ‘Hebrew from Scratch’ (part 1). Students will be encouraged to use the facilities of the UCL Language Centre. At the end of the course, students will be able to communicate in Hebrew about everyday matters.

Assessment: HEBR1006
EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 35%
CW Coursework 45%
ORAL Orally assessed coursework 5%
ORAL Oral examination 15%
**Religion, State & Society in Modern European History**

**HEBR1007 (UG)**

**Lecturer:** Dr Francois Guesnet

**Credit value:** 0.5

**Description:**

How did the relationship between faith communities (Christianity, Islam, and Judaism), the state, and society at large change in European history since the early modern period? This course proposes to look into this dynamic from the Protestant Reformation to the rise of so-called Islamic State very recently.

We will reflect on:
- changes in the role of religion itself
- confessional conflict and religious warfare
- secularisation, the Enlightenment, atheism
- the separation of faith communities and the state, as well as the establishment of religions
- the definition of religious fundamentalisms
- the impact of religious law (minority legal orders) on European legal systems
- the impact of religious commitment to political transformation
- the accommodation of religious diversity today, e.g. in education

The course combines an overall historical perspective with theoretical approaches including social sciences, (legal) philosophy, and anthropology. It should contribute to a critical and empathetic understanding of the complex European religious and secular legacies. It stimulates debate about past and current developments, integrating theoretical approaches and case studies. All readings provided will be in English, and no prior knowledge of the field is required.

**Assessment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Essay one (2,000 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Essay two (2,000 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAL</td>
<td>Presentation (10 minutes)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources, Methods, Skills**

**HEBR1008 (UG)**

**Lecturer:** Dr Seth Anziska

**Credit value:** 0.5

**Description:**

How can we approach Hebrew and Jewish Studies? What does it mean to study this topic as a critical thinker? 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 method, literary criticism, the learning of languages, and the analysis of visual materials including film. We will hone skills for undertaking written assignments as well as oral presentations, explore library resources and the appropriate use of the internet and online resources, and examine the ongoing transformation of academic research through digital humanities.
The class will be structured around discussions of selected primary source materials and secondary reading, as well as developing methodological approaches and assessing requirements in the above-mentioned disciplines. Students will gain familiarity and exposure to undergraduate level research and writing in Hebrew and Jewish Studies while broadly sharpening their critical faculties across the humanities and social sciences. We will also consider why this undertaking matters so much in our 21st century world.

Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CW</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>(1,500 words)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>two</td>
<td>(1,500 words)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>works</td>
<td>(600 words each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Short Story and Novella in Yiddish (from Mendele to the present)

**HEBR4501 (UG)/HEBRG120 (PG)/HEBR4501A or B (Affiliate)**

Lecturer: Dr Helen Beer
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate – 1 term)

An exploration of modern Yiddish literature through the medium of the Yiddish Short Story and Novella. Some fascinating stories will be studied through a prism of tradition and modernity. The content and style of the stories will be considered within cultural and historical contexts, both Jewish and non-Jewish. We will consider whether Yiddish short stories mirror the times and places of their creation.

Both well-known and lesser-known authors will be studied. Texts will be in Yiddish.

Some of the authors are: Ayzik Meir Dik, Mendele Mokher Sforim, Sholem Aleichem, I.L. Peretz, Avrom Reisen, I.J. Singer, Dovid Bergelson, Yosl Birshteyn and some surprises!

Students need to have completed Elementary Yiddish or equivalent. Classes are conducted in Yiddish.

***An opportunity to deepen an understanding of Yiddish literature and improve your Yiddish vocabulary and comprehension.
***Discover some lesser-known Yiddish authors.

Assessment: HEBR4501

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Unseen three-hour written examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>1 essay of 2,500-3,000 words</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pieces of coursework</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment: HEBRG120

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Unseen three-hour written examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>2 essays (2,500 words each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Two pieces of coursework (1,000 words each)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment: HEBR4501A/B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CW</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Three coursework essays</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Coursework (one essay 1,500-2,000 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey of Jewish History 2: From Medieval to Early Modern Europe

**HEBR5772 (UG)**

Lecturer: Prof Michael Berkowitz
Credit value: 0.5

A great deal of what we take for granted as essentially "Jewish" derives from what historians call "the medieval" and "the early modern" periods—overall, the era leading to Jewish Emancipation. In that time it became meaningful to think and speak about European Jewry as a distinct entity. Jewish communities
within formative nations, such as Poland, Lithuania, Spain and Portugal, and the German States, developed particular trends and counter-trends. Our main concern will be the ways that Jews, as a people and community of faith, attempted to adjust to changing times and conditions. Jews repeatedly confronted the dilemma of how to respond to unprecedented situations. Among the topics to be considered are:

--characteristics of Ashkenazi vs Sephardi worlds
--features of Jewish economic life: Jews in the market
--Rashi—the great explainer
--the Crusades and aftereffects
--the Western Church and the Jews, for better and for worse
--the Inquisition
--disputations--articulating differences and bases for cohesion
--the "Blood Libel": imagining evil-doing in England and continental Europe
--myths and realities of the Black Death
--expulsions and emigration
--Venice and pawnbroking
--Jewish decline and renewal in Muslim lands
--Conversos: Spain, Portugal, and the New World
--Resettlement in England
--mysticism: Shabbatai Zvi, the mystical messiah
--Messianic successors: Frankism and Donmeh
--Hasidism and its opponents
--women and Jewish prayer
--Spinoza and biblical criticism
--the Enlightenment and Haskalah
--Jews and bandits: on the other side of the law
--Court Jews: background to the emergence of Moses Mendelssohn.

This is an introductory course that does not assume any previous experience with the subject.

Assessment: HEBR5772
CW Essay 1 (1,500 words) 40%
CW Essay 2 (2,000 words) 60%

Survey of Jewish History 3: The Modern World
HEBR5773 (UG)

Lecturer: Prof Michael Berkowitz
Credit value: 0.5

Few chapters in all of history are as dramatic—both tragic and spectacular—as modern Jewish history. The apparent success of Jewish emancipation was challenged by popular and religious non-Jewish opposition, and efforts among Jews to control or turn back such changes. No matter what, Judaism and Jews did not stand still. Antisemitism gained traction as reactionary utopia, along with the persistence of traditional prejudice and discrimination. Against this background there arose a variety of Jewish ideologies, including:

--modern Orthodoxy
--Reform Judaism
--Zionism
--territorialism
--variants of socialism
--"ultra" orthodoxies
--national extremism
In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Jewish life changed radically, and European Jewry came close to being totally wiped out in the Holocaust. Since the late eighteenth century Jews had sought new ways to think about and live in the modern world. Numerous individuals 'of Jewish origins' took the lead in attempting to understand the changes wrought by modernity—including:

--Karl Marx
--Sigmund Freud
--Theodor Herzl
--Bertha Pappenheimer
--Emma Goldman
--Hannah Arendt
--Walter Benjamin
--Susan Sontag
--Philip Roth

Expressions of cultural interpretation and creativity including 'Jewish literature' and film will be featured in the course. This is an introductory course that does not assume any previous experience with the subject.

Assessment: HEBR5773
CW Essay 1 (1,500 words) 40%
CW Essay 2 (2,000 words) 60%

Introduction to the Study of Judaism
HEBR5774 (UG)

Lecturer: Prof Willem Smelik
Credit value: 0.5

What is Judaism? Since Judaism has a history spanning more than three millennia and all five continents, it inevitably means different things to different people. The academic study of Judaism tries to answer the question by focusing on Jewish practice, tradition, and history with a variety of perspectives:

–The definition of Judaism: is it a religion, culture, or ethnicity? Is it monolithic, essential, and static, or rather diverse, hybrid, and dynamic?
–What are the texts and practices that ‘define’ Judaism?
–What are the central concepts of rabbinic Judaism? How does rabbinic legal text and reasoning work?
–What are the places and shapes of Jewish worship?
–How do tradition and modernization make their mark felt in the history of Judaism, from Antiquity to the present day?
–How does Judaism interact with other religions?
–Which are the contemporary ways of connecting with the Jewish tradition?

This introductory course is open to first and second year students, and to affiliate students. No prior knowledge of either Judaism or any Jewish language is required.

Objectives:

–To have a grasp of the academic definitions of religion and ethnicity;
–To understand the basic texts, practices and tenets of traditional Judaism;
–To know the historical varieties of Judaism then and now.

Assessment: HEBR5774
CW Essay 1 (1,500 words) 40%
CW Essay 2 (2,000 words) 60%
Introduction to Israeli Society, Culture, and Politics
HEBR5775 (UG)

Lecturer: Dr Seth Anziska
Credit value: 0.5

Description:
How can we understand the history and reality of 21st century Israel? What forces have shaped the emergence of the state, and where might it be headed? To what extent is Palestinian society and identity a central element of Israeli life? Why has Israel played such a central role in modern Jewish history and politics, and how might it shift our understanding of the Middle East and the wider world?

This course offers a concise introduction to the major factors shaping contemporary Israeli society. It begins with an exploration of the political and cultural history of Zionism, the encounter between Arabs and Jews in Palestine, and the 1948 War. The course then traces internal Israeli cultural and political developments, Israel’s external conflict with the Arab world, and the most prominent features of Israeli society today.

Themes include:
- State formation
- Immigration and absorption
- Revival of Hebrew culture
- The Palestinian question
- Religious and ideological transformations
- The military, the economy, and social movements
- Israel’s place in the international arena.

Assessment: HEBR5775

| CW | Essay 1 (1,500 words) | 40% |
| CW | Essay 2 (2,000 words) | 60% |

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew
HEBR7003 (UG) / HEBRG047 (PG) / HEBR7003A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Dr Sonja Noll
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate – 1 term)
Prerequisite: Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

Description:
Intermediate Biblical Hebrew is a continuation of Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. We cover more advanced points of biblical Hebrew syntax, including the various uses of the definite article and the construct chain, the functions of the verbal forms, and the structure of different types of clauses. Students put this knowledge to use by translating biblical texts from Hebrew to English and from English to Hebrew with a focus on linguistic analysis. This practice finely hones students’ knowledge of Hebrew grammar, expands their vocabulary, and provides comprehensive experience in the close reading and translation of a wide range of biblical texts.

Some of the biblical texts likely to be studied include:
- Genesis 1 (the creation story)
- Exodus 20 (the Ten Commandments)
- Exodus 32 (the golden calf)
- Joshua 6 (the walls of Jericho)
- Judges 4 (Deborah and Jael)
• Ezekiel 37 (the vision of the dry bones)
Assessment: HEBR7003 EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 50%
              CW Coursework 50%
Assessment: HEBRG047 EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 50%
              CW Coursework 50%
Assessment: HEBR7003A CW One essay 50%
              TEST One test 50%

Biblical Aramaic
HEBR7402 (UG) / HEBRG073 (PG) / HEBR7402A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Prof Willem Smelik
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate – 1 term)
Prerequisite: One year of Biblical Hebrew

Aramaic is the oldest Semitic language that is still spoken today. Originating with semi-nomadic tribes of the late second millennium BCE, Aramaic was initially spoken in the areas of Syria and Jordan, but soon adopted throughout the Near East and beyond, by polytheists, Jews, Christians, Mandaeans and pre-Islamic Arab tribes from Nabatea to the Gulf. Together with Hebrew it developed into one of Judaism’s most important languages in the post-biblical period. The course will cover the following:

– Grammatical topics: nouns, pronouns, verbs and syntax;
– Biblical Aramaic Texts (Ezra 4 and 6; Daniel 2-7)
– A selection of Elephantine Papyri from the fifth century BCE (an ancient Jewish colony in Egypt)
– A selection of Qumran Aramaic documents may also be read at special request.

No prior knowledge of Aramaic is required, only basic knowledge of Hebrew is presupposed (the alphabet, the basic meaning of the conjugations). At the end of the course, students will be able to read the biblical Aramaic texts and Elephantine papyri independently with auxiliary tools and have a grasp of the contents of this literature.

Assessment: HEBR7216 EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 35%
              CW Two essays (2,500 words) 65%
Assessment: HEBRG216 CW Essay 1 (4,500 words) 50%
              CW Essay 2 (4,500 words) 50%
Assessment: HEBR7216A CW One essay (4,000 words) 100%

Modern Hebrew – Lower Intermediate
HEBR7302 (UG) / HEBRG017 (PG) / HEBR7302A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Mrs Shoshana Sharpe
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate – 1 term)
Prerequisite: Modern Hebrew for Beginners

Lower Intermediate Modern Hebrew will enable students to develop the following Modern Hebrew knowledge and skills:

• Fluent and more accurate use of vocabulary and basic grammatical structures.
• Expanded vocabulary, relevant to a range of everyday topics and situations.
• Ability to engage in more involved written and spoken communication, such as expressing and understanding feelings and opinions.
• Ability to read Israeli newspapers and literature.

This course is equivalent to Ulpan level 2. The textbook used will be ‘Hebrew from Scratch’ (part 2). Students will be expected to use a Hebrew/English English/Hebrew dictionary as well as verb tables. They will be encouraged to use the facilities of the UCL Language Centre.

Assessment: HEBR7302
- EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 35%
- CW Coursework 45%
- ORAL Orally assessed coursework 5%
- ORAL Oral Examination 15%

Assessment: HEBRG017
- EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 50%
- CW Coursework 40%
- ORAL Oral presentation 10%

Assessment: HEBR7302A
- CW One essay 50%
- TEST One test 50%

Modern Hebrew - Higher Intermediate
HEBR7303 (UG) / HEBRG048 (PG) / HEBR7303A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Mrs Shoshana Sharpe
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate – 1 term)
Prerequisite: Modern Hebrew - Lower Intermediate

Higher Intermediate Modern Hebrew will enable students to express themselves fluently in Modern Hebrew, as well as to read Israeli newspapers and literature. The following areas will be covered in the course:

• Reading comprehension
• Writing skills
• Conversation skills, through class discussions of a variety of topics
• Listening comprehension
• Modern Hebrew grammar, concentrating on the full range of Hebrew verbal forms

This course is equivalent to Ulpan level 3. The textbooks used will be ‘Succeed in Hebrew’ (Lehatzliach bevirit) part 3, and ‘Grammar Exercises – The Verb’ (Targiley Dikduk – Ha-Poal). Students will be expected to use a Hebrew/English English/Hebrew dictionary as well as verb tables. They will be encouraged to use the facilities of the UCL Language Centre.

Assessment: HEBR7303
- EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 35%
- CW Coursework 45%
- ORAL Orally assessed coursework 5%
- ORAL Oral Examination 15%

Assessment: HEBRG048
- EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 50%
- CW Coursework 50%

Assessment: HEBR7303A
- CW One essay 50%
Advanced Modern Hebrew
HEBR7304 (UG) / HEBRG036 (PG) / HEBR7304A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Mrs Shoshana Sharpe
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate – 1 term)
Prerequisite: Modern Hebrew - Higher Intermediate

Advanced Modern Hebrew will enable students to develop further their reading, writing and oral fluency and skills. The following areas will be covered in the course:

- Reading comprehension including newspapers, academic and non-academic texts.
- Writing skills.
- Class discussions of a variety of topics and extra-curricular sessions.
- Listening comprehension – students will listen to audio recordings and will watch Israeli television programmes, films and documentaries.

This course is equivalent to Ulpan level 4. The textbooks used will be ‘Ivrit me-Alef ad Tav’ level4/5, and ‘Tachbir le-Mitkadanim’. Students will be expected to use a Hebrew/English English/Hebrew dictionary as well as verb tables. They will be encouraged to use the facilities of the UCL Language Centre.

Assessment: HEBR7304

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>Unseen three-hour written examination</th>
<th>35%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ORAL</td>
<td>Orally assessed coursework</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ORAL</td>
<td>Oral Examination</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment: HEBRG036

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>EXAM</th>
<th>Unseen three-hour written examination</th>
<th>50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment: HEBR7304A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>CW</th>
<th>One essay</th>
<th>50%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TEST</td>
<td>One test</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

War and Dissent in Israeli Literature
HEBR7320 (UG) / HEBRG100 (PG)

Lecturer: Dr Tsila Ratner
Credit value: 0.5

The history of Israel is marked by continuous wars which shaped the Israeli psyche. Hebrew writers were always at the centre of the historical events: they shaped the discourse of the nation and its identity. They have been engaged in the ethical and political debates that dominate the public agenda in Israel, especially with regards to wars and their human and moral consequences.

The course will follow literary responses to wars throughout Israel’s history. Writings by Israeli writers such as S. Yizhar, Y. Amichai, A. Oz, A.B. Yehoshua, D. Grossman, Orly Castel-Blum, D. Ravikovitch, R. Leshem, will be discussed in their historical and political contexts.

Throughout the course we will concentrate on the following topics and questions:
• Reflections of attitudes towards war in Hebrew literature.
• What changes in the Israeli public discourse are recorded in literary works and how.
• How, and if, literature reconciles the inevitable tensions between national commitment and individual dissent.

Literary texts and critical sources will be read in translation. Background knowledge of Hebrew is not a prerequisite.

Assessment: HEBR7320
CW Essay 1 (2,000 words) 50%
CW Essay 2 (2,000 words) 50%

Assessment: HEBRG100
CW One essay (4,500 words) 100%

Introduction to Syriac
HEBR7416 (UG) / HEBRG083 (PG) / HEBR7416A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Gillian Greenberg
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)
Prerequisite: One year of Biblical Hebrew

Syriac is important for both Jews and Christians. It is the Aramaic dialect originating in Edessa (today’s Urfa, in SE Turkey).

Judaism: early in the CE the Hebrew Bible was translated into Syriac. This Version, the Peshitta (Simple) was probably begun by Jews, completed by Jewish converts to Christianity. It is close to the Hebrew Bible, though there are some interesting discrepancies, possibly due to differences between that text and the translators’ manuscripts.

Christianity: Syriac was the medium by which Christianity spread over Mesopotamia and the Iranian plateau. Early in the CE Syriac became the standard language among Eastern Rite Christian Assyrians. It is still used in the Syriac Orthodox Church and certain other communities, members of whose diasporas are spread world-wide.

We study grammar, and a wide range of literature, secular and biblical texts, and writings of the Church Fathers.

Knowledge of other Semitic languages is helpful but not essential.

Assessment: HEBR7416
TEST Three departmental tests (each worth 33.3%) 100%

Assessment: HEBRG083
EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 100%

Assessment: HEBR7416A
CW Coursework 50%
TEST Test 50%

Elementary Yiddish
HEBR7504 (UG) / HEBRG016 (PG) / HEBR7504A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Dr Helen Beer
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)
Learn to speak, read, write and understand Yiddish quicker than you can imagine!
The course is for complete beginners.
Yiddish was the vernacular language of East-European Jews (Ashkenazim) and spoken by the majority of Jews prior to the Second World War. It is a Germanic language with significant Hebrew and Slavic components and with a vast literature.

Each class incorporates grammar and new vocabulary linked to a variety of topics and readings. Texts will include simple dialogues and extracts from Yiddish folk culture as well as short easy literary pieces. Conversation practice is a feature of each class.

*** UCL is the only university in London where Yiddish is taught.
*** A chance to engage with this rich culture and its fascinating history.

Assessment: HEBR7504

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAM</td>
<td>Unseen three-hour written examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAL</td>
<td>Orally assessed coursework</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAL</td>
<td>Oral Examination</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment: HEBRG016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAM</td>
<td>Unseen three-hour written examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAL</td>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment: HEBR7504A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>One essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEST</td>
<td>One test</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intermediate Yiddish
HEBR7505 (UG) / HEBRG015 (PG) / HEBR7505A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Dr Helen Beer
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)
Prerequisite: Elementary Yiddish

For those who have completed Elementary Yiddish or equivalent, this is an opportunity to further develop your skills in Yiddish. Each class includes grammar, conversation and textual study. The focus is on expanding abilities to speak, comprehend, read and write. Classes are conducted in Yiddish.

Students will engage with topical issues enhanced by Yiddish newspaper and journal articles. Readings will also introduce the rich field of Yiddish literature by engaging with modern poetry and short stories in Yiddish. Some texts will focus on Yiddish folk culture.

An opportunity to expand skills enabling a deeper exploration of the cultural history of this fascinating language.

Assessment: HEBR7505

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAM</td>
<td>Unseen three-hour written examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CW</td>
<td>1 Written coursework/problem paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAL</td>
<td>Orally assessed coursework</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORAL</td>
<td>Oral Examination</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment: HEBRG015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAM</td>
<td>Unseen three-hour written examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction to Ugaritic
HEBR7603 (UG) / HEBRG050 (PG) / HEBR7603A (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Dr Lily Kahn
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)
Prerequisite: One year of Biblical Hebrew or Akkadian

Ugaritic is an ancient Semitic language written in its own distinctive alphabetic cuneiform script. It is the closest linguistic relative of Biblical Hebrew and the oldest documented Northwest Semitic language. It is the language of a number of fascinating mythological epics featuring Canaanite gods such as El, Baal, and Anat, many of whom are familiar to us from their appearances in the Hebrew Bible.

The study of Ugaritic language and literature is therefore invaluable for anyone who would like to gain a unique insight into the early history of Hebrew, the literary and cultural context of the Hebrew Bible, or the development of Semitic languages. On this course you will learn to read the Ugaritic alphabet, gain a good understanding of the language’s grammatical features, and read a wide range of Ugaritic texts in the original. You will also become familiar with the relationship between Ugaritic, Biblical Hebrew, and other ancient Semitic languages.

Assessment: HEBR7603
EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 50%
CW Two essays (1,500 words each) 50%

Assessment: HEBRG050
EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 50%
CW Coursework 50%

Assessment: HEBR7603A
CW Coursework 50%
TEST Departmentally organised test 50%

European Jewry and the Holocaust
HEBR7711 (UG) / HEBRG031 (PG) / HEBR7711A/B (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Prof. Michael Berkowitz
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)

The persecution and systematic mass murder of Europe's Jews during World War II, the Holocaust, is ever-present in contemporary political debates and modern consciousness in the most general sense. Key questions to be addressed include:
--How was it possible for a modern state to initiate and carry out the destruction of European Jewry?
--What comprised the Jews' experiences of life and death in the Holocaust?
--How did the policies toward the Jews fit into the context of Jewish history, German history, and the history of the Second World War?

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 racism, and how media has been used to transmit and modify the legacy of the Holocaust.

The central 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.

Assessment: HEBR7711  |  EXAM  | Unseen three-hour written examination | 70%
                    |  CW    | 3 Coursework Essays                 | 30%

Assessment: HEBRG031  |  EXAM  | Unseen three-hour written examination | 80%
                    |  CW    | Coursework                         | 20%

Assessment: HEBR7711A/B |  CW    | One essay (5,000-6,000 words) | 100%

Metropolitan Life: Jews and the City
HEBR7752 (UG) / HEBRG142 (PG)

Lecturer: Dr Francois Guesnet
Credit value: 0.5

While Jews had lived in urban environments for centuries, capital cities had often been off-limits for them. These and other cities became metropolises in the course of the 19th century, which means places which were home to highly diverse communities, new challenges to organise life, but also new opportunities to succeed.

This course looks at the first modern Jewish metropolis, Warsaw, and compares the transformation of Jewish culture and society here, as well as in London and New York City, but also with Tel Aviv, as the first almost exclusively Jewish metropolis.

It retraces changes in

- communal self-organisation
- metropolitan culture (food!)
- religious spaces in the metropolis
- education
- social policy
- jobs and the economy (ethnic economic networks)
- gender
- the nostalgia for the ‘old country’

We will understand the complex dialectics of the ‘big place’ better: often understood as the space of modernisation, metropolises also offered opportunities to come together in seclusion and the maintenance of religious traditions.

The course combines historical, sociological and anthropological readings, and encourages student presentations and discussion. All readings provided will be in English, and no prior knowledge of the field is required.

Assessment: HEBR7711  |  EXAM  | Unseen three-hour written examination | 70%
                    |  CW    | 3 Coursework Essays                 | 30%

Assessment: HEBRG006  |  EXAM  | Unseen three-hour written examination | 80%
                    |  CW    | One essay                           | 20%
The Arab-Israeli Conflict
HEBR7750A & HEBR7750B (UG) / HEBRG009 (PG) / HEBRG7750A or B (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Prof Neill Lochery
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)

The Arab-Israeli dispute has proven to be one of the most intractable conflicts of modern times. With the potential for the Arab-Israeli Wars to develop into international ones, it is vital to understand why the various wars started and why diplomacy has failed to resolve the conflict.

The course employs a three-dimensional approach to understanding the conflict from its origins in 1880 to the present day. It looks at the key developments in:

- The Zionist/Israeli arena
- The Arab world with special reference to the Palestinians
- The international powers of the day

The main concept of the course is that it is vital in order to fully understand the conflict to study all three areas and how they impact upon one another. Students are encouraged to adopt this three-dimensional approach and are introduced to the key Israeli, Arab and international scholarship on these areas.

No prior knowledge of the Arab-Israeli Conflict is required. Students are encouraged to read one of the recommended general histories of the Middle East prior to starting the course.

Assessment: HEBR7750A/B CW One essay (5,000 words) 100%
Assessment: HEBRG009 EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 80%
CW Coursework 20%

Maimonides in Jewish Thought and History
HEBR7216 (UG) / HEBRG216 (PG) / HEBR7216 A or B (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Dr Tali Loewenthal
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)

Have you heard of Moses Maimonides (1135-1204)? He is one of the most famous but also paradoxical figures in Jewish thought and history. We explore his main works using English translations. No prior knowledge is needed.

Who was the real Maimonides? The author of Mishneh Torah (‘Repetition of the Law’) which is the most complete and organised encyclopedia of Jewish Law ever written? Or the author of Guide for the Perplexed which encourages a philosophical approach to Judaism and life? Further, why do contrasting Jewish movements through the ages all claim his as their own, such as, in our own time, both Reform and Habad?

The course will include:

- the way he combined Law and Philosophic quest in a unique way
- his response to the crisis of widespread forced conversion to Islam
- his ‘Thirteen Principles of Jewish Faith’
- the controversies about him
- his Guide for the Perplexed. Is it teaching cold rationalism or intense love of the Divine?
- his universalism, speaking to both Jew and non-Jew

This course helps one understand what Judaism is about, as seen through the eyes of one of its most remarkable exponents.
NEW: US-Israeli Relations from 1948 to the Present Day
HEBR7772 (UG) / HEBRG222 (PG) / HEBR7772 A/B (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Prof Neill Lochery
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)

From Truman to Trump, and from Ben-Gurion to Netanyahu, US-Israeli Relations have not been as easy or straight forward as the tag of ‘special relationship’ implies. The important bi-lateral relationship has been at the centre of the development of Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. The course encourages students to develop a critical understanding of this complex relationship and its close connection to the domestic politics and influences in Israel and the United States. Key areas covered include:

- The US and the birth of Israel in 1948
- President and the Suez War in 1956
- The US and the Six Day War in 1967
- The politics of the US arms lift to Israel during the 1973 Arab-Israeli War
- US and Israel in peacemaking during the 1970’s and 1980’s
- The failure of US mediation efforts in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Students are introduced to the key American, Israeli and international scholarship on these areas. They also look at important primary documentation related to the bi-lateral relationship.

No prior knowledge of Israeli or American history is required, but students are encouraged to read one of the recommended background histories of US-Israeli relations prior to starting the course.

Assessment: HEBR7761
EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 70%
CW Two essays (2,500-3,000 words each) 30%

Assessment: HEBRG104
EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 80%
CW One essay (5,000 words) 20%

Assessment: HEBR7761A/B
CW One essay (5,000 words) 100%

Jewish-Muslim Relations in Historical Perspective
HEBR7771 (UG) / HEBRG221 (PG) / HEBR7771A/B (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Dr Seth Anziska
Credit value: 1.0 (0.5 Affiliate)

Jews and Muslims have lived alongside one another since the rise of Islam in the seventh century until today, along a rich spectrum of interaction, cohabitation, and conflict. How did they get along? What brought these communities together and what challenges animated their relationship? Against the
backdrop of early encounters, this course focuses on the history of Jewish-Muslim relations in the 19th and 20th century Middle East, concluding with contemporary relations in Europe and farther afield.

By focusing on a range of perspectives, including intellectual and religious life, social and cultural exchange, politics, nationalism, and language, the course traces the emergence of distinct and overlapping identities from the late Ottoman Empire through the rise of nation-states in the Middle East and adjacent regions. Alongside the everyday experience of inter-communal living, as seen through the lens of primary sources in translation (including sacred texts, poetry, fiction, letters, film, and memoirs), the course explores the impact of Zionism and the Arab-Israeli conflict on questions of identity, memory, and the complex relationship between these groups.

The course also focuses on historiography: specifically, the different ways in which varying accounts of communal relations have been understood and written in scholarship and received by the wider public. What is at stake in the study of Jewish-Muslim Relations?

Assessment:
HEBR7771 EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 35%
CW Two essays (2,000 words each) 65%

Assessment:
HEBRG221 EXAM Unseen three-hour written examination 35%
CW Two essays (3,000 words each) 65%

Assessment:
HEBR7771A/B CW One essay (3,500 words) 100%

The Medieval Quest for Understanding: High Culture in Judaism, Christianity and Islam
HEBR7817 (UG) / HEBRG143 (PG) / HEBR7817A/B (Affiliate)

Lecturer: Dr Israel Sandman
Credit value: 0.5

Description:
After reading foundational passages of Greek philosophical texts and scriptural texts, we shall examine creative ways in which medieval Jewish, Christian and Islamic thinkers synthesized these into a cosmological system. We shall analyse implications of that system for the understanding of the soul, leadership and political community. Then we shall consider critiques of the philosophical-religious synthesis; and appreciate the impact of that synthesis upon mysticism and scriptural interpretation. Finally, we shall glimpse the ways in which these teachings were transmitted within and between the religious communities. Throughout, we shall see how close, analytical reading enables discernment of philosophical stances.

Assessment:
HEBR7817A/B CW To be confirmed 100%
Assessment: HEBRG143 CW To be confirmed 100%

MA Core course
HEBRG333 (PG only)

Lecturer: Dr Lily Kahn
Credit value: 1.0
Jewish Studies is a dynamic area of study that can be approached from many disciplinary perspectives, including those of history, religious studies, literature, linguistics, and politics. This course brings together MA students from different academic backgrounds and provides them with a coherent graduate-level introduction to this diverse and fascinating field.

The course begins by providing students with a theoretical overview of the main approaches to the field, presenting key concepts in history, politics, linguistics, and literature from a Jewish Studies perspective. It then moves on to examine topics within each of these disciplines in more depth. We will consider a range of specific issues in Jewish Studies and place them within their broader theoretical and methodological frameworks. Questions to be considered include the following: How has the Hebrew Bible been interpreted through the ages? How useful is rabbinic literature as a historical source? How do the changes that Jewish society underwent during the early modern period reflect broader cultural and religious developments? What role does the State of Israel play in the contemporary world? What can Hebrew and Yiddish literature teach us about historical trauma? What makes a language Jewish?

Assessment: HEBRG333
CW Essay (2,500 words) 50%
CW Literature review (1,500 words) 35%
ORAL Oral presentation (15-20 minutes) 15%

Related courses from King’s College available to UCL students:

**Undergraduate**
Ritual in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (Term 1) - for 2nd year BA students
European Jews and the 'Orient' (Term 2) - for finalist BA students


**Postgraduate**
The Bible and Archaeology (Term 1)
Interpreting the Bible (Term 1)
Cosmology and Chaos in the Hebrew Bible (Term 1)
Religion and the Modern State: Jewish and Other Perspectives (Term 2)
Rabbinic Texts and Their Readers: Gender, Sexuality and the Body (Term 2)