

UCL Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Undergraduate Course List 2012/13

ALL COURSES ARE SUBJECT TO STUDENT DEMAND EXCEPT
MANDATORY COURSES FOR FIRST YEAR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

'A' and 'B' courses open to Junior Year Abroad (JYA) students only.

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1. First Year Undergraduate History and Culture Courses

A Survey of Jewish History and Culture in the First Millennium BCE (Dr. A. Damsma) Undergraduate and First term JYA code: HEBR1001

Value: 0.5cu

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: 5 weeks (1st Term – beginning of term until Reading Week)

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and First term JYA:** 2 essays (100%) –
Please note that students will also be expected to write a literature review

A Survey of Jewish History and Culture in the First Millennium CE (Dr. Willem Smelik) Undergraduate and First term JYA code: HEBR1002

Value: 0.5cu

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: 5 weeks (1st Term – after Reading Week)

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and First term JYA:** 2 essays (100%) –
Please note that students will also be expected to write a literature review

A Survey of Jewish History and Culture from 1000 to 1800 CE (Prof. M. Berkowitz) Undergraduate and Second term JYA code: HEBR1003

Value: 0.5cu

Description: The formation of Ashkenazi Jewry in the context of Christendom; disputations; Black Death; Blood Libels; medieval England; Poland and the emergence

of Jewish self-governing institutions; Sephardi Jewry to the expulsion from Spain; the evolution of Jewish languages; the Jewish philosophical and mystical traditions; the mystical messianism of Sabbatai Zvi; Hasidism; Readmission; Spinoza and secularism; Moses Mendelssohn and Haskalah.

Duration of course: 5 weeks (beginning of 2nd Term until Reading Week)

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Second term JYA:** 2 essays (100%) –
Please note that students will also be expected to write a literature review

A Survey of Jewish History and Culture from 1800 to the Present (Dr. F. Guesnet)

Undergraduate and Second term JYA code: HEBR1004

Value: 0.5cu

Description: The course explores the borderlines between traditional and modern Jewish culture, major changes in Jewish religious culture (central European Haskalah, Hasidism, Neo-Orthodoxy) and secularizing trends, discussions about emancipation and acculturation, basic features of the Jewish communities of eastern Europe, shifts in Jewish political culture, the emergence of political antisemitism, the great migrations, Jewish nationalism and the founding of the State of Israel.

Duration of course: 5 weeks (2nd Term – after Reading Week)

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Second term JYA:** 2 essays (100%) –
Please note that students will also be expected to write a literature review

2. Hebrew Language Courses

Introduction to Classical Hebrew* (Dr. Lily Kahn)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR1005

First term JYA code: HEBR1005A

Value: 1.0cu

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: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** exam (40%),
coursework (60%)

First term JYA: coursework (50%), end of term test (50%)

***Required course for first year undergraduate students**

Intermediate Classical Hebrew (Dr. Willem Smelik)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7003

First term JYA code: HEBR7003A

Value: 1.0cu

Description: A continuation of course HEBR1005. Further in-depth study of the grammar and syntax of Classical Hebrew, providing a solid foundation for text-based courses and a complementary base for study of the modern language.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (50%),
coursework (50%)

Prerequisite: **First term JYA:** coursework (50%), end of term test (50%)
Completion of HEBR1005 Introduction to Classical Hebrew
or demonstration of equivalent knowledge

Modern Hebrew for Beginners* (Mrs. Shoshana Sharpe)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR1006

First term JYA code: HEBR1006A

Value: 1.0cu

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: year

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%)

**Required course for first year undergraduate students.*

Modern Hebrew (Lower Intermediate) (Mrs. Shoshana Sharpe)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7302

First term JYA code: HEBR7302A

Value: 1.0cu

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: year

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%)

Modern Hebrew (Higher Intermediate) (Mr. Ido Gideon)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7303

First term JYA code: HEBR7303A

Value: 1.0cu

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: year

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%)

Advanced Modern Hebrew (Mr. Ido Gideon)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7304

First term JYA code: HEBR7304A**Value: 1.0cu**

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: year**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%)**Prerequisite:** Completion of either **HEBR7303** Modern Hebrew – Higher Intermediate or **HEBR7003** Further Classical Hebrew (or the graduate course equivalents)**Advanced Modern Hebrew – Newspapers (Dr. Tsila Ratner)****Undergraduate code and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7313****First term JYA code: HEBR7313A****Value: 1cu**

Description: This course involves wide reading in current Israeli newspapers and magazines. Feature articles and art reviews will be studied, along with news items. Attention will be paid not only to content but also to the evolution of the language.

Duration of course: year**Means of assessment:** Exam (50%), Course work (50%)**Prerequisite:** Adequately advanced knowledge of Modern Hebrew**Introduction to Rabbinic Hebrew (Dr. Lily Kahn)****Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7213****First term JYA code: HEBR7213A****Credit value: 1.0cu**

Description: This is a text-based course that will introduce students to the Hebrew language of the rabbinic period. It will provide a systematic overview of Rabbinic Hebrew orthography, morphology and syntax. Discussion of grammatical topics will be supplemented by examination of excerpts from a wide variety of rabbinic texts, primarily the Mishnah, the Tosefta, and midrashim. Emphasis will be placed on translation, parsing, and understanding of the grammatical content of these texts. Attention will be given to the linguistic differences and similarities between Rabbinic Hebrew and other historical forms of the language, particularly Biblical and Israeli Hebrew.

Duration of course: year**Means of assessment:** Undergraduate and Full-year JYA: coursework (50%); final exam (50%)

First term JYA: coursework (50%); end of term test (50%)

Prerequisites: HEBR1005 (Introduction to Classical Hebrew) or equivalent**3. Yiddish Language Courses****Elementary Yiddish (Dr. Helen Beer)**

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7504

First term JYA code: HEBR7504A

Value: 1.0cu

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: year

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%)

Upper Intermediate Yiddish (Dr. Helen Beer)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7516

Value: 1.0cu

Description: More advanced Yiddish language study which continues on from HEBR7505 Intermediate Yiddish. The course will include readings from literature as well as newspaper and journal articles.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: 1 exam (35%); course work (45%); oral skills (5%); oral exam (15%)

Prerequisite Completion of HEBR7505 Intermediate Yiddish or equivalent

Yiddish Folk Culture (Dr. Helen Beer)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7515

Value: 1.0cu

Description: This course introduces students to a variety of Yiddish folk culture genres including folksongs, folktales, proverbs and sayings, folk remedies, riddles and jokes. The study of Yiddish folklore and its prominent folklorists and ethnographers will be examined. Texts will be in Yiddish.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: exam (65%), 2 essays (20%), 3 written course works/problem papers (15%)

4. Texts Courses

Ancient Jewish Magic (Dr. Willem Smelik)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7405

First term JYA code: HEBR7405A

Credit value: 0.5cu

Description: This course will explore the variety of Ancient Jewish Magic from the Second Temple period to Late Antiquity. The types of magic (amulets, incantation bowls, recipes), their production and uses, as well as early rabbinic views on magic will be discussed. All texts will be supplied in the original language with an English translation.

Duration of course: 2nd Term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** course work (50%),

essay (4000 words) (50%)

First term JYA: 1 essay 3,000 words (60%), one piece of translation 1,000 words (40%)

Pre-requisite:

Adequate knowledge of Biblical Aramaic

Jewish Literary Aramaic (Dr. Willem Smelik)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7414

First term JYA code: HEBR7414A

Description: Texts from Genesis Apocryphon, Targum Onqelos, Neofiti, Pseudo-Jonathan, Tosefta Targum, Aramaic Piyutim, Aramaic Midrashim will be studied.

Duration of course: year

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%)

Pre-requisite:

Very basic knowledge of Hebrew

Judaism and the Origins of Christianity (Prof. Sacha Stern)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7759

First term JYA code: HEBR7759A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7759B

Value: 1.0cu

Description: This course assesses the complexity of Judaism and Jewish life in the period when Christianity arose, the attitudes of Jesus and his successors towards Jewish law and Judaism, and the process whereby Christianity 'parted ways' from Judaism and became a distinct, competing religion. The course includes a study of Jewish-Christian relations in the first few centuries CE.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate and Full-year JYA:** 1 exam (50%), 2 essays (50%)

First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5,000 words) (100%)

Greeks and Jews: Antiquity and the Modern World (Prof. Sacha Stern and Prof. Miriam Leonard)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7768

First term JYA code: HEBR7768A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7768B

Value: 1.0cu

Description: This course is structured in two complementary parts. In the first term, it examines the encounter of Greeks and Jews (or Hellenism and Judaism) in Antiquity, in the context of the Maccabean revolt, the Jewish Diaspora, key figures such as Philo, Josephus, and Paul, early Christianity, and rabbinic Judaism. In the second term, it examines how perspectives on this encounter contributed to the development of modern European culture in areas including philosophy, theology, literature, psychoanalysis, and politics; how it shaped concepts such as Enlightenment, secularism, and reason; and the effect it had on the modern scholarship of Classics, Jewish Studies, and the ancient world.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate:** 1 exam (50%), 2 essays (50%) (3,000 words each)

First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5,000 words) (100%)

Introduction to Syriac (Dr. Gillian Greenberg)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7416

Value: 1.0cu

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: year

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

Hasidism and Modernity (Dr. Naftali Loewenthal)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7812

First term JYA code: HEBR7812A; **Second term JYA code:** HEBR7812B

Value: 1.0cu

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 (70%), 2 essays (2,500-3,000 words each) (30%)

First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5,000 words)

Prerequisite: Knowledge of Hebrew

The Jewish Mystical Tradition (Dr. Alinda Damsma)

Undergraduate, Full-year and Second Term JYA code: HEBR7818

Value: 0.5cu

Description: This course offers an introduction to Jewish mysticism, from the prophet Ezekiel's visions of the divine chariot in the Hebrew Bible to present-day so-called kabbalistic manifestations. It provides a chronological overview of historical and literary developments, and introduces some of the greatest proponents and their writings. The primary mystical texts will be read in translation. The main focus will be on different strands of Jewish medieval mysticism. This period in Jewish history was rife with mystical and esoteric speculation, which culminated in the book Zohar, Judaism's most enduring and influential kabbalistic work. Topics relevant to Jewish mysticism such as its definition, practice, gender issues, Messianism, will be discussed in relation to Christianity and Islam.

Duration: 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate, Full-year and Second Term JYA:** 2 essays (2,500-3,000 words each) (100%)

5. Literature Courses

[Courses that deal with texts largely from a literary perspective; language requirements are indicated, where appropriate.]

Feminist Issues in Israeli Women's Literature (Dr. Tsila Ratner)
Undergraduate, Full-year and Second term JYA code: HEBR7310
Value: 0.5cu

Description: A survey of feminist thinking in Hebrew literature. The course will study the development of feminist concepts and their manifestations in women's writing in Israel since the 70s. It will compare these expressions with feminist writing in English and American literature. The Hebrew texts will be studied in English translation.

Duration of course: 2nd term

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate, Full-year and Second term JYA:** 2 essays (2,500 words each)

Palestinians and Israeli Jews in Hebrew Literature: The Politics of Representation (Dr. Tsila Ratner)

Undergraduate, and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7325
First term JYA code: HEBR7325A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7325B
Value: 1.0cu

Description: The course looks at the representation of the relationship between Palestinians and Israeli Jews in Hebrew literature since the pre-state period. It will study a selection of literary works aiming to trace and conceptualize the changes that have occurred in the ways Israeli Jews and Palestinians perceive each other. It will focus on the political agenda of literary representation in relation to the inclusion / exclusion of the Palestinian voice and the power of conformity. It will debate issues of otherness, gender and historicity as they are reflected in literature. It will question the role literary representations play in the context of ideological and national conflicts.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate, Full-year and Second term JYA:** 2 essays (1,500 words each)

6. History and Culture Courses

European Jewry and the Holocaust (Prof. Michael Berkowitz)
Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7711
First term JYA code: HEBR7711A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7711B
Course value: 1.0

Description: The course places the events of the Holocaust in the context of 20th Century European history, the history of Antisemitism and the history of post-emancipation European Jewry. It surveys the course of the Holocaust, analyses its causes and examines its impact on contemporary Jewry.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate:** 1 exam (70%), 3 essays (30%)
First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5-6,000 words)

The Culture of Sephardic Jewry (Dr. Hilary Pomeroy)

Undergraduate and Second term JYA code: HEBR7731

Value: 0.5cu

Description: An analysis of the cultural history of the Jews living in Muslim Spain, the Ottoman Empire and North Africa, in particular Morocco, encompassing various aspects of Sephardic 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 Sephardic culture.

Duration of course: 2nd term

Means of Assessment: **Undergraduate and Second term JYA:** 2 essays (2,500-3,000 words each)

History of the Jews in Poland (Dr. François Guesnet)

Undergraduate code: HEBR7740

First term JYA code: HEBR7740A

Value: 1.0cu

Description: A social, political and cultural history of the Jews in the Polish state from the Middle Ages to the present. The course examines the rise of Jewish political autonomy in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; the consequences of the partitions of Poland for the Jews; the rise of modern Polish Antisemitism; Jews in inter-war Poland; the Holocaust in Poland; the Jews in post-war Poland.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate:** 1 exam (70%), 3 essays (30%)

First term JYA: 1 essay (4-5,000-words) (100%)

Sceptics and Enthusiasts: Religion, State and Society in Modern European History (Dr. François Guesnet)

Undergraduate code: HEBR1007

Value: 0.5cu

Description: This course offers a survey on the relationship between religious communities, religious commitment, and political developments in modern European history. Rather than focusing on a single faith group, it investigates the complex interaction between religious commitment and the fabric of European nations, societies and cultures. By discussing a sequence of particularly relevant cases, it also reviews the most relevant theories in the history and sociology of religion.

The emphasis on Europe will help understand the complexity of the European religious (and anti- or non-religious) legacy, and offer insights which might be applied to other world regions. The course will enable students to develop a critical and empathetic understanding of the dynamic relationship of religion and society.

Duration of course: 2nd term

Means of assessment: two essays (40% each) and 1 presentation (20%).

7. Politics Courses

The Arab Israeli Conflict (Dr. Neill Lochery)

Undergraduate code: HEBR7750

First term JYA code: HEBR7750A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7750B

Value: 1.0cu

Description: An analysis of the Arab Israeli conflict from its origins through to the

present day. Special attention will be paid to the internal dynamics within both the Arab states and Israel, as well as the role of external powers in the conflict.

Duration of course: year

Means of assessment: **Undergraduate:** 1 exam (70%), 2 essays (30%) (2,500-3,000 words each)

First or Second term JYA: 1 essay (5,000 words)

Anglo-Israeli Relations, 1948-2006 (Dr. Neill Lochery)

Undergraduate and Full-year JYA code: HEBR7761

First term JYA code: HEBR7761A; Second term JYA code: HEBR7761B

Value: 1.0cu

Description: The course will examine the relationship between the United Kingdom and Israel from 1948 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: year

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)

Israel and the Occupied Territories (Dr. Ronald Ranta)

Undergraduate and First Term JYA code: HEBR7766

Value: 0.5cu

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 in 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: 1st Term

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

8. Course for Final Year Undergraduate Students ONLY

Final Year Dissertation

Undergraduate code: HEBR4901

Value: 1.0cu

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