

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2018/19**

### **HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES**

#### **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew**

##### **HEBR0002 / HEBR0003**

Lecturer: Ms Sonja Noll

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

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: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	40%
	CW	Coursework	60%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	40%
	CW	Coursework	60%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	Coursework	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

#### **Beginners Modern Hebrew**

##### **HEBR0004 / HEBR0005**

Lecturer: Mrs Shosh Sharpe

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

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

Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

## Religion, State & Society in Modern European History

### HEBR0006

Lecturer: Dr François Guesnet

Credit value: 15

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:	CW	Quiz x4 (10% each)	40%
	CW	Essay (2,500 words)	40%
	ORAL	Presentation (10 minutes)	20%

## Sources, Methods, Skills

### HEBR0007

Lecturer: Dr Seth Anziska

Credit value: 15

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 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

Assessment:	CW	Essay one (1,500 words)	35%
	CW	Essay two (1,500 words)	35%
	CW	Five short assignments (600 words each)	30%

## **Survey of Jewish History 1: The Ancient and Medieval Near East**

### **HEBR0011**

Lecturer:

Credit value: 15

Some of the topics covered in this course are

- historiographical problems of the birth of Ancient Israel
- concepts of kingship, prophecy, cult and divinity
- the protagonists of Jewish history (including Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots)
- the contribution of archaeology to our understanding of history
- transformation of Jewish society and culture under Christian and Islamic rule

Assessment:	CW	Essay one (1,500 words)	40%
	CW	Essay two (2,000 words)	40%
	EXAM	In-class examination	20%

*Please note that students will also be expected to do a literature review.*

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

### **HEBR0012**

Lecturer: Prof Michael Berkowitz

Credit value: 15

A great deal of what is considered essentially "Jewish" derives from the medieval and the early modern periods—from roughly the year 1000 to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. 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, the German States, and the Ottoman Empire developed particular trends and counter-trends, under Christendom and Islam. Characteristics of gender and class conventions became institutionalized and changed over time. It also was a period in which we observe the emergence of ways of rejecting, resisting, and keeping Jews distant from the non-Jewish majority cultures and distinct interest groups. Our main concern will be the ways that Jews, as a people and communities of faith (combined with ethnic identity) attempted to adjust to changing times and conditions. Jews repeatedly confronted the dilemma of how to respond to unprecedented situations, which prompted the intercession of figures such as Rashi, Maimonides, Spinoza, and Mendelssohn, and we shall investigate consequential events such as the Inquisition, the rise and demise of mystical messianism, and the Jewish variety of the Enlightenment.

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

Assessment:	CW	Essay one (1,500 words)	40%
	CW	Essay two (2,000 words)	40%
	EXAM	In-class examination	20%

## Survey of Jewish History 3: The Modern World

### HEBR0013

Lecturer: Prof Michael Berkowitz

Credit value: 15

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:	CW	Essay one (1,500 words)	40%
	CW	Essay two (2,000 words)	40%
	EXAM	In-class examination	20%

## Introduction to Israeli Society, Culture, and Politics

### HEBR0015

Lecturer: Dr Seth Anziska

Credit value: 15

How can we understand the history and reality of 21<sup>st</sup> 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:	CW	Essay 1 (1,500 words)	40%
	CW	Essay 2 (2,000 words)	60%

## **Intro to Biblical and Rabbinic Literature**

### **HEBR0016**

Lecturer: Ms Sonja Noll

Credit value: 15

This course provides a basic introduction to biblical and rabbinic literature in order to develop students' modern literary and critical approaches to the Hebrew Bible and the classical rabbinic literature.

This course will sample the following topics:

- The Scriptures and the Canon
- The History of Scriptural Interpretation
- The Cultic Context
- Writing and Transmission
- The Dead Sea Scrolls
- In the Margin of the Scriptures
- The Written Word and the Oral Tora
- Mishna and Tosefta
- Midrashim
- Palestinian and Babylonian Talmud

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

## **Intermediate Biblical Hebrew**

### **HEBR0018 / HEBR0019**

Lecturer: Ms Sonja Noll

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

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: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Coursework	50%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Coursework	50%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

## Modern Hebrew – Lower Intermediate

### HEBR0023 / HEBR0024

Lecturer: Mrs Shoshana Sharpe

Credit value: 30 (15 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: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Coursework	45%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	20%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Coursework	45%
	ORAL	Oral examination	20%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

## Modern Hebrew - Higher Intermediate

### HEBR0025 / HEBR0026

Lecturer: Mrs Shoshana Sharpe  
Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)  
Prerequisite: Modern Hebrew - Lower Intermediate

Higher Intermediate Modern Hebrew will enable to 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 be-Ivrit)* 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: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Coursework	45%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	20%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Coursework	45%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	20%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

## Advanced Modern Hebrew

### HEBR0027/ HEBR0028

Lecturer: Mrs Shoshana Sharpe  
Credit value: 30 (15 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-Mitkadim'*. 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: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Coursework	45%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	20%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Coursework	45%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	20%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

## **Biblical Aramaic**

### **HEBR0033 / HEBR0032**

Lecturer: Ms Sonja Noll

Credit value: 30 (15 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: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Coursework	50%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Coursework	50%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

## **Syriac**

### **HEBR0038 / HEBR0036**

Lecturer: Gillian Greenberg

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

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: Undergrad	TEST	Three departmental tests (each worth 33.3%)	100%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	100%
Assessment: Affiliate	TEST	One test (Departmentally managed)	100%

## Elementary Yiddish

### HEBR0041 / HEBR0042

Lecturer: Dr Helen Beer

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

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. This is a chance to engage with this rich culture and its fascinating history.

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.*

Assessment: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Coursework	45%
	ORAL	Orally assessed coursework	5%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	15%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Coursework	45%
	ORAL	Orally assessed coursework	5%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	15%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

## Intermediate Yiddish

### HEBR0043 / HEBR0044

Lecturer: Dr Helen Beer  
Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)  
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 is conducted in Yiddish and includes grammar, conversation and textual study with a focus on expanding abilities to speak, comprehend, read and write.

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, and Yiddish folk culture.

This course offers an opportunity to expand skills enabling a deeper exploration of the cultural history of this fascinating language.

Assessment: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	1 Written coursework/problem paper	45%
	ORAL	Orally assessed coursework	5%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	15%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	1 Written coursework/problem paper	45%
	ORAL	Orally assessed coursework	5%
	ORAL	Oral Examination	15%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay	50%
	TEST	One test	50%

## Yiddish Literature: Special Topics

### HEBR0045 / HEBR0046

Lecturer: Dr Helen Beer  
Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate- *1<sup>st</sup> term only*)  
Pre-requisite: Elementary Yiddish or equivalent

This course will introduce students to the breadth, depth and diversity of modern Yiddish literature. The vast majority of Yiddish writings remain untranslated and this course will concentrate on lesser known works. Close readings of literary texts will examine a variety of styles and subjects and their historical and cultural contexts.

We will examine fiction, drama and some poetry focusing on works by:

- Efraim Kaganowski
- Itzik Manger
- Esther Kreitman, Puah Rakovski and other women writers
- Avrom Sutzkever
- Shmuel Harendorff

We will study the ways in which Yiddish literature mirrors historical events and social and political change and how that is reflected in a range of literary styles including the avant-garde.

Assessment: Undergrad	CW	Two Essays (3,000 words)	35%
	CW	Coursework (3 pieces)	45%
	ORAL	Oral participation	5%
	ORAL	Oral presentation	15%
Assessment: Postgrad	CW	Two Essays (3,000 words)	50%
	CW	Coursework	40%
	ORAL	Oral presentation	10%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	Essay (3,000 words)	35%
	CW	Coursework (2 pieces)	45%
	ORAL	Oral participation	5%
	ORAL	Oral presentation	15%

## **Semitic Languages: Ugaritic**

### **HEBR0048 / HEBR0049**

Lecturer: Prof Mark Geller  
 Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)  
 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: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Two essays (1,500 words each)	50%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Two essays (1,500 words each)	50%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	Coursework	50%
	TEST	Departmentally organised test	50%

## **Better Worlds? Jewish Migration and Settlement in Britain and America**

### **HEBR0052 / HEBR0053**

Lecturer: Prof Michael Berkowitz  
 Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

This course largely concerns the history of Jewish migration and acculturation in Britain and the United States. The main area of focus is the processes by which Jews were transformed, and transformed themselves into new generations of "American" and "British" Jews through emigration. English Jewry originates in medieval times, and a more comparative approach with North America begins in the 17th century. The stress will be on the periods of mass immigration and adjustment to the respective areas of settlement. Therefore, the greatest share of the course will consist of comparing the "immigrant experiences" in different settings and

subsequent migrations. As opposed to considering these communities from their internal tensions and politics, they shall be approached through the situation of Jewry in the wider non-Jewish and international contexts. Particular interest will be paid to how gender and class conventions shaped Jewish history. Furthermore, by using literature, film, music, and field-trips, we will survey the cultural creations and horizons of these diverse Jewries.

Assessment: Undergrad	CW	Two essays (words count?)	70%
	EXAM	Two in-class exams	30%
Assessment: Postgrad	CW	Two essays (words count?)	70%
	EXAM	Two in-class exams	30%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	Essay (3,000 words)	70%
	TEST	Departmentally organised test	30%

## History of Jews in Poland

### HEBR0057

Lecturer: Dr François Guesnet

Credit value: 15

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.

Assessment: Undergrad	QUIZ	Quiz x4 (10% each)	40%
	CW	Essay (2000 words)	40%
	CW	Slide presentation	20%
Assessment: Postgrad	QUIZ	Quiz x4 (10% each)	40%
	CW	Essay (3000 words)	40%
	CW	Slide presentation	20%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One Essay (4,000-5,000 words)	100%

## Judaism and the Origins of Christianity

### HEBR0062 / HEBR0063

Lecturer: Prof Sacha Stern

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

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.

Assessment: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Two essays (3,000 words each)	50%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Two essays (4,000 words each)	50%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One Essay (5,000 words)	100%

## **Jewish-Muslim Relations in Historical Perspective**

### **HEBR0066 / HEBR0067**

Lecturer: Dr Seth Anziska

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

Jews and Muslims have lived alongside one another since the rise of Islam in the seventh century 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Two essays (2,000 words each)	65%
Assessment: Postgrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	35%
	CW	Two essays (3,000 words each)	65%
Postgrad A or B only	CW	One Essay (4,000 words)	100%
Assessment: BA Affiliate	CW	Two essays (2,000 words)	100%
MA Affiliate	CW	One Essay (4,000 words)	100%

## **US-Israeli Relations from 1948 to the Present Day**

### **HEBR0068 / HEBR0069**

Lecturer: Prof Neill Lochery

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

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: UG & PG	CW	Two essays (4,000 words)	100%
Assessment: A or B only	CW	One essay (4,000 words)	100%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay (4,000 words)	100%

## Hasidism and Modernity

### HEBR0070 / HEBR0071

Lecturer: Dr Tali Loewenthal

Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

Prerequisite: Knowledge of Hebrew

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
- The role of women in Hasidic life

Assessment: Undergrad	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	50%
	CW	Two essays (2,000 words each)	50%
Assessment: Postgrad	CW	Two essays (2,500 words)	60%
	CW	One essay (3,500-4,000 words)	40%
Assessment: Affiliate	CW	One essay (3,500 words)	100%

## The Arab-Israeli Conflict

### HEBR0073

Lecturer: Prof Neill Lochery  
Credit value: 30 (15 Affiliate – 1 term)

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: Undergrad	CW	Two essays (4,000 words)	100%
Assessment: Postgrad	CW	Two essays (4,000 words)	100%

## MA Jewish Studies Core Course

### HEBR0078

Lecturer: Prof Neill Lochery  
Credit value: 30

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

## Sumerian

### HEBR0095

Lecturer: Prof Mark Geller

Credit value: 30

The course will introduce students to the basics of Sumerian grammar, which will be applied to a selection of Sumerian inscriptions and historical texts. Students will be expected to read Sumerian in the original script. No language pre-requisites.

Assessment:	EXAM	Unseen three-hour written examination	75%
	CW	Coursework	25%

### Related courses from King's College available to UCL students:

#### Undergraduate

Second-year

[5AAT2042 Ritual in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament](#)

[5AAT2202 Theological Themes of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament](#)

Finalist

[6AAT3052 European Jews and the 'Orient'](#)

[6AAT3050 Law and Ethics in the Hebrew Bible](#)

[6AAT3721 Gender and Judaism: An Introduction to Rabbinic Literature](#)

Visit <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/trs/modules/ugmodules/ugmodules20189.aspx> for details.

#### Postgraduate

[7AATC720 Identities and Communities in Flux: Texts and Methods in Jewish Studies](#)

[7AATC734 Cosmology and Chaos in the Hebrew Bible](#)

[7AATC740 Religion and the Modern State: Jewish and Other Perspectives](#)

Visit <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/trs/modules/pgtmodules/pgtmodules20189.aspx> for details.