The Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Jewish Studies Program

The Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Jewish Studies Program was founded in 2002 to coordinate the many academic activities at Johns Hopkins dedicated to the study of Jewish history, literature, language, philosophy, politics, and religion. The program gives students the opportunity to explore over three millennia of Jewish culture, ranging from ancient Israel to the present. The Stulman Program sponsors visiting professors and course offerings in a wide variety of disciplines, awards undergraduate travel funds and graduate fellowships, and provides many opportunities for students, faculty, and the general public to participate in a wide range of lectures, conferences, and other special events.

The program offers a minor to students interested in the many dimensions of Jewish life, religion, and culture, from ancient times to the present. It will also interest students who wish to study cultures and civilizations in which thinking about Jews and Judaism played an important role, that is, students interested in Christianity, Islam, or the culture of global modernity. Because of its interdisciplinary nature, the Jewish studies minor offers students access to a broad array of humanities and social sciences disciplines. It therefore serves as a good complement to many majors, as well as providing indispensable intellectual training to anyone interested in Jewish professional life.

Minor in the Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Jewish Studies Program

The requirements for a minor in Jewish studies are as follows:

- A minimum of six courses (amounting to at least 18 credits) selected from those approved by the Advisory Committee of the Jewish Studies Program. The courses must be from at least two departments, and at least three must be upper-level courses (300-level or above).
- One year of modern Hebrew, biblical Hebrew or Yiddish. Students must take one year at any level and cannot “place out” through pre-college coursework or prior knowledge.

For current faculty and contact information go to http://krieger.jhu.edu/jewishstudies/faculty_directory/index.html

Faculty

Professors

Steven R. David
(Political Science): Vice Dean for Centers and Programs: international relations, security studies, comparative politics.

Hent DeVries
Professor Russ Family Chair in the Humanities, (Humanities): modern European thought, history and critique of metaphysics, philosophies of religion, political theologies, concepts of violence, literature and temporality.

Benjamin Ginsberg

David Bernstein Professor (Political Science): Director, Washington Center for the Study of American Government: American government and politics, political development.

Herbert L. Kessler
(History of Art): Early Christian and medieval art.

Theodore J. Lewis

Ruth Leys
(Humanities): history and theory of psychoanalysis, history of psychiatry and psychology, 19th- and 20th-century intellectual history, feminist theory.

Kyle P. McCarter

Yitzhak Melamed
(Philosophy): Jewish Philosophy, (esp. Maimonides and Crescas), Rabbinics, Kabbalah and Hasidism.

Glenn M. Schwartz

Rochelle Tobias
(German): modern literature.

Eric Sundquist
Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities: American Literature and Culture, including African American and Jewish American, Literature of the Holocaust.

Associate Professors

Kenneth B. Moss
Felix Posen Associate Professor (History) and Director, Jewish Studies Program: modern Jewish history, Russia and Eastern Europe, Yishuv/Palestine and Israel, Jewish political thought, nationalism, theory and practice of cultural history.

Marina Rustow
Charlotte Bloomberg Chair in the Humanities; Associate Professor History: Medieval and early modern Jewish history; medieval Arab polities and political cultures; rabbinic and karaites; religion and society in Fatimid Egypt.

Assistant Professors

Marc Caplan
(Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures): Zelda and Myer Tandetnik Professorship in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture.

Neta Stahl
(Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures): Comparative and Modern Hebrew literature, religion and literature.

Lecturers

Beatrice Caplan
(Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures): Zelda and Myer Tandetnik Lecturer in Yiddish.
Courses

AS.193.100. Yiddish Bibliography: a seminar for intermediate and advanced Yiddish students. 3 Credits.
Yiddish Bibliography: a seminar for intermediate and advanced Yiddish students. The seminar’s aim is to introduce the students to a large set of Yiddish resources, along various topics and research areas, while improving their Yiddish reading and expression skills.
Instructor(s): E. Niborski.

AS.193.200. Early Holocaust Literature: Jewish Poetry and Prose 1939-1949. 3 Credits.
Introduces the two earliest forms of Holocaust literature: literary writing by Jews under Nazi rule and literary writing by Jewish survivors of the Holocaust produced in its immediate wake (between liberation in 1945 and the decisive moment of the foundation of the State of Israel in 1948). Treats questions of literature as a form of immediate reaction to persecution and annihilation, literature as testimony, the relationship of poetics and early Holocaust memory and consciousness. Reference will be made mainly to professional writers in Yiddish and Polish. All readings in English translation.
Instructor(s): M. Trinh
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.193.201. Early Modern Jewry in Europe and the Mediterranean. 3 Credits.
The course examines the transition from medievalism to modernity among the Jews of Europe and the Mediterranean between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries, paying attention to both material and intellectual life, and to women and children side by side with merchants and rabbis.
Instructor(s): E. Horowitz
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.193.202. Everyday Voices of the Holocaust: Popular Jewish Poetic Expression in the Ghettoes and Camps. 3 Credits.
The course aims to encourage knowledge of a relatively unknown mass phenomenon - poetic creativity by Jews under Nazi Rule, in the Ghettoes and Camps. The study of mostly unpublished, multilingual texts, written by non-professional writers, will enable to better understand the complexity of immediate Jewish reaction to Holocaust reality, in its multicultural contexts. Texts from selected ghettos and camps, originally written in Yiddish, Polish, German and Hebrew will be read in English translation and analyzed - also with emphasis on the differences and similarities between East and West European Jewry.
Instructor(s): M. Trinh.

AS.193.300. Readings in Yiddish. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): E. Niborski
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.193.301. Reading the Bible and Encountering its World. 3 Credits.
The course examines the interactions between travel and biblical interpretation between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries, paying particular attention to the ways in which travelers to the Middle East and then scholars saw its residents as relics of an unchanging biblical world, whose practices could be used to interpret scriptural texts from both the Old and New Testaments.
Instructor(s): Staff
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

Cross Listed Courses

AS.060.332. Jewish American Fiction. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): E. Sundquist
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.060.371. Major American Authors: Philip Roth. 3 Credits.
Over the course of his long career Philip Roth has struck a precarious balance between identification as a Jewish American novelist and insistence that his art escapes such ethnic enclosures. This tension lies at the heart of his work, as indeed some would argue it lies at the heart of the American Jewish experience of the twentieth century. Having emerged as a decidedly rebellious figure who shocked the Jewish community and the nation at large in the 1950s and 60s, Roth has written more than twenty-five novels exploring issues that range from conflicts over assimilation to the roles of the Holocaust and Israel in American Jewish life to the countercultural turbulence of the 1960s to the identity politics of the 1990s. Roth has revealed in forms of fictive autobiography—“counter-lives,” “counter-plots,” and counterfactual histories—that have enlarged the scope of fiction while still grappling with the tensions and dangers of modern life. Works to be read include: “Goodbye, Columbus”; “Portnoy’s Complaint”; “Operation Shylock”; “American Pastoral”; “The Ghost Writer”; “The Anatomy Lesson”; “The Plot Against America”; “The Human Stain”; “The Facts”; “The Counterlife”; “Sabbath’s Theater”; and “Nemesis”. Requirements: two 8-10 page papers, a class presentation, and participation in discussion.
Instructor(s): E. Sundquist
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.
AS.060.375. Literature of the Holocaust. 3 Credits.
The course will focus on reactions to, and representations of, the Holocaust in European, Israeli, and American literature. In moving from the initial response of eyewitness testimony, through the emergence of fiction as one means to test the adequacy of historicalaccounts and memoirs, and on to more recent reflections on the problem of adequately “remembering” the event, we will consider how the Nazi genocide has entered into world consciousness. What does it mean to have an artistic or aesthetic response to such an event? Why has the Holocaust assumed so a significant role in contemporary life that there are entire genres of literature and film devoted to it? We will also look at some more contemporary writers whose work deals indirectly with the after-effects of the Holocaust. Readings may include: Levi, Survival in Auschwitz; Borowski, This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen; Delbo, Auschwitz and After; Kosinski, The Painted Bird; Grossman, See Under: Love; Ozick, The Shawl; Epstein, King of the Jews; Roth, The Plot against America; Appelfeld, Baddenheim 1939; Coetzee, Elizabeth Costello; Phillips, The Nature of Blood. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): E. Sundquist
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.060.628. Literature of the Holocaust.
The seminar will focus on reactions to, and representations of, the Holocaust in literature. In moving from eyewitness testimony and survivor memoir, through the emergence of fiction as one means to test the adequacy of such accounts or extend them into a new register, and on to more recent reflections on the problem of adequately “remembering” the event in which memory is constantly at issue, we will consider how the Nazi genocide has entered into world consciousness. Although the focus of the course will be on literature, primary readings will be studied with close attention to historical contexts as they bear on questions of authorship, representation, and reception, and to the theoretical vocabularies that have emerged from successive stages of post-Holocaust inquiry. American works will be emphasized but not the sole concern. Primary readings (all in English) will include some of the following: Elie Wiesel, "Night"; Primo Levi, "Survival in Auschwitz"; Charlotte Delbo, "Auschwitz and After"; Tadeusz Borowski, "This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen"; John Hersey, "The Wall"; Leon Uris, "Exodus"; Jerzy Kosinski, "The Painted Bird"; Jorge Semprun, "The Long Voyage"; Imre Kertesz, "Fatelessness"; David Grossman, "See: Under Love"; Leslie Epstein, "King of the Jews"; Cynthia Ozick, "The Shawl"; Philip Roth, "The Plot against America"; and William Gass, "The Tunnel", with various historical and theoretical works in accompaniment. Requirements: a circulated discussion paper; reports on critical/theoretical works; participation in discussion; a research paper.
Instructor(s): E. Sundquist
Area: Humanities.

History
AS.100.128. Ancient and Medieval Jewish History. 3 Credits.
History of the Jews under empires and monarchies, from the Persian restoration to the Spanish expulsion. Emphasis on Jews in the Middle East and how the rise of Christianity and Islam challenged, transformed and strengthened Judaism. Cross listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): M. Rustow
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.100.129. Introduction to Modern Jewish History. 3 Credits.
An examination of the history of Jews over the past three hundred years. Explores the dramatic encounter at the close of the 18th century between rapidly changing European societies caught up in intellectual, political, and economic revolution and a 2000-year old traditional civilization living in their midst; the kaleidoscopic array of Jewish political, religious, cultural and social responses to this encounter; the new forms of Jewish communal and individual life and consciousness which emerged in the course of the 19th and 20th centuries; the extension of this new modern framework to the Jews of the Middle East in the context of European imperialism and colonialism; the key roles played by the Jews as agents and symbols of political, economic, and cultural modernity; the phenomenon of anti-Semitism and whether it is a pathology or integral part of modern European civilization; the extreme shifts in Jewish life from the mid-20th century in light of the Holocaust, the creation of the state of Israel, and integration into American society.
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.100.317. Jewish Music. 3 Credits.
What is “Jewish music,” and what roles has it played in global and Jewish cultures? This course will address these questions, considering genres and contexts of Jewish music from cantillation to klezmer and from art music to Yiddish cinema. Cross listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): J. Walden
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.325. The Jewish Condition & the Interwar Crisis: Jewish Politics & Culture in Europe, America, Palestine. 3 Credits.
The twenty years following the First World War were characterized by manifold political crises: the apotheosis of radical left-wing and radical right-wing politics at the heart of Europe, hyper-nationalism in post-imperial Eastern and southern Europe, violent confrontations in Europe’s overseas colonies and mandates, and world-wide economic depression. This course asks how the 16-18 million Jews of Europe, America, and the Near East were affected by these processes and traces their opposing political, religious, and cultural responses to them.
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.351. God, Self, Nation and Revolution in East European Jewish Life and Thought, 1860-1939. 3 Credits.
The divided Jewish community of modern Eastern Europe defined many of the key modern forms of Jewish identity, politics, culture, and religion and forged bewildering array of syntheses, hybrids, and even negations of Jewishness in relation to the unprecedented political, cultural, and social dilemmas of life in Eastern Europe. Focus on key texts of Jewish religious and secular thought created in Imperial Russia and interwar Poland.
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.354. History of Israel, 1948-1970. 3 Credits.
The political, social, and culture history of the State of Israel and its inhabitants during its pivotal first two decades, as reconstructed in recent historiography.
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.
AS.100.363. Jewish Society and Selfhood in the Age of Nationalism: The Religious, Cultural, Civic, and Private Lives of Jews in the Russian Empire and Eastern Europe, 1860-1939. 3 Credits.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.412. Jewish History in British Mandatory Palestine 1917-1947. 3 Credits.
Recent historical writing on Jewish politics, culture, and society in British Mandatory Palestine, 1917-1947. Significant attention will also be paid to work on Palestinian Arab society and politics and to Jewish-Arab-British relations.
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.415. Papyrus, Parchment, and Paper. 3 Credits.
The diffusion of writing before the industrial age, especially around the Mediterranean, the preservation of lightweight, portable texts; modern discoveries (Oxyrhynchus, Dead Sea Scrolls, Nag Hammadi, Cairo Geniza).
Instructor(s): M. Rustow
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.447. Christian-Jewish Polemics in the Middle Ages and the Construction of the Enemy. 3 Credits.
The four great public Christian-Jewish disputations of the high middle ages: Paris, Barcelona, Majorca, Tortosa. Original Hebrew and Latin sources in English translation; questions of the changing motives for anti-Judaism and the formation of a persecuting society.
Instructor(s): P. Capelli
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.451. Jewish History and Historiography in Ottoman and British Palestine.
Recent historiography on Jewish politics, culture, and society in late Ottoman and British Mandatory Palestine, 1880s-1947, English and Hebrew. With permission of the professor.
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.100.462. Historiography of the Jews.
Instructor(s): K. Moss; M. Rustow.

AS.100.455. Hebrew Bible / Old Testament. 3 Credits.
The Bible is arguably the most read and yet most misinterpreted book of all time, one of the most influential and yet most misapplied work of literature. The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is Scripture to Jews and Christians yet also a rich collection of literature with numerous literary genres that has been highly influential on secular Western culture. At its core, it is our most important literary source that (when wed with archaeology) helps us to understand the people and culture of Iron Age Israel and Judah. This is an introductory course surveying of the books of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) giving primary attention to the religious ideas they contain and the ancient contexts in which they were composed. Topics include: The Academic Study of Religion, Ancient Creation Accounts, Ancestral Religion, The Exodus and Moses, Covenant, Tribalism and Monarchy, The Ideology of Kingship, Prophecy, Priestly Sources, Psalms, Wisdom Literature, and Apocalyptic Thought.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities.

AS.100.759. The Cairo Geniza (Spring).
Documentary sources from the Cairo Geniza in Judaic-Arabic, Arabic, and Hebrew. Paleography, genre, diplomatic, corpora and editorial technique; historical context, interpretation, historiography and history of the field. Cross listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): M. Rustow
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Near Eastern Studies

AS.130.114. The Archaeology of Ancient Israel. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the intersection of sexuality and power relationships in the forging of ethnic, political, and religious identities as presented in the Bible and ancient Near Eastern literature. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): L. Wright
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.118. Ancient Israel: In Their Own Words. 3 Credits.
This course will focus on the inscriptions of ancient Israel and its neighbors from the first millennium BCE. Texts speak to us directly in ways that other nonverbal archaeological remains – such as architecture or pottery – cannot. Also, secondary sources written by later historians and commentators are similarly limited, as they are separated from original events by space, time, and cultural situation. Considering how individuals from an ancient culture articulate thoughts “in their own words” is invaluable to any meaningful reconstruction of history. Participants will learn to glean information from inscriptions, including those that are fragmentary or seemingly mundane. They will experience hands-on history writing, using primary sources in translation, though those with any knowledge of ancient languages, especially Classical Hebrew, will be able and encouraged to engage with the texts in their original vernacular. Basic knowledge of world history will be helpful though not prerequisite.
Prerequisites: AS.130.134
Instructor(s): H. Parker
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.140. Hebrew Bible / Old Testament. 3 Credits.
The Bible is arguably the most read and yet most misinterpreted book of all time, one of the most influential and yet most misapplied work of literature. The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is Scripture to Jews and Christians yet also a rich collection of literature with numerous literary genres that has been highly influential on secular Western culture. At its core, it is our most important literary source that (when wed with archaeology) helps us to understand the people and culture of Iron Age Israel and Judah. This is an introductory course surveying of the books of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) giving primary attention to the religious ideas they contain and the ancient contexts in which they were composed. Topics include: The Academic Study of Religion, Ancient Creation Accounts, Ancestral Religion, The Exodus and Moses, Covenant, Tribalism and Monarchy, The Ideology of Kingship, Prophecy, Priestly Sources, Psalms, Wisdom Literature, and Apocalyptic Thought.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.172. Introduction to Aramaic. 3 Credits.
Cross-listed with Jewish Studies Aramaic, a Semitic language attested from 1100 BCE and spoken to this day, is central to some of the core texts of Western culture such as the Hebrew Bible, the Talmuds and the New Testament. This course will focus on Babylonian Aramaic, as preserved in the Babylonian Talmud and parallel sources. After studying the basic forms and grammar we will read various texts from the Babylonian Talmud as well as karaite and geonic literature and magical bowls. We will survey some of the main corpora written in Babylonian Aramaic and open a gateway to deeper understanding of this heritage.
Instructor(s): Y. Monnickendam
Area: Humanities.
AS.130.301. History of Ancient Syria-Palestine. 3 Credits.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Cannan, including Ancient Israel.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.302. History: Ancient Syria-Palestine II. 3 Credits.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Cannan, including ancient Israel. Taught with AS.134.661. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.330. Sex And The Garden. 3 Credits.
A seminar on the history of interpretation of Genesis 2-3, with a focus on the uses of the biblical story of the Garden of Eden in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies and Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality.
Instructor(s): E. Robbins
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.338. The Talmud as Read in the Middle Ages: The Sugya of Kavod HaBriot (Human Dignity). 3 Credits.
In the early Middle Ages the Talmud emerged as the defining document of official Jewish religion and culture, and remained so until the dawn of the Modern Era. Jewish scholars in many different countries, and in a wide variety of cultural contexts, developed certain ways of reading, interpreting, and applying the Talmud. In the process, they produced an immense corpus of commentary and law. This course will examine how and why the Talmud was studied in these centuries by Jews who mined it, subject by subject, for emotional, philosophical, and legal meaning.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.340. History Religion/Israel. 3 Credits.
A study of the origins of ancient Israelite religion, its emergence from and continuities with ancient West Semitic religion and culture. Students will be exposed to comparative and historical approaches for reconstructing this time period including the utilization of new sources of knowledge (e.g., Syro-Palestinian archaeology and epigraphy; neighboring ancient Near Eastern religions).
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.130.341. Traditionalism vs. Orthodoxy in the Modern Era: The Case of Judaism. 3 Credits.
During the Modern Era in European history, the Traditionalist Jewish civilization of Europe that had evolved over many centuries went into deep crisis. The new political, social, and intellectual realities which characterized Modernity seriously challenged, overwhelmed, and indeed threatened to destroy the Jewish Traditionalist culture and society. In response, different Traditionalist thinkers and communities evolved a number of strategies for surviving in a modern environment, strategies that unexpectedly transformed Traditionalism into something different, which came to be called Orthodox Judaism. This course explores this process of transformation, which has had an important impact on Jewish life in the modern and post-modern eras. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.343. Dead Sea Scrolls-English. 3 Credits.
Cross-listed with Jewish Studies A survey of the manuscripts found at Qumran and other sites near the Dead Sea.
Instructor(s): P. McCarter
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.346. Introduction to the History of Rabbinic Literature. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.348. Religious Law Wrestles With Change: The Case of Judaism. 3 Credits.
Description: “How does a religious system which defines its ancient laws as God-given and unchangeable apply them to radically different and changing social, political and intellectual situations? This course explores the literature of “Questions and Answers”(She’elot u-Teshuvot), the Jewish legal responsa which have struggled to match Jewish religious law to modern life for fifteen centuries. A sweeping survey of Jewish history as revealed by one of its most impenetrable yet fascinating sources. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.352. History of Hasidism. 3 Credits.
Although it appears to be a relic of pre-modern Judaism, Hasidism is a phenomenon of the modern era of Jewish history. This course surveys the political and social history of the Hasidic movement over the course of the last three centuries. Students will also explore basic features of Hasidic culture and thought in their historical development. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.359. Reading the Talmud in the Post-Talmudic Era. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.361. The Politics of Sexuality in the Bible and the Ancient Near East. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the intersection of sexuality and power relationships in the forging of ethnic, political, and religious identities as presented in the Bible and ancient Near Eastern literature. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality.
Instructor(s): E. Fleming
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.366. Reading the Talmud in Pre-modern Jewish Culture. Attempting to Cope With Abusive Husbands: Annullment of Marriage in the Literature of Post Talmudic Rabbinic Judaism. 3 Credits.
The evolution of Talmudic thinking resulted in laws which made marriage too easy, divorce too difficult. This generated centuries of attempts to grapple with the consequences of this conundrum in real-life situations. This course analyzes the literature produced by these attempts. Students will read texts in original Hebrew.
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities.
AS.130.367. Jerusalem: The Holy City in History and Archaeology. 3 Credits.
Jerusalem has a global significance utterly disproportionate to its size or wealth, and it has been this way since the days when the city was first settled. On the one hand, this is due to Jerusalem’s role as a sacred space for all three of the world’s largest monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. On the other, Jerusalem has long been the fulcrum of geopolitical struggles in the Middle East and beyond. This lecture course explores Jerusalem’s political, cultural, and religious trajectory over the past three millennia through the lens of the city’s amazingly rich historical and archaeological records. In so doing, we unravel the mythical and historical threads that combine to create the powerful symbolic resonance of Jerusalem today, discovering en route that, when it comes to Jerusalem, identifying what is “myth” and what is “history” is a complex and contested undertaking.
Instructor(s): J. Osborne
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.372. Prophetic Lit-Hebrew Bib. 3 Credits.
A survey of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) as it is understood in its ancient Near Eastern cultural and historical context. Freshmen admitted with permission.
Instructor(s): A. Davis
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.373. Prophets and Prophecy in the Bible. 3 Credits.
From thundering voices of social justice to apocalyptic visionaries, biblical prophets have been revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims for thousands of years. They have inspired civic leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. yet also provided fodder for modern charlatans promising a utopian future. Yet who were these individuals (orators? politicians? diviners? poets?) and what was the full range of their message as set against the Realpolitik world of ancient Israel, Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Jordan?
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.441. Elementary Biblical Hebrew. 3 Credits.
Survey of grammar and reading of simple texts. (Credit given only on completion of AS.130.440 and AS.130.441). May not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.
Instructor(s): M. Simone
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.442. Readings - Hebrew Prose. 3 Credits.
Reading of biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): E. Guinn-Villareal
Area: Humanities.

AS.130.443. Reading Of Hebrew Prose. 3 Credits.
Reading of Biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.
Instructor(s): Staff
Area: Humanities.

AS.134.604. The Book Of Job.
Reading the Hebrew text of the book of Job with attention to philology, textual criticism, and various aspects of interpretation.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis.

A rapid reading course aimed at increasing proficiency in reading the Hebrew text of the book of Ezekiel. Various aspects of translation and interpretation will be studied (e.g., grammar, textual criticism, Philology) including literary, historical, and theological questions. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis.


AS.134.652. Seminar in Ancient Israelite Religion.
Topics include history of scholarship, methodology, representations of deity, the aniconic tradition, solar Yahwism, sacred space, blood rituals, passover, royal cult, family religion, divination, prophecy, incantations, etc.
Instructor(s): T. Lewis.

Philosophy

AS.150.428. Spinoza's Theological Political Treatise. 3 Credits.
The course is an in-depth study of Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise. Among the topics to be discussed are: Spinoza’s Bible criticism, the nature of religion, truth and obedience, the nature of the Hebrew State, Spinoza’s Theory of the State, the freedom to philosophize, the metaphysics of Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise, and finally, the reception of the TTP. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): Y. Melamed.

AS.150.435. The Philosophy and Theology of Maimonides. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the philosophic and theological thought of Judaism’s most renowned philosopher, Moses Maimonides (1138-1204). After a brief overview of Maimonides’ multifaceted life as philosopher, scientist, physician, Talmudic scholar, rabbi, and communal leader; we will consider Maimonides’ philosophic and religious background and, in particular, the ancient Greek and medieval Islamic philosophic works that influenced him. The course will delve into his views on topics such as the relation between faith and reason, the existence of God, creation/eternity of the world, free will/determinism, the nature of prophecy, the purpose of law, human happiness, ultimate perfection, and the Afterlife. Special attention will be given to Maimonides’ method of philosophic writing and the tension in his life between the vita activa and the vita contemplativa. The course will also trace the impact of Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed upon later Jewish thought and upon Western philosophy and theology from Thomas Aquinas to Leibniz.
Instructor(s): S. Harvey
Area: Humanities.

AS.150.483. Topics in Jewish Philosophy: Heresy. 3 Credits.
This course will study the history and transformations of the Jewish concept of ‘Apikorsut’ – a unique kind of heresy that refers to a rabbinic scholar turned into a heretic, while maintaining a tense dialogue with mainstream Rabbinic culture and community. We will particularly interested in the following questions: What makes a dissenter into an Apikores? How does the Apikores defer from the apostate? Why was philosophy as a whole considered (since the Late Middle Ages) as a discipline of Apikorsut?
Instructor(s): Y. Melamed.
Political Science

AS.190.344. Seminar In Anti-Semitism. 3 Credits.
Jews exercise a good deal of power in contemporary America. They are prominent in a number of key industries, play important roles in the political process, and hold many major national offices. For example, though Jews constitute barely two percent of America's citizens, about one-third of the nation's wealthiest 400 individuals are Jewish and more than ten percent of the seats in the U.S. Congress are held by Jews. One recent book declared that, "From the Vatican to the Kremlin, from the White House to Capitol Hill, the world's movers and shakers view American Jewry as a force to be reckoned with." Of course, Jews have risen to power in many times and ranges from the medieval Muslim world and early modern Spain through Germany and the Soviet Union in the 20th century. In nearly every prior instance, though, Jewish power proved to be evanescent. No sooner had the Jews become "a force to be reckoned with" than they found themselves banished to the political margins, forced into exile or worse. Though it may rise to a great height, the power of the Jews seems ultimately to rest on a rather insecure foundation. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): B. Ginsberg
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.191.335. Arab-Israeli Conflict (IR). 3 Credits.
The course will focus on the origin and development of the Arab-Israeli conflict from its beginnings when Palestine was controlled by the Ottoman Empire, through World War I, The British Mandate over Palestine, and the first Arab-Israeli war (1947-1949). It will then examine the period of the Arab-Israeli wars of 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982, the Palestinian Intifadas (1987-1993 and 2000-2005); and the development of the Arab-Israeli peace process from its beginnings with the Egyptian-Israeli treaty of 1979, the Oslo I and Oslo II agreements of 1993 and 1995, Israel’s peace treaty with Jordan of 1994, the Road Map of 2003; and the periodic peace talks between Israel and Syria. The conflict will be analyzed against the background of great power intervention in the Middle East, the rise of political Islam and the dynamics of Intra-Arab politics, and will consider the impact of the Arab Spring.
Instructor(s): R. Freedman
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.191.398. The International Politics of Genocide. 3 Credits.
This course examines the creation of the concept of genocide and explores its controversial evolution in international law, humanitarian efforts, and global politics. Dean's Teaching Fellowship course.
Instructor(s): B. Meiches
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

German Romance Languages Literatures

AS.210.163. Elementary Yiddish I. 3 Credits.
Year-long course. Includes the four language skills—reading, writing, listening, and speaking—and introduces students to Yiddish culture through text, song, and film. Emphasis is placed both on the acquisition of Yiddish as a tool for the study of Yiddish literature and Ashkenazic history and culture, and on the active use of the language in oral and written communication. Both semesters must be taken with a passing grade to receive credit.
Instructor(s): E. Niborski.

AS.210.164. Elementary Yiddish II. 3 Credits.
Year-long course that includes the four language skills—reading, writing, listening, and speaking—and introduces students to Yiddish culture through text, song, and film. Emphasis is placed both on the acquisition of Yiddish as a tool for the study of Yiddish literature and Ashkenazic history and culture, and on the active use of the language in oral and written communication. Both semesters must be taken with a passing grade to receive credit. Recommended Course Background: AS.210.163 or instructor permission.
Area: Humanities.

AS.210.263. Intermediate Yiddish I. 3 Credits.
Continuation to Intermediate Yiddish I. This course will focus on understanding the Yiddish language as a key to understanding the culture of Yiddish-speaking Jews. Emphasis will be placed on reading literary texts and historical documents. These primary sources will be used as a springboard for work on other language skills: writing, listening, and speaking. Recommended Course Background: AS.210.164 or equivalent, or two years of German and permission of instructor.
Area: Humanities.

AS.210.264. Intermediate Yiddish II. 3 Credits.
Continuation of Advanced Yiddish I (AS.210.367). Students will continue to hone their skills in all four language areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. In addition to advanced grammar study and readings in Yiddish literature, the course will take into account the interests of each individual student, allowing time for students to read Yiddish texts pertinent to their own research and writing.
Instructor(s): B. Caplan
Area: Humanities.

AS.210.367. Advanced Yiddish. 3 Credits.
Continuation of Advanced Yiddish I (AS.210.367). Students will continue to hone their skills in four language areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. In addition to advanced grammar study and readings in Yiddish literature, the course will take into account the interests of each individual student, allowing time for students to read Yiddish texts pertinent to their own research and writing.
Prerequisites: AS.210.367
Instructor(s): B. Caplan
Area: Humanities.
AS.211.174. Media of Propaganda. 3 Credits.
Today, promoting a particular political or personal point of view is not viewed as "propaganda," but rather as building a community of equally minded people. But where do we draw the line, and when does the use of a medium in service of a certain message become intrusive and misleading? What role do democracy and cultural values play in this use or abuse of media? In this class the term "propaganda" will be evaluated carefully and applied to such historical media case studies as the informational use of the radio in World War One, Leni Riefenstahl's Nazi propaganda films, the legendary success of advertisement campaigns in the 1950s and 1960s, the AIDS movement and other mobilization strategies from the 1980s to the 1990s, and the new values of friendship and propaganda in our current facebook nation. Instructor(s): B. Wegenstein
Area: Humanities.

AS.211.202. Freshman Seminar: A Thousand Years of Jewish Culture. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the history and culture of Ashkenazi Jews through their vernacular, Yiddish, from the settlement of Jews in German-speaking lands in medieval times to the present day. Particular emphasis will be placed on the responses of Yiddish-speaking jews to the challenges posed by modernity to a traditional society. In addition to studying a wide range of texts—including fiction, poetry, memoir, song, and film—students will learn how to read the Yiddish alphabet, and will prepare a meal of traditional Ashkenazi dishes. No prior knowledge of Yiddish is necessary for this course. Instructor(s): B. Caplan
Area: Humanities.

AS.211.212. Holocaust and Film. 3 Credits.
Taught in English. This class will examine the history of Holocaust films in regard to the possibilities of genre (documentary versus feature), the use of historical and archival materials, as well as general questions of representation and trauma. I CINEMA OF THE VICTIMS II CINEMA OF THE PERPETRATORS III CINEMA OF THE SECOND AND THIRD GENERATIONS WITNESSES Students will be writing weekly response papers to all screenings, and will choose to work with films in the original languages German, English, Italian, and French. This class will be writing-intensive. Cross-listed with Film and Media Studies, Political Science, History, and Jewish Studies. Instructor(s): B. Wegenstein
Area: Humanities Writing Intensive.

AS.211.253. Freshman Seminar: Why is the Fiddler on the Roof?: The Shtetl in Modern Jewish Culture. 3 Credits.
The most familiar portrayal of the shtetl for an American audience is the setting of the Broadway musical Fiddler on the Roof, where the shtetl, or market town, is a bastion of traditional Jewish life. But what exactly was a shtetl? How did traditional Jews live there, and how were their lives affected by the sweep of modernity? How was the Yiddish language, spoken by all shtetl Jews, both a repository of tradition and an agent of change? How do representations of the shtetl—from corrupt backwater to pious haven—reflect the concerns of Jews from the nineteenth century up to our own day? Through memoir, literature, film and painting, this course will examine actual lives lived in the shtetl, as well as a selection of the many artistic representations of it. All readings will be in English. Instructor(s): B. Caplan
Area: Humanities.

AS.211.344. Holocaust and Film. 3 Credits.
Taught in English. This class will examine the history of Holocaust films in regard to the possibilities of genre (documentary versus feature), the use of historical and archival materials, as well as general questions of representation and trauma. I CINEMA OF THE VICTIMS II CINEMA OF THE PERPETRATORS III CINEMA OF THE SECOND AND THIRD GENERATIONS WITNESSES Students will be writing weekly response papers to all screenings, and will choose to work with films in the original languages German, English, Italian, and French. This class will be writing-intensive. Cross-listed with Film and Media Studies, Political Science, History, and Jewish Studies. Instructor(s): B. Wegenstein
Area: Humanities Writing Intensive.

AS.211.430. L’Affaire Dreyfus. 3 Credits.
This course proposes to look at persuasive strategies that were engaged during the Dreyfus Affair in order to either incriminate or discriminate the Jewish captain falsely accused of having betrayed the French army. Course will focus on the socio-political events that framed the Dreyfus Affair (anti-Semitism in 19th-century France, caricatures and polemical writings in the press, the consequences of the Franco-Prussian War and of the Commune, the bipolar division that split French society into Dreyfusards and anti-Dreyfusards), as well as its long-term effects (the rise of the extreme right, the creation of the "intellectual", the consolidation of Zionism which ultimately led to the creation of a Jewish state). Recommended Course Background: AS.210.301-AS.210.302 or AS.210.301 or permission of instructor. Instructor(s): K. Cook-Gailloud
Area: Humanities.

AS.213.253. Freshman Seminar: Jewish Humor and the Construction of Cultural Discourse. 3 Credits.
With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, one of the most powerful symbols of the Cold War came down. For decades, the division between East and West Germany had been a decisive factor in German literature and film from both states in several respects. Political censorship in the GDR and West German publishing policies determined the conditions for art production. They created specific audiences and shaped the role of the public intellectual. The Berlin Wall could also be said to have contributed to certain trends like the aesthetics of coldness and the poetics of observation. The course examines the relationship between aesthetics and politics in German-German literature and film from 1961 to the present. Readings include: Christa Wolf, Uwe Johnson, Reiner Kunze, Peter Schneider, Ingo Schulze, Anna Funder. Films: Wings of Desire (Wim Wenders, 1987), The Leading Role (Harun Farocki, 1994), The Tunnel (Roland Suso Richter, 2001), Good Bye, Lenin! (Wolfgang Becker, 2003), The Lives of Others (von Donnersmarck, 2007), Yella (Christian Petzold, 2007). The course will be taught in English. Instructor(s): M. Caplan
Area: Humanities.
AS.213.260. Modern Jewish Literature in North America. 3 Credits.
Tought in English. This course will survey the major trends in Yiddish, Hebrew, and English literature published in the United States, Canada, and Mexico since the turn of the 20th century. Our discussions will consider the connections this literature maintains with other "ethnic" schools of writing; what connections, or disruptions, it signifies with Jewish literatures in other eras or locales; to what degree Jewish writing in languages other than English participate in major trends of American literature—or whether this writing could even be considered to anticipate innovations in the American "mainstream." Topics in this literature will include the disruptions of immigrant life, the shadows of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, aspirations for social justice, the lure and trauma of the American suburbs, the collapse of the Great Society, gender in American Jewish life, and the new Jewish immigrants of the former Soviet Union. All readings and discussions available in English. Instructor(s): M. Caplan
Area: Humanities.

AS.213.309. Walter Benjamin and His World. 3 Credits.
All readings and class discussions in English. This course will provide an introduction to the thought, writing, and world of Walter Benjamin—one of the most interesting and influential German writers of the early 20th century. Although he died in exile having published only a single book in his lifetime, in the past three decades his ideas and preoccupations have changed the way we think about Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Literary Studies, German thought, Jewish mysticism, and the philosophy of history. We will be examining some of his major writings in tandem with precursors such as Charles Baudelaire and Louis Aragon; contemporaries such as Theodor Adorno and Gershom Scholem; and the legacy of his work among contemporary theorists, critics, and artists. Instructor(s): M. Caplan
Area: Humanities

AS.213.317. Berlin at the Crossroads of the 20th Century. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the location of Berlin at the heart of European and global culture over the course of the 20th century. In addition to its centrality to German national identity and political culture, Berlin between the World Wars was a weigh station and meeting ground for a variety of languages, cultures, and artistic trends—whether expatriates, refugees, nomads, touring companies, or vagabonds. In what ways did these travelers to Berlin change German popular or intellectual culture? In what ways did Berlin function as a center for avant-garde culture, and in what sense did it remain a peripheral space, in the shadow of grander culture centers such as Moscow, Paris, New York, or Hollywood? What lessons might be taken from the supposed glamour of Berlin between the World Wars and the continued attraction of that period for post-Holocaust adaptation and contemplation? These questions, among others, will be considered with reference to a variety of narrative, dramas, and films taken from German, English, Hebrew, Russian, and Yiddish sources. Authors to be considered will include Walter Benjamin, Joseph Roth, Irmgard Keun, Erich Kästner, Bertolt Brecht, Christopher Isherwood, Sh. Y. Agnon, Vladimir Nabokov, Viktor Shklovsky, and David Bergelson. All readings and discussions in English. Instructor(s): M. Caplan
Area: Humanities.

AS.213.332. Zionism in Modern Literature: Jewish or Israeli?. 3 Credits.
This course will be an examination of the themes of nationalism, Zionism, and the problems of the nation-state in modern Jewish literature of the past hundred years. Among the topics we will consider are the unique challenges of a diasporic culture relocating its national aspirations to an unfamiliar and often hostile environment, the controversies surrounding political nationalism within modern Jewish culture, the competition between languages in the formation of Israeli society, the character of Israeli national culture, the relationship of Israel's Jewish majority with its minority population, and the relationship of Israeli culture to the Jewish culture of the diaspora. To what extent does Israeli literature constitute a continuation of themes and techniques found in previous Jewish writing, and to what extent does it represent a new beginning? To what extent can Israeli literature be compared with other varieties of Jewish writing and to what extent is this writing a unique cultural phenomenon? Although the majority of works discussed will be translated from Hebrew—including such leading figures of Israeli literature as S. Y. Agnon, S. Yizhar, Amos Oz, and Orly Castel-Bloom—we will also be considering works translated from Yiddish (Mendele Mokher-Sforim), German (Theodor Herzl), and Arabic (Emile Habibi), as well as contemporary American writers such as Philip Roth and Michael Chabon. All readings and discussions conducted in English. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies, English, and the Humanities Center Instructor(s): M. Caplan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.213.336. Dancing About Architecture: Jewish Humor and the Construction of Cultural Discourse. 3 Credits.
Are all Jews funny, or only the ones from New York? This course will be an advanced-undergraduate examination of literary, theatrical, cinematic, and televised representations of Jewish culture focusing on the construction of cultural discourse through comedy. Taking as a point of departure Sigmund Freud's Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious, we will consider the joke as a mode of narration and cultural coding with specific resonances for the Jewish encounter with modernity. Among the topics to be addressed in this course will be the origins of modern Jewish humor in traditional modes of storytelling and study; the problems of anxiety and otherness articulated and neutralized through humor; the significance of Jews in creating popular culture through the mass media (particularly though not exclusively in the United States) as well as the role of these mediums in transmitting and translating Jewish references to the general culture; the status of the Yiddish language as a vehicle for satire and a vehicle of resistance between tradition and modernity; the uses and abuses of Jewish stereotypes and the relationship of Jewish humor to anti-Semitism; the connections between Jewish humor and other modes of minority discourse; and the question of translation of Jewish humor both from Yiddish into other languages and from the Jewish "in-group" to a "post-ethnic" audience. Authors and performers to be examined will include Avrom Goldfaden, Sholem Aleichem, Franz Kafka, Dzigan and Szumacher, Lenny Bruce, the Marx Brothers, Mel Brooks, Phillip Roth, Woody Allen, Larry David, Sarah Silverman, and the Coen Brothers. All readings and discussions conducted in English. Instructor(s): M. Caplan
Area: Humanities.
AS.213.344. Holocaust and Film. 3 Credits.
Taught in English. This class will examine the history of Holocaust films in regard to the possibilities of genre (documentary versus feature), the use of historical and archival materials, as well as general questions of representation and trauma. I CINEMA OF THE VICTIMS II CINEMA OF THE PERPETRATORS III CINEMA OF THE SECOND AND THIRD GENERATIONS WITNESSES Students will be writing weekly response papers to all screenings, and will choose to work with films in the original languages German, English, Italian, and French. This class will be writing-intensive. Cross-listed with Film and Media Studies, Political Science, History, and Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): B. Wegenstein
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.213.403. Women and Their Representation in Modern Jewish Literature. 3 Credits.
If the development of modern literary forms such as the novel, the short story, and the autobiography in Jewish languages commences at a much later date than in other European cultures, the participation of women in the cultivation of these literary forms in Yiddish or Hebrew begins even later: only at the very beginning of the 20th century. What are some of the cultural and historical factors that account for this belatedness? How were women depicted in Jewish literature prior to their entry into the literary marketplace? How does the late start of female writers in these languages affect the formal and political character of their writing? What do aesthetic differences between poetry and prose genres signify about this writing? How do cultural assumptions in Jewish languages differentiate women’s writing from similar forms and genres in other languages? These questions, among others, will be considered with reference to a variety of narratives and poems taken from Yiddish, Hebrew, German, and English sources. Authors to be considered will include Esther Singer Kreitman, Anna Margolin, Kadya Molodowsky, Chava Rosenfarb, Rachel Bluwstein, Leah Goldberg, Orly Castel-Bloom, Else Lasker-Schüler, and Gertrude Stein. All readings and discussions in English.
Area: Humanities.

Though every conventional description of modernist aesthetics dates its origins to the era preceding World War I—in some versions several decades before 1914—there has always been an understanding of the War’s “catalytic” influence on the aesthetic of chaos, madness, violence, and despair that comes to characterize at least one major strain of modernist art. Taking the after-effects of the First World War as well as the Russian Revolution(s) as its point of origin, this graduate-level seminar will consider such writers as Sigmund Freud, Walter Benjamin, Sh. Y. Agnon, Sh. Ansky, Guillaume Apollinaire, Isaac Babel, Georges Perec, Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Roth, Virginia Woolf, and Stefan Zweig. All readings and discussions available in English.
Instructor(s): M. Caplan
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.213.725. Proto-, Modern, and Post-: Locating the -ism in Modernism.
All discussions in English. This graduate seminar will seek to disentangle the interrelationship among “proto-modernism,” “modernism,” and “post-modernism” from the straightjacket of periodization and taxonomy by focusing instead on questions of temporality and phenomenology. When is the time of modernity? What precedes modernism? How is post-modernism a continuation of modernism and a break with modernity? What follows the “post” or precedes the “proto”? How does literature establish a dialogue not just across linguistic borders but temporal ones as well? And when do these processes repeat themselves due to historical and political factors? By way of complicating all of these questions we will be considering writers from “across” the 20th century, including Walter Abish, Thomas Bernhard, André Breton, Orly Castel-Bloom, Henry Dumas, Moyshe Kuliak, Machado de Assis, Mendele Moykher-Sforim, Joseph Roth, Anton Shammas, Gertrude Stein, and Robert Walser.
Instructor(s): M. Caplan.

AS.214.340. Holocaust & Film. 3 Credits.
Taught in English. This course examines the question of the Holocaust and its representation in the filmic media. We will analyze such themes as post-traumatic documentary (e.g., Night and Fog, Alain Resnais 1955), the resistance to representation (Shoah, Claude Lanzmann 1985), Holocaust drama and the ethics of entertainment (e.g., Schindler’s List, Steven Spielberg 1993), the question of filmic adaptation (e.g., The Grey Zone, Tim Blake Nelson 2002—based on Primo Levi’s The Drowned and the Saved 1986), and the new genre of confessional first person video-diary (e.g., Two or Three Things I know About him, Malte Ludin 2005). On this last theme we will also host the two-day symposium “The Holocaust: Children of the Perpetrators Confront Their Parents’ Nazi Past through Documentary Film,” in March 09. The symposium will feature three international documentary filmmakers and their recent films The End of the Neubacher Project, Marcus Carney 2007, Fatherland, Manfred Becker 2006, and Two or Three Things I know About him, Malte Ludin 2005, in which the filmmakers—children of Nazi perpetrators—are asking the question “who am I in relation to my father’s deeds?” The symposium will further include a number of experts on the topic of Holocaust, commemoration, and documentary film. Students will be involved in the preparation and, if interested, in the panel-discussions of the symposium. All films will be screened with English subtitles; this class is reading-intensive and writing-intensive; weekly response papers will be written about the films and the course topic at large. Cross-listed with Film and Media Studies, Political Science, History, and Jewish Studies
Writing Intensive.

AS.216.398. Zionism, Post-Zionism and Modern Hebrew Literature. 3 Credits.
This course studies the development of modern Hebrew literature through its relation to Zionism and Post-Zionism. Based on a close reading of both literary and non-literary Zionist and Post-Zionist texts, we will explore the thematic, social, political, aesthetic and stylistic influences that these two movements have had on modern Hebrew literature. Writers to be discussed include: Hertzl, Nordau, Achad ha-am, Jabotinsky, Kluasner, Brenner, Berdyckewski, Agnon, Greenberg, Kahana-Carmon, Oz, Yehoshua, Grossman, Castel-Bloom, and Laor.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl.
AS.216.412. The Divine in Literature and Cinema. 3 Credits.
This course studies various issues concerning literary and cinematic representations of the divine. We will investigate theoretical, theological, generic and aesthetic aspects of the topic and will familiarize ourselves with the general problem of the relation between religion, literature and cinema. Among the topics to be discussed are, negative theology in literature and film, theodicy and anti-theodicy, the question of religion and literary modernism, providence and narratology in the modern novel and in contemporary cinema.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl

AS.216.612. The Divine in Literature and Cinema.
This course studies various issues concerning literary and cinematic representations of the divine. We will investigate theoretical, theological, generic and aesthetic aspects of the topic and will familiarize ourselves with the general problem of the relation between religion, literature and cinema. Among the topics to be discussed are, negative theology in literature and film, theodicy and anti-theodicy, the question of religion and literary modernism, providence and narratology in the modern novel and in contemporary cinema.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl

Humanities Center

AS.300.308. The Israeli Novel. 3 Credits.
This course studies the Israeli novel through close reading of the works of major Israeli writers such as, Ya’akov Shabtai, Amos Oz, A.B Yeshoshua, Amalia Kahana-Carmon, Yehoshua Knaz, David Grossman, Orly Castel-Bloom, Yoel Hoffmann and Etgar Keret. We will focus on questions of style, genres and thematic choices. Among the topics to be discussed are, Jewish history and tradition, social and political critiques and minority representations. Classes conducted in English, but students with knowledge of Hebrew are encouraged to read texts in the original.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities

AS.300.313. Contemporary Israeli Cinema. 3 Credits.
This course examines Israeli cinema of the last two decades. Among the films to be discussed are: Oscar nominees Adjami and Waltz with Bashir, Late Marriage, A Matter of Size, Year Zero, Lemon Tree, Sweet Mud, and Lebanon. We will study the different influences and the innovative use of style and genres in these films, as well as the new themes and agendas that they offer.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities

AS.300.330. Trauma in Theory, Film, and Fiction. 3 Credits.
An examination of the representation of trauma in literary theory, psychiatry, survivor literature, films, novels, and comics. Works by Sebald ("The Emigrants"), Lanzmann ("Shoah"), Spiegelman ("In the Shadow of No Towers"), McCarthy ("Remainder"), and others.
Instructor(s): R. Leys
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.300.345. Between the Sacred and the Secular in Modern Hebrew Literature. 3 Credits.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.300.351. Literature and Hasidism: The Tales of Nachman of Berslov. 3 Credits.
This course explores the tales of Nachman of Berslov as a literary, cultural and theological phenomenon. We will trace the Kabbalistic and messianic elements in these tales and evaluate their place and role within the wider context of Hassidic literature.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.300.356. From Literature to Film - the case of Israeli Cinema. 3 Credits.
This course explores the differences and similarities between two artistic mediums: literature and cinema. Our case study will be the interesting transformation of Hebrew fiction into Israeli films-- a dominant phenomenon in Israeli cinema since its very beginning. Our main framework will be narrative theories, but we will also consider the specific historical, ideological and geo-political aspects involved in this transformation. By comparing the two artistic modes and studying the transformation of 5 literary works into films, students will become familiar with the history of modern Hebrew literature, contemporary Israeli cinema, and the relationship between these two artistic mediums. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies, Film and Media Studies, and Writing Seminars
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.300.372. Holocaust Testimonies. 3 Credits.
A seminar on topics and issues associated with Holocaust testimony. Crosslisted with History, History of Science and Technology, and Anthropology.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

AS.300.374. The Other in Israeli Culture. 3 Credits.
This course examines the representations of the Other in Israeli society and culture. Relying on Self-Other theories we will study the role of the Other in contemporary Israeli cinema, prose, poetry, theater and visual art, and will investigate the political, social and cultural context of its representations. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies and Film and Media Studies
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.300.375. The God of the Hebrew Writer. 3 Credits.
Who is the God of the Hebrew poet and what kind of being is he? This course will examine the ways in which Hebrew writers conceived God. Against the background of Medieval Hebrew poetry we will read modern Hebrew poetry, prose and drama and analyze the changes in the notion of God and its depictions from the Middle Ages through Jewish Enlightenment to modernity. We will study the role of the poet as a mediator between God and his people and his or her understanding of God in the aftermath of World War I and the Holocaust.
Area: Humanities.
AS.300.379. Israeli Film and Literature. 3 Credits.
This course examines representations of various aspects of Israeli society and culture in contemporary Israeli cinema and literature. The course will follow both a thematic and chronological path in order to study the ways in which Israeli cinema and literature reflect political, ideological, social, and cultural aspects of contemporary Israel. In this context, we will read well-known works by several major authors and will watch major Israeli films from the 1940s to these days. We will also use a comparative approach to study the different artistic means of both mediums and to evaluate their successes in representing the various tensions of Israeli society and culture.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl; Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.300.380. Realism and Anti Realism in Modern Jewish Literature. 3 Credits.
This course seeks to trace the narrative dynamics and literary means of Modern Jewish Literature. The course will focus on the ideological, political and artistic context of the break with the conventions of realism in Jewish modernism. Reading includes: Erich Auerbach, Franz Kafka, S.Y Agnon, S.Y Abramovitch, Sholem Asch, A.B Yehoshua, Yoel Hoffmann and Orly Castel-Bloom. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies and GRLL.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities.

AS.300.381. The Moses Complex. 3 Credits.
Instructor(s): R. Leys
Area: Humanities.

AS.300.389. Zionism, Post-Zionism and Modern Hebrew Literature. 3 Credits.
This course studies the development of modern Hebrew literature through its relation to Zionism and Post-Zionism. Based on a close reading of both literary and non-literary Zionist and Post-Zionist texts, we will explore the thematic, social, political, aesthetic and stylistic influences that these two movements have had on modern Hebrew literature. Writers to be discussed include: Hertzl, Nordau, Achad ha-am, Jabotinsky, Kluaasner, Brenner, Berdyczewski, Agnon, Greenberg, Kahana-Carmon, Oz, Yehoshua, Grossman, Castel-Bloom, and Laor. Cross listed with: Jewish Studies and Political Science.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.300.404. The Israeli Novel. 3 Credits.
This course studies the Israeli novel through close reading of the works of major Israeli writers such as, Yaakov Shabtai, Amos Oz, A.B Yeshoshua, Amalia Kahana-Carmon, Yehoshua Knaz, David Grossman, Orly Castel-Bloom, Yoel Hoffmann and Ettgar Keret. We will focus on questions of style, genres and thematic choices. Among the topics to be discussed are Jewish history and tradition, social and political critiques and minority representations. Classes conducted in English, but students with knowledge of Hebrew are encouraged to read texts in the original. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies and Writing Seminars.
Area: Humanities.

AS.300.413. Israeli poetry. 3 Credits.
This course examines the works of major Israeli poets such as Yehuda Amichai, Nathan Zach, David Avidan, Dalia Rabikovitch, Yona Wollach, Maya Bejerano, and Yitzhak Laor. These works will be read against the background of the poetry of previous literary generations of writers such as H.N Bialik, Avraham Shlonsky, Natan Alterman and Lea Goldberg in an attempt to uncover changes in style, themes and aesthetic. Through close reading of the poems, the course traces the unique style and aesthetic of each poet, and aims at presenting a wide picture of contemporary Hebrew poetry. Class will be conducted in English and texts will be read in both English translation and the Hebrew original. Open for both Hebrew and non-Hebrew speakers.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl.

AS.300.417. Modern Jewish Thought and Literature. 3 Credits.
Open to graduate students. This course studies a wide range of texts dealing with questions concerning the Jewish experience in the modern world. Relying on a comparative mode, we will analyze the historical, philosophical, ideological, and political aspects of these texts, as well as parallel literary and artistic depictions of similar topics. Crosslisted with Jewish studies.
Area: Humanities.

AS.300.425. Literature and the Divine. 3 Credits.
This course studies various issues concerning literary representations of the divine. We will investigate theoretical, theological, generic and aesthetic aspects of the topic and will familiarize ourselves with the general problem of the relation between religion and literature. Among the topics to be discussed are, negative theology in literature, theodicy and anti-theodicy, the question of religion and literary modernism and providence and narratology in the modern novel.
Area: Humanities.

AS.300.606. Realism and Anti Realism in Modern Jewish Literature.
This course seeks to trace the narrative dynamics and literary means of Modern Jewish Literature. The course will focus on the ideological, political and artistic context of the break with the conventions of realism in Jewish modernism. Reading includes: Erich Auerbach, Franz Kafka, S.Y Agnon, S.Y Abramovitch, Sholem Asch, A.B Yehoshua, Yoel Hoffmann and Orly Castel-Bloom. Cross-listed with GRLL and Jewish Studies.
Instructor(s): N. Stahl.

AS.300.691. The Jewish Jesus.
Interdepartmental

This class will survey the various ways in which women, sexuality, and violence are linked in the Hebrew Bible (often referred to as the Old Testament). We will employ a variety of perspectives, including philosophical, historical, and literary. No prior familiarity with the Hebrew Bible is presupposed.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Center for Language Education

AS.384.115. First Year Hebrew. 4 Credits.
Designed to provide reading and writing mastery, to provide a foundation in Hebrew grammar and to provide basic conversational skills. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies. Final day/time will be determined during the first week of classes based on students’ schedules.
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen.
AS.384.116. First Year Modern Hebrew II. 4 Credits.
Designed to provide reading and writing mastery, to provide a foundation in Hebrew grammar and to provide basic conversational skills. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: AS.384.115
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen.

AS.384.215. Second Year Hebrew. 3 Credits.
Designed to enrich vocabulary and provide intensive grammatical review, and enhance fluency in reading, writing and comprehension. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies. Final day/time will be determined during the first week of classes based on students' schedules.
Prerequisites: ( AS.384.115 AND AS.384.115 ) OR ( AS.130.450 AND AS.130.451)
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities.

AS.384.216. Second Year Modern Hebrew II. 4 Credits.
Designed to enrich vocabulary and provide intensive grammatical review, and enhance fluency in reading, writing and comprehension. Recommended Course Background: AS.384.215 or permission required. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: AS.384.215
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities.

AS.384.315. Third Year Hebrew. 4 Credits.
Designed to: maximize comprehension and the spoken language through literary and newspaper excerpts providing the student with the language of an educated Israeli. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies. Final day/time will be determined during the first week of classes based on students' schedules.
Prerequisites: ( AS.384.215 AND AS.384.216) OR ( AS.130.452 AND AS.130.453 )
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities.

AS.384.316. Third Year Modern Hebrew II. 4 Credits.
Designed to: maximize comprehension and the spoken language through literary and newspaper excerpts providing the student with the language of an educated Israeli. Recommended Course Background: AS.384.315 or permission required. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: AS.384.315
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities.

Program in Museums and Society
AS.389.350. Staging Suburbia with the Jewish Museum of Maryland-Community Based Learning. 3 Credits.
Work as a public historian alongside Jewish Museum of Maryland curators and staff, researching primary documents and artifacts to develop an exhibition about Baltimore’s Jewish suburbs. The show will travel throughout Baltimore. M&S practicum course. Cross-listed with History and Jewish Studies.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences.