THE LEONARD AND HELEN R. STULMAN JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

http://krieger.jhu.edu/jewishstudies/

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 Jewish Studies minor requires 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). All courses applied towards the minor must be taken for a letter grade and a grade of C- or better must be earned. In addition, only two courses with any single professor can be counted towards the minor.

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

**Six Jewish Studies Courses**
- Three courses at any level: 9 credits
- Three 300-level or higher courses: 9 credits
- Total Credits: 18

Students may take up to two courses in Hebrew or Yiddish language study to apply towards the minor requirements.

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

Faculty

**Professors**

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

Benjamin Ginsberg

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

Theodore J. Lewis

Kyle P. McCarter

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

Glenn M. Schwartz

**Associate Professors**

Pawel Maciejko
Stulman Chair in Rabbinics and Traditional Judaism; (History) Jewish mystical tradition

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

Neta Stahl (GRLL); Director, Program in Jewish Studies: Comparative and Modern Hebrew literature, religion and literature

**Assistant Professor**

Samuel Spinner (GRLL), Tandetnik Chair in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture; Yiddish Literature, 19th and 20th century German-Jewish culture and literature, Holocaust Studies

**Lecturers**

Zvi Cohen (Center for Language Education)


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

For current course information and registration go to https://sis.jhu.edu/classes/
Courses

Cross Listed Courses

History

AS.100.129. Introduction to Modern Jewish History. 3.0 Credits.
Jewish history 1750-present in Europe, the Near East, the US, Israel; the challenges of modernity and new forms of Jewish life and conflict from Enlightenment and emancipation, Hasidism, Reform and Orthodox Judaism to capitalism and socialism; empire, nationalism and Zionism; the Holocaust. Extensive attention to US Jewry and State of Israel.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.135. Freshman Seminar: In the Land of Others: Minorities in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean. 3.0 Credits.
This course examines the history of ethno-religious minorities in the Mediterranean during the Later Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Y. Glazer-Eytan
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.180. Themes and Concepts in Jewish History. 3.0 Credits.
The course will introduce the student to the main themes and debates in Jewish historiography.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.268. Jewish and Christian mysticism in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period. 3.0 Credits.
This course will trace the historical development of Jewish and Christian mysticism between the 12th and the 17th centuries.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.273. A Comparative History of Jewish and Christian Mysticism. 3.0 Credits.
This course will trace the historical development of Jewish and Christian mysticism between the 11th and the 19th centuries.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.308. Introduction to the History of Jewish Mysticism. 3.0 Credits.
The course will familiarize the student with the history of the main phenomena of Jewish mysticism from the ancient times to the present.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.315. Jewish Political Thought and Social Imagination, 1880-1940. 3.0 Credits.
How a range of Jewish thinkers, activists, and creative writers grappled intellectually with the challenge of the nation-state, the rise and collapse of empires, antisemitism as a political phenomenon, the nature of politics and political action, the nature of modern societies, and the question of Jewish self-determination and sovereignty, 1880-1940. Readings by Herzl, Bernard Lazare, Freud, Kafka, Leshtshinsky, Arendt, Adorno, Michael Chabon, among others.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.343. Diaspora, Nation, Race, and Politics. 3.0 Credits.
For millions of people across the globe, political fate in the 20th century was defined at the intersection of diaspora, race, and nation — and this may be true in the 21st century as well. This course, a collaborative effort involving a historian and a political scientist, explores the parallels and divergences in the deployment of these terms in nationalist and transnational mobilization, literature and aesthetics, and group identity formation in Eastern Europe, Africa and the New World of the Americas. Set against the backdrop of the fall of significant empires in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, we will explore themes of migration, human rights, the nation-state system, and racism through history, political sociology, and political and social theory. We will pay particular attention to the theoretically exemplary Jewish and Black experiences of diaspora, race, and nation, engaging both with how those experiences were specially shaped by the imposition of national and racial logics and with Black and Jewish politics and thought in relation to those categories. Readings include Max Weber, W. E. B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Theodor Herzl, Hannah Arendt, Benedict Anderson, Rogers Brubaker, Andrew Zimmerman, Michele Mitchell, David Scott.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Moss; M. Hanchard
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.345. Religion, Secularity, and Nationhood in Modern Jewish Identity Politics. 3.0 Credits.
How have ethnonational, religious, and secular forms of self-definition played out in Jewish life over the past hundred years, and what sorts of relationships are taking shape between them now? Particular foci include: religious revival in Israel and the fate of Zionism’s ostensibly secular nationalist project in comparative perspective (Ravitzky, Walzer, Friedland); the surprising flourishing of kabbalistic/mystical thought in contemporary Jewish life (Garb); varieties of secular and religious visions of Jewish collective identity (Ohana, Lustick); new and resurgent forms of Judaism in the US; religion and gender (Fader), among other topics. Time at end of semester for independent reading and research.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.
AS.100.363. The Development of the Sabbatian Movement. 3.0 Credits.
This course examines the development of Sabbatianism, the most important messianic movement in the history of Judaism. We shall discuss the messianic claims of Sabbatai Tsevi, the spread of religious fervor among the Jews of Middle East, Europe, and North Africa, rabbinic opposition to the movement, and shall compare it to similar phenomena in Islam and Christianity. Special attention will be paid to reading of primary Sabbatian sources in English translation.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.364. Sacrilegious Jews: Accusations of Ritual Crime in Pre-Modern Europe. 3.0 Credits.
This course will examine the history of the accusations of the Jews of ritual crime (blood libel, host desecration etc.) in pre-modern Europe.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.369. Themes and Concepts in Jewish History. 3.0 Credits.
The course will introduce students to the main themes and debates in Jewish historiography.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.371. Modernity, Catastrophe, and Power in Jewish History: 1881 to the Present. 3.0 Credits.
Jewish history, politics, and culture across a century of enormous transformations and transformative enormities in Europe, the US, and the Middle East. Topics include: impacts on Jewish life of World War I, the Russian Revolution, and the post-imperial reordering of the Eastern European and the Middle East; Zionism and other modes of Jewish counter-positivities; the consolidation of American Jewry; Nazism and the Holocaust in Europe; formation and development of the State of Israel; the global reordering of Jewish life amid cross-currents of the Cold War, conflict in the Middle East, and success in the US. Substantial attention to recent and contemporary history including the dramatic changes in Israeli society and polity over the past forty years and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.611. Kabbalah and the Enlightenment: Reading 'The Manuscript' Found in Saragossa. NA Credit.
The course will discuss the European Enlightenment's attitude to the Jewish esoteric lore. As a lens to discuss this topic, we shall use Jan Potocki's novel "The Manuscript Found in Saragossa".
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.643. Jewish Paths Through Modernity. NA Credit.
Intensive introduction to the key trends and trajectories in modern Jewish history and the major themes in Jewish historiography. Intended to serve both graduate students outside the Jewish history field and graduate students pursuing a field in modern Jewish history.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Moss
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.100.656. Reading Koselleck. NA Credit.
The course will be devoted to close reading of the works of Reinhardt Koselleck.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.100.657. Reading Koselleck. NA Credit.
The course will be devoted to close reading of the works of Reinhardt Koselleck.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Maciejko
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

Near Eastern Studies

AS.130.133. From Hebrews to Jews: The Development of Jewish Identity in the Ancient World. 3.0 Credits.
What happened to the ten lost tribes of Israel? Was Abraham Jewish? How far back can Jewish ethnicity be traced using genetic research? These questions and more will be topics of discussion as we explore the development of Jewish identity beginning with the first evidence of a people called “Israel” in the 13th century BCE and ending with the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. The class will start with a discussion of different types of identity, including ethnic, religious, and cultural identities, as well as how identity can vary between members of the same community. We will also consider how ancient peoples can be studied using textual and archaeological sources. Then we will take a loosely diachronic approach to the development of Jewish identity, from the elusive origins of the Israelites to their existence as a monarchical state under rulers such as King David; from their forced displacement under the Assyrian empire to the Diaspora caused by the Romans. Using primary and secondary source materials, we will assess the key developments in group identity that took place at these times and the factors which influenced them.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Liebermann
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.138. Jerusalem: The Holy City. 3.0 Credits.
This course will survey the cultural history of Jerusalem over three millennia, primarily as the symbolic focus of three faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course content will focus on the transformation of sacred space as reflected by literary and archaeological evidence by examining the artifacts, architectural monuments, and iconography in relation to written sources. The creation of mythic Jerusalem through event and experience will be examined. Course requirements will focus on the development of advanced writing skills and critical thinking.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Mandell
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.140. Hebrew Bible / Old Testament. 3.0 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 w/ 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.202. Ancient Mythology. 3.0 Credits.
This course explores the mythology of the ancient Near East from the invention of writing in Sumer in 3000 B.C. until the conquest of Alexander the Great near the end of the first millennium B.C. Mythological texts from Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia, the Levant, and the Bible will be read from a comparative perspective. Special attention is paid to the origin and development of the epic, culminating in the great Epic of Gilgamesh, but considerable time is also given to the vast mythological and historical literature, and such diverse genres as love poetry, proverbs, humorous dialogues, Omens, and legal and medical texts. All readings are in English translation.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.216. History of the Jews in Modern Times, from the Middle Ages to 1917. 3.0 Credits.
A broad survey of the significant political and cultural dynamics of Jewish history in the Medieval, Early-Modern, and Modern Eras.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.301. History of Ancient Syria-Palestine. 3.0 Credits.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Canaan, including Ancient Israel.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Lauinger
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.302. History: Ancient Syria-Palestine II. 3.0 Credits.
A survey of the history of Ancient Syria and Cannan, including ancient Israel. Taught with AS.134.661. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Mandell
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.303. The Garden of Eden. 3.0 Credits.
References to the story of the Garden of Eden can be found in every significant issue of our time, from sex to politics, from race to the environment. The course will examine the story itself as well as how it’s been interpreted, leading up to today. Enthusiastic participation required.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Robbins
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.330. The Garden of Eden. 3.0 Credits.
References to the story of the Garden of Eden can be found in every significant issue of our time, from sex to politics, from race to the environment. The course will examine the story itself as well as how it’s been interpreted, leading up to today. Enthusiastic participation required.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): E. Robbins
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.341. Traditionalism vs. Orthodoxy in the Modern Era: The Case of Judaism. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.343. Dead Sea Scrolls-English. 3.0 Credits.
A survey of the manuscripts found at Qumran and other sites near the Dead Sea.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Gropp
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.346. Introduction to the History of Rabbinic Literature. 3.0 Credits.
Broadly surveying classic rabbinic literature, including the Talmud and its commentaries, the legal codes and the response, this seminar explores the immanent as well as the external factors that shaped the development of this literature, the seminal role of this literature in Jewish self-definition and self-perception, and the role of this literature in pre-modern and modern Jewish culture.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.348. Religious Law Wrestles With Change: The Case of Judaism. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.359. Reading the Talmud in the Post-Talmudic Era. 3.0 Credits.
Life and Death, Survival and Martyrdom, in the Literature of Post-Talmudic Rabbinic Judaism. Readings in the Original Sources (Knowledge of Hebrew Required). Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.373. Prophets and Prophecy in the Bible. 3.0 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?
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.376. Ancient Magic and Ritual. 3.0 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the vast body of rituals that were practiced and performed in antiquity, with a particular emphasis on rituals from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Hebrew Bible. In addition to examining rituals from a comparative perspective, anthropological and sociological studies of ritual will be read and discussed to shed light on the social, cultural, and political significance of ritual in the ancient world and beyond.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): P. Delnero
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.387. The Poetics of Biblical Prose and Verse. 3.0 Credits.
An exploration of how ancient Israelite techniques of literary textual and inter-textual patterning contributes to cohesion and meaning in biblical prose and verse. Attention will be given to the distinguishing characteristics of Hebrew verse in relation to prose, and to a range of different kinds of prose in Israelite literature. These poetics will be exemplified in close readings of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible in English.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Gropp
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.440. Elementary Biblical Hebrew. 3.0 Credits.
Introduction to the grammar, vocabulary, and writing system of biblical Hebrew.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Church
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.441. Elementary Biblical Hebrew. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Estrada
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.442. Readings - Hebrew Prose. 3.0 Credits.
Reading of biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Church
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.443. Reading Of Hebrew Prose. 3.0 Credits.
Reading of Biblical Hebrew prose, especially from the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Estrada
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.130.446. Readings - Hebrew Narrative and Poetry. 3.0 Credits.
Intermediate readings in a variety of narratives with some exposure to poetic text
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Medill
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.130.447. Readings - Hebrew Narrative and Poetry. 3.0 Credits.
Intermediate readings in a variety of narratives with some exposure to poetic text. A continuation of AS.130.446.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Medill
Area: Humanities
NA.

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

AS.134.605. Seminar in Hebrew: Second Isaiah. NA Credit.
Translation, textual, philological, prosodic, literary and thematic analysis of Isaiah 40-55, with focus on how Hebrew verse as distinct from prose is constructed.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Gropp
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.608. Book Of Ezekiel. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.612. Qumran Aramaic. NA Credit.
Readings in the Aramaic texts from Qumran, such as the Prayer of Nabonidus, the Genesis Apocryphon, Targum of Job, and the Enochic literature. Basic ability to read Aramaic is necessary.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Gropp
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.623. Pentateuch. NA Credit.
This course surveys the linguistic and literary structure of the Pentateuch. A second and equally important focus will be the history of scholarship and its broader impact on the study of the history and religion of ancient Israel and Judah.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Mandell
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.134.652. Seminar in Ancient Israelite Religion. NA Credit.
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.720. Ugaritic I. NA Credit.
A year-long course studying Ugaritic language and literature. The first semester will focus on grammar and translating a representative selection of mythological texts. The second semester will concentrate on ritual texts. The course will also be epigraphic in nature using both conventional and digital techniques.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: NA
NA.

AS.134.747. Archaic Aramaic. NA Credit.
An advanced course in Aramaic devoted to the study of Old Aramaic inscriptions. We will be translating and analyzing a selection of texts from Northern Syria (e.g. Bar-Rakib; Hadad; Kuttamuwa, Nerab, Panamuwa, Sefire, Zakkur), Southern Syria (e.g. Bar-Hadad/Melqart Stela, Hazael, Tel Dan) and Northern Mesopotamia (e.g. Tell Fakhariyah). Students will be expected to vocalize such texts as a study in historical and comparative linguistics and to clarify their understanding of the morphology and syntax.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): T. Lewis
Area: Humanities
NA.

Philosophy

AS.150.428. Spinoza's Theological Political Treatise. 3.0 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, philosophy and faith, the nature of the ancient Hebrew State, Spinoza's theory of the State, the role of religion in Spinoza's political theory, the freedom to philosophize, the metaphysics of Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise, and finally, the reception of the TTP.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Y. Melamed
Area: NA
NA.
Writing Intensive.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Instructor(s): B. Ginsberg
Corequisites: NA
Prerequisites: NA
and seniors. Cross-listed with Jewish Studies. Course is open to juniors
the power of the Jews seems ultimately to rest on a rather insecure
margins, forced into exile or worse. Though it may rise to a great height,
to be reckoned with” than they found themselves banished to 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 places ranging 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. Course is open to juniors
and seniors.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.150.435. Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed & Political Theology. 3.0 Credits.
The seminar is an in-depth study of Maimonides’ magisterial work, the
Guide of the Perplexed. Special attention will be given to Maimonides’
views about the political functions of religion. We will also read modern
commentaries and responses to the Guide, by Leibniz, Spinoza, and
Salomon Maimon.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): D. Katz; Y. Melamed
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.150.485. Descartes and Spinoza. 3.0 Credits.
Descartes and Spinoza are two of the leading philosophers of the modern
period. In the class we will study the works of both figures. Special
attention will be assigned to Spinoza’s early works.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Y. Melamed
Area: Humanities
NA.

Political Science
AS.190.344. Seminar In Anti-Semitism. 3.0 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 places ranging 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. Course is open to juniors
and seniors.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Ginsberg
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive.

AS.190.434. Does Israel Have a Future?. 3.0 Credits.
Israel is one of the only countries whose existence is openly challenged.
This class will examine the future of Israel focusing on international and
domestic threats to its continued existence as a Jewish democracy.
Outside threats to be considered include nuclear attack and the growing
international movement to delegitimize Israel. domestic challenges
include demographic changes, the role of religion in governance, and
doubts as to whether one can be a Jewish state and still be a democracy.
Lessons from the destruction of the ancient Israelite kingdoms and from
contemporary state deaths will be included. The course will conclude by
considering efforts that Israel can undertake to meet the threats it faces.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): A. Dolinsky
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.

AS.191.315. The Domestic Politics of Israel. 3.0 Credits.
Israel's politics and history are complex, involving multiple military
conflicts, domestic struggles and dynamic international relationships.
This course will focus on Israel's domestic politics by tracing the story
of the development of its party system and the parties the compose it.
A parliamentary democracy with a proportional representation electoral
system, Israel's party system includes multiple parties who represent
the various segments of Israeli society. What are the origins of this
party system and the parties that compose it? What changes have they
experienced and what are the factors that influence those changes? Who
are the important actors and what might be motivating them? These
questions and others will serve as our guide on a journey to a better
understanding of Israel's domestic politics.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. David
Area: NA

AS.191.335. Arab-Israeli Conflict. 3.0 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
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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): R. Freedman
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.
Islamic Studies
AS.194.201. Jews, Muslims, and Christians in the Medieval World. 3.0 Credits.
The three most widespread monotheisms have much more in common than is generally portrayed: a common founding figure, a partly shared succession of prophets, closely comparable ethical concerns and religious practices, a history of coexistence and of cultural, religious, social and economic interaction. This course will focus on a number of key texts and historical events that have shaped the relationships between Jews, Muslims, and Christians during the Middle Ages and contributed to their reciprocal construction of the image of the “other.” The geographical center of the course will be the Mediterranean and the Near and Middle East, a true cradle of civilizations, religions, and exchange.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Ferrario
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.194.401. Themes in Medieval Islamic Thought. 3.0 Credits.
This seminar examines medieval Muslim thinkers who addressed themes at the intersection of theology, philosophy, science, and ethics: the definition of the nature of God’s attributes, His uniqueness, transcendence and omnipotence; human freewill and the limits of human knowledge; the nature of the world; and the relationship among reason, religion, and science. The course will look at how these and other crucial themes were addressed by major medieval philosophers and philosophical schools not only in Islam, but also in Judaism and Christianity, and highlight similarities and differences among the three major monotheistic faiths.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): G. Ferrario
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

German Romance Languages Literatures
AS.210.163. Elementary Yiddish I. 3.0 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. Students wishing to retain credits for Elementary Yiddish I must complete Elementary Yiddish II with a passing grade.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Lang
Area: NA

AS.210.164. Elementary Yiddish II. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Lang
Area: NA

AS.210.263. Intermediate Yiddish I. 3.0 Credits.
This course will focus on the Yiddish language as a key to understanding the culture of Yiddish-speaking Jews. Topics in Yiddish literature, cultural history and contemporary culture will be explored through written and aural texts, and these primary sources will be used as a springboard for work on all the language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Prerequisite: AS.210.164 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.
Prerequisites: AS.210.164 or Permission of Instructor.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Lang
Area: Humanities

AS.210.264. Intermediate Yiddish II. 3.0 Credits.
Continuation of Intermediate Yiddish I: this course will focus on the Yiddish language as a key to understanding the culture of Yiddish-speaking Jews. Topics in Yiddish literature, cultural history and contemporary culture will be explored through written and aural texts, and these primary sources will be used as a springboard for work on all the language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Lang
Area: Humanities

AS.210.265. Individualized Yiddish Practicum. 3.0 Credits.
This course will allow students at any stage of Yiddish language acquisition to hone their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The program will be individualized for each student according to his or her needs while at the same time providing joint activities in which all can participate.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Lang
Area: Humanities

AS.210.269. Intermediate Yiddish Texts I. 3.0 Credits.
For students who have completed at least one year of Yiddish language study, this course will provide the opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge of Yiddish culture while continuing to improve their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking Yiddish. Alongside textbook-based language work, students will read, listen to and interact with a variety of texts, for example literature, journalism and oral history. Prerequisite: AS.210.164 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Lang
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.211.202. Freshman Seminar: A Thousand Years of Jewish Culture. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Lang
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.211.217. Freshman Seminar: From Rabbis to Revolutionaries: Modern Jewish Identities. 3.0 Credits.
Many Jews in the modern period abandoned the traditional religious way of life, but continued to identify strongly as Jews, and even those who remained committed to tradition had to adapt. Through the prism of the Yiddish language, the vernacular of Eastern European Jewry, this course will explore different ways in which Jews reacted to historical developments and embraced political and cultural movements of their time, from the founding of modern Yiddish theater in Romania, to the creation of a Jewish autonomous region in the far east of the Soviet Union, to the development of avant-garde poetry in New York. 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 explore food culture by preparing a meal of Eastern European Jewish dishes. No prior knowledge of Yiddish is necessary for this course.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): B. Lang
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.211.325. Representing Otherness in Literature and Film. 3.0 Credits.
The term "Otherness" is known to be rooted in the Self-Other opposition as it emerged in German Idealism, adopted by psychoanalysis and transformed to Post-Colonial and Feminist theories. This theoretical framework will allow us to explore the role of the Other in literature and cinema. Students will become familiar with the historical development of the notion of the "stranger" through reading and analyzing various contemporary works of prose, poetry and cinema from various countries. We will analyze the ways in which these works depict Otherness and will investigate questions regarding their social, political and philosophical framework as well as the literary and cinematographic devices they employ. The course will have a comparative nature with the aim of learning more about the differences between the literary and cinematic representations.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.211.328. Berlin Between the Wars: Literature, Art, Music, Film. 3.0 Credits.
Explore the diverse culture of Berlin during the heyday of modernism. During the Weimar Republic, Berlin became a center for theater, visual arts, film, music, and literature that would have an outszie impact on culture throughout the world and the twentieth century. The thinkers, artists, and writers drawn to interwar Berlin produced a body of work that encapsulates many of the issues of the period: the effect of the modern city on society; "the New Woman"; socialist revolutionary politics; the rise of the Nazis; and economic turmoil. While learning about interwar Berlin's cultural diversity, we will take a special look at works by Jewish writers and artists that engage with the question of ethnic, religious, and national identity in the modern world, specifically in the context of Berlin's rich Jewish history and the rise of anti-Semitism in the interwar period. All readings will be in translation.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Spinner
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.211.329. Museums and Identity. 3.0 Credits.
The museum boom of the last half-century has centered largely around museums dedicated to the culture and history of identity groups, including national, ethnic, religious, and minority groups. In this course we will examine such museums and consider their long history through a comparison of the theory and practice of Jewish museums with other identity museums. We will study the various museological traditions that engage identity, including the collection of art and antiquities, ethnographic exhibitions, history museums, heritage museums, art museums, and other museums of culture. Some of the questions we will ask include: what are museums for and who are they for? how do museums shape identity? and how do the various types of museums relate to one another? Our primary work will be to examine a variety of contemporary examples around the world with visits to local museums including the Jewish Museum of Maryland, the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of the American Indian.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Spinner
Area: Humanities
NA.
**AS.211.333. The Holocaust in Film and Literature. 3.0 Credits.**
How has the Holocaust been represented in literature and film? Are there special challenges posed by genocide to the traditions of visual and literary representation? Where does art and literature fit in to the commemoration of communal tragedy and the working through of individual trauma entailed by thinking about and representing the Holocaust? These questions will guide our consideration of a range of texts — nonfiction, novels, poetry — in Yiddish, German, English, French and other languages (including works by Primo Levi and Isaac Bashevis Singer), as well as films from French documentaries to Hollywood blockbusters (including films by Alain Resnais, Claude Lanzmann, and Steven Spielberg). All readings in English.

**Prerequisites:** Cannot be taken by anyone who previously took AS.213.361

**Corequisites:** NA

**Instructor(s):** S. Spinner

**Area:** Humanities

**AS.211.337. Wandering Jews? Jewish Migration in Film and Literature. 3.0 Credits.**
Migration in all its forms has played a major role in shaping Jewish identity throughout history. From the Biblical exodus from Egypt through the beginnings of the diaspora under the Romans to the massive European Jewish immigration to America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to the founding of the state of Israel, the migrations of Jews have also had a major place in Jewish literature. Going all the way back to the Bible, but focusing on the 20th century, this course will explore the ways in which literature and film represent the experience of migration, whether negative (compelled by expulsion or violence); positive (lured by economic or social opportunity); or somewhere in-between. We will examine poetry, plays, prose and film in Yiddish, German, Hebrew, and English (all in translation) on aspects of Jewish migration including the social and political factors motivating migration from the countryside to the shtetl (town) to the city and from Central and Eastern Europe to the Americas, Palestine, and Israel. Issues under discussion will include: adaptation and assimilation; minority rights; what is the relationship of old and new or major and minor languages and literatures; what is the place of tradition and heritage in a diasporic context? We will also consider the resonances between contemporary debates on migration and historical examples of these issues as they are reflected in literature and film.

**Prerequisites:** NA

**Corequisites:** NA

**Instructor(s):** S. Spinner

**Area:** Humanities

**AS.211.347. Monsters, Ghosts, and Golems. 3.0 Credits.**
Modern Jewish literature and film is full of monsters, ghosts, golems, dybbuks, and other occult creatures. We will study the rich religious and folkloric traditions that these works draw on in order to better understand why Yiddish, German, Hebrew, and English literature from the 19th century to the present and why film from its beginnings are so full of the occult and the supernatural. We will pay special attention to the ways that monsters, spirits, and the like were deployed in modernist literature and film, in order to ask and answer major questions about modernity: what are the social and aesthetic consequences of technology and automation? what aspects of human nature are revealed by new insights into the psyche? All readings in English.

**Prerequisites:** NA

**Corequisites:** NA

**Instructor(s):** S. Spinner

**Area:** Humanities

**AS.211.348. Holocaust Consciousness — An Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Approach Through Media Studies and Psychology. 3.0 Credits.**
This course approaches Holocaust consciousness in the U.S. and Europe within a psychological and media-theoretical frame-work. It is also part of a larger research project between the Center for Advanced Media Studies at JHU and the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna. During the semester students will be tele-conferencing during five to six class sessions with students in the same course held at the Sigmund Freud University and taught by Professors Nora Ruck and Markus Brunner. Together we will examine Holocaust consciousness in the U.S. and Europe, and such phenomena as trauma, inter-generational transmission, and projection of the trauma of the victims’ and/or the perpetrators’ As primary materials we will be using war memoirs and documentary films (from the films of the “Bilderverbot” to today’s family ethnographies). Students will be teamed in small, inter-cultural groups to address both U.S. and a European perspectives on these materials. An excursion to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. will also be part of the course.

**Prerequisites:** NA

**Corequisites:** NA

**Instructor(s):** B. Wegenstein

**Area:** Humanities

**Writing Intensive.**
AS.211.361. Narratives of Dissent in Israeli Society and Culture. 3.0 Credits.
In this course we will study and analyze the notion of dissent in Israeli society and culture on its various literary and artistic forms. We will examine the emergence and the formation of various political and social protest movements, such as the Israeli Black Panthers, Israeli feminism and the 2011 Social Justice protest. We will discuss at length the history and the nature of dissent in the military and in relation to Israeli wars and will track changes in these relations. Significant portion of the course will be dedicated to the literary, cinematic and artistic aspects of Israeli dissent and their influence on Israeli discourse. We will explore the nature and role of specific genres and media such as the Israeli satire, Israeli television, newspaper op-ed and the recent emergence of social media. Students who are fluent in Hebrew and are wishing to attend an additional hour-long Hebrew discussion session per week with Professor Cohen (time TBD in consultation with enrolled students) for 4 credits should enroll in section two.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl; Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.211.480. Religious Themes in Film and Literature. 3.0 Credits.
This course would be of interest to anyone who would like to learn about the intersection of religion and modern culture. At the center of the course will stand a close study of the representation of religious themes and their role in modern literature and cinema. The works which we will deal with are not considered religious and yet they include religious themes as part of their narrative, images, language or symbolic meaning. We will trace in various works from various countries and genre, themes such as: divine justice, providence, creation, revelation, the apocalypse, prophecy, sacrifice and religious devotion. We will also study the ways in which Biblical and New Testament stories and figures are represented in these works. The course will have a comparative nature with the aim of learning more about the differences between the literary and cinematic representations.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.211.623. Reading Modern Hebrew Literature. NA Credit.
"And Jesus was a Jew with ear-locks and prayer shawl" claimed Uri Zvi Greenberg, the ultra-nationalist giant of modern Jewish poetry. A flesh-and-blood Jew, a demon, a spoiled student, an idol, a suffering brother, a (failed) Messiah, a nationalist rebel, a Greek god in a Jewish garb – these images of Jesus accompanied Jewish thought and literature for almost two thousand years. This course will study these images through a close reading of major Jewish texts from the Talmud to modern times.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.211.754. Modernist Primitivism. NA Credit.
This course will explore the aesthetics and politics of primitivism in European modernity, focusing on the visual arts and literature in German and Yiddish, but looking at the wider European context, including France and Russia. We will begin with the backgrounds of primitivism in Romanticism, looking especially at its ethnocentric and colonial sources. We will then focus on the presence of anthropological and ethnographic discourses within various registers of modernist thought, literature, and visual culture, with special attention to visual and literary primitivism. Our central concerns will include: the attempt to create a modernist aesthetics grounded in ethnography, the primitivist critique of modernity; the place of primitivism in the historical avant-garde; the development of the notion of “culture” in modernity; and the aesthetics of modern ethnic and national identity. Key thinkers, artists, and writers to be considered include Herder; Gauquelin; Picasso; Wilhelm Woringer; Carl Einstein; Hannah Höch; and Emil Nolde.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Spinner
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.212.432. The Dreyfus Affair: Lying for Truth. 3.0 Credits.
In 1894 French military captain Alfred Dreyfus was found guilty of a crime of treason he did not commit. The true reasons for his arrest are still under debate today: was this a sheer act of antisemitism? Why did the army create false proof against a man they knew was innocent? What was the role of the press in propagating the Affair? This course proposes to approach the Dreyfus Affair in all its complex forms, while encouraging students to carry out original and innovative research based on a wide range of resources (caricatures and articles in the press, pamphlets, paintings, films, music, photographs, court transcripts, government archives, private letters, and hopefully more).
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): K. Cook-Gailloud
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.213.324. What is Jewish Culture?. 3.0 Credits.
We talk about Jewish literature, music, and art—but can a book, or a song, or a painting be Jewish? We will examine the premises of this question and the many answers that have been formulated in response to it focusing on modern European (and some American) culture. Jewishness as it relates to human identity has been conceived of as related to religion, ethnicity, race, nation, language, geography, and politics. But these keywords have also been used to engage with the question of the Jewish identity not of a person, but of a cultural product. To understand the implications of calling, say, a book Jewish, we will examine the history of the concept of culture and its emergence in the context of the formation of modern Jewish identity. We will examine theoretical and literary texts originally written in German, Yiddish, Hebrew, and English, as well as painting, photography, film, and architecture from Europe, Israel and the Americas. We will aim to arrive at an understanding of the ways that the idea of culture intersects with the formation of Jewish identity in modernity. All readings will be in English.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Spinner
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.213.334. Kafka. 3.0 Credits.
Franz Kafka is one of the most important — and one of the most challenging — writers of the twentieth century. This course will investigate why both are true. We will analyze a wide range of his works and learn "how" to read Kafka. We will become familiar with his characteristic subjects: law; family; power; institutions; modernity. We will also attempt to become familiar with his characteristic forms and styles and attempt, in the process, to find out what makes Kafka "kafkaesque." We will also consider his impact on art, literature, film, and thought from his time to the present. All readings in English. German majors/minors should enroll in section 02.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Spinner
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.213.383. Jewish Travel Literature. 3.0 Credits.
Exile; Diaspora; Wandering; Refugee; Immigrant—these are all keywords that have been closely associated with Jews and the Jewish experience. What binds them all is movement, whether individual or communal, voluntary or involuntary. This course will examine the connection between movement and Jewish culture and history through the various forms of Jewish travel writing. In looking at depictions of travel both fictional and historical from the Middle Ages to the 20th century we will revisit and interrogate many of these keywords to understand the ways they have been deployed to understand Jewish identity in literature and beyond. A central point of consideration will be the role of travel in shaping conceptions of Jewish identity as well as Jewish literature in the modern period. We will examine novels, short stories, reportage, and travelogues describing real and imagined journeys from and to Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and America. All readings will be in English translation, primarily from sources in Yiddish, Hebrew, and German.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Spinner
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.213.387. Major City, Minor Literature? Berlin in German-Jewish and Yiddish Literature. 3.0 Credits.
Between the two World Wars, a period of intense artistic and intellectual vitality, Berlin was an international center for theater, visual arts, and literature. Many important Yiddish-language writers were drawn to Berlin and, together with their German-language counterparts, produced a body of literature that explores issues of modernity and identity. By comparing works in Yiddish and German, we will learn about inter-War Berlin’s cultural diversity and richness, while also gaining insight into the particular issues of writing about Jewish identity in the 1920s, and the implications of writing in a minor language (Yiddish). We will read works by authors including Joseph Roth and Alfred Döblin in German, and Moyshe Kulbak and Dovid Bergelson in Yiddish. All texts will be in translation. Some questions we will explore include: • What is a minority/minor language or literature? • How did German and Yiddish interact in cultural and social spheres? • Can texts in different languages comprise a single body of literature? • What did it mean to be German and what did it mean to be Jewish? • Are assimilation and hybridity useful concepts? • Is there such a thing as Jewish modernism? • How did literature of the period respond to the rise of the Nazi party and the intensification of antisemitism?
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Spinner
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.213.407. Museums and Identity. 3.0 Credits.
This course will explore the phenomenon of the “identity” museum through case studies involving Jewish and Holocaust museums around the world. The museum boom of the last half-century has centered in large part around museums dedicated to the culture and history of particular minority groups; recent notable (and relatively local) examples include the brand new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington and the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Our understanding of the contemporary theory and practice of such museums will be based on an examination of the history of the various museological traditions that engage Jewish identity from the 19th century to the present, including the collection and display of art and antiquities, ethnographic exhibitions, history museums, and Holocaust museums. We will deal with two primary museological phenomena: first, the introduction of the “primitive other” into European modernity via ethnographic museums; second, the museological commemoration and representation of trauma, specifically of the Holocaust. We will explore these topics through historical documents, theoretical readings, and case studies including visits to nearby museums. All readings in English.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): S. Spinner
Area: Humanities
NA.
AS.216.300. Contemporary Israeli Poetry. 3.0 Credits.
This course examines the works of major Israeli poets such as Yehuda Amichai, Nathan Zach, Dalia Rabikovitch, Erez Biton, Roni Somek, Dan Pagis, Yona Wollach, Yair Horwitz, Maya Bejerano, and Yitzhak Laor. Against the background of the poetry of these famous poets we will study recent developments and trends in Israeli poetry, including less known figures such as Mois Benarroch, Shva Salhoov and Almog Behar. Through close reading of the poems, the course will trace the unique style and aesthetic of each poet, and will aim at presenting a wide picture of contemporary Hebrew poetry.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.216.342. The Holocaust in Israeli Society and Culture. 3.0 Credits.
This course examines the role of the Holocaust in Israeli society and culture. We will study the emergence of the discourse of the Holocaust in Israel and its development throughout the years. Through focusing on literary, artistic and cinematic responses to the Holocaust, we will analyze the impact of its memory on the nation, its politics and its self-perception.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl; Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.216.373. War in Israeli Arts and Culture. 3.0 Credits.
In this course we will study the various representations of what functions as one of Israel's most unifying and yet dividing forces: war. By analyzing literary and cinematic works as well as visual art and popular culture we will attempt to understand the role of war in shaping Israeli society, culture and politics. Topics such as commemoration and mourning, heroism, dissent and protest, trauma and memory and the changing image of the soldier will stand at the center of the course.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl; Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.216.398. Zionism: Literature, Film, Thought. 3.0 Credits.
This course studies the relations between modern Hebrew and Israeli culture and Zionism. Based on a close reading of both literary and non-literary Zionist texts, we will explore the thematic, social and political aspects of the Zionist movement. The course focuses on primary sources and its main goal is to familiarize students with the various ways in which Zionism was formed and understood. In the last part of the semester we will investigate the different meanings of Post-Zionism through contemporary literary and non-literary texts as well as recent Israeli films.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl; Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.216.444. The Apocalypse in Literature and Film. 3.0 Credits.
“Everything which we loved is lost! We are in a desert” – this emotional assertion was the reaction to Kazimir Malevich's 1915 painting The Black Square, as the artist himself recalled it. This sentiment of fearing, warning and even witnessing the end of the world as we know it, will stand at the center of the course. We will study the literary and cinematic representations of this apocalyptic notion and investigate its theoretical, theological, physiological and aesthetic aspects. We will seek to trace the narrative dynamics as well as literary and cinematic means of apocalyptic representations in works from various periods, languages, cultures and religions. Among the issues to be discussed: what is the apocalypse, biblical apocalypse, dystopia and nostalgia, trauma and post trauma, war and the apocalypse, the Holocaust as the end of civilization, the atomic bomb, realism and anti-realism, political changes and the apocalypse in popular culture.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive.

AS.216.500. Independent Study. 0.0 - 3.0 Credits.
NA
Prerequisites: You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): N. Stahl
Area: NA
NA.

AS.225.218. ANGELS IN AMERICA (The Play) The Millennium Shift in American Culture and Politics. 3.0 Credits.
Tony Kushner's epoch-making play weaves together astonishingly diverse sides of America in a broad tapestry; a modern work that emerged at the end of the 20th Century, now being revived world wide: it provides keys to understanding the American zeitgeist and the coming transformations of the culture. In one pivotal work we find the emergence of LGBT rights, the Mormon Church, the AIDS epidemic, the new “spirituality,” the Reagan-era transformation of both government and business, and the looming figure of Roy Cohn whose influence in American politics “behind the scenes” ranged from the Rosenberg trial to his work as counsel for the McCarthy Committee in the 1950s: and even his legacy in the 2016 as primary political and business mentor of the current President of the United States.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): J. Martin
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
NA.
Center for Language Education

AS.384.115. First Year Hebrew. 4.0 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.
Prerequisites: NA
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: NA
NA.

AS.384.116. First Year Hebrew II. 3.0 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
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: NA
NA.

AS.384.215. Second Year Hebrew. 3.5 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.384.116 or equivalent.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.384.216. Second Year Hebrew II. 3.0 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.
Prerequisites: AS.384.215
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.384.315. Third Year Hebrew. 4.0 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.384.216 or equivalent.
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
NA.

AS.384.316. Third Year Hebrew II. 3.0 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 or instructor permission
Corequisites: NA
Instructor(s): Z. Cohen
Area: Humanities
NA.