

REMOTE JEWISH
STUDIES COURSES AT
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



SPRING 2021
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

This publication is for informational purposes only. The listing of a course in this booklet does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Center for Jewish Studies, nor does the absence of a course necessarily imply the lack of endorsement. The goal of this publication is to aid the process of course selection by students interested in Jewish studies, and we apologize for inadvertent inclusions and exclusions.

Course listings as of January 18, 2021 Course offerings and times may change. Please check the Website of the Registrar's Office of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for updated information. <https://courses.my.harvard.edu>

**Cover image courtesy of Kris Snibbe/Harvard University*

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SPRING SEMESTER

GENERAL EDUCATION

GENED 1009 WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? THE ETHICS OF IDENTITY

Class Number: 16794 Course ID: 215892

Spring 2021

Jay Harris

TTh 1:30pm-2:45pm

Who are you? We typically answer this question with a name and a collection of identity terms. Our identities may be ascribed or chosen; we often experience them as simply given, and we sometimes struggle against them. We use these identity categories, in turn, to structure decisions, negotiate relationships, and otherwise shape our lives. Our identity groups seem to make ethical claims on us, and we refer to them in making claims on one another. Yet the ways we conceptualize our identities may change over the course of our lives, and the identity concepts available to us may be more historically and culturally contingent than we recognize. In this course, we will take a step back from the ways we habitually think of identity. Using the tools of multiple disciplines — including art, philosophy, literature, religion, history and sociology — we will deepen our understanding of what identity is and what role it plays in our lives.

We will begin by confronting ethical questions that arise at the level of the individual, and then expand to questions that arise for social groups, and finally, to questions that arise for institutions:

- How should each of us negotiate between identities that prioritize different values? What role should our identities play in the task of crafting a life and sense of self?
- What claims, if any, can groups organized around identity make on individuals? (“You are one of us, so show some solidarity with our struggle.”) What claims, if any, can individuals make on identity groups? (“This group ought to be more

inclusive to people like me.”) What is to be done when groups hold views about identity that are helpful to some but cause injury to others, both within groups and outside groups? (“We can’t accept you and still be true to who we are.”)

- When, if ever, should institutions organize individuals into identity categories and relate to them through these categories? (Is it ethically appropriate to use identity categories to institutionalize affirmative action? The census? Scientific research on race and sex? The very idea of a nation-state?)

Through this course, students will learn to analyze the ways identities impact human lives, relationships, and structures. The purpose of the course is not to try to answer questions about personal identity, social identity, or identity politics once and for all, but to have a rich and open discussion of the issues, and help shape a richer, and more nuanced private and public deliberations on identity and ethics beyond the classroom.

Class Notes:

You are expected to attend live lecture synchronously twice weekly at the times listed above. You are also expected to attend a weekly TF-led synchronous section meeting that will be based on your preferences and scheduled after the enrollment deadline. This course has an enrollment cap, so to be considered, you must request permission to enroll and rank your choices through my.harvard by **11:59 p.m.**

Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The Gen Ed lottery will run Wednesday, January 20, 2021, with approvals and denials sent out no later than 11:59 p.m. that day. Visit the **Spring 2021 Gen Ed web page** for more information and step-by-step instructions.

Related Sections: Discussion TBA

GENED 1095 IS WAR INEVITABLE?

Class Number: 16540 Course ID: 214413

Spring 2021

Derek Penslar

TTh 9:00am-10:15am

What is war, and why has it been nearly constant throughout history? Why do wars start, how can they be stopped, and what can be done to prevent them? This course seeks to answer these questions. It ranges from antiquity to the present, with an emphasis on the last 300 years. Beginning with the socio-biological roots of human aggression and altruism, the course focuses on selected wars as case studies of different types of conflict. We distinguish wars fought within and between states, within a single region or spread across the globe. We compare wars fought to advance or crush revolutions and those that spread colonial power or liberate a colonized people. We examine wars’ effects on fighters and non-combatants, the role of morale in sustaining wars once undertaken, and the possibilities for post-war reconciliation between adversaries. We measure the effectiveness of international humanitarian law, organizations like the League of Nations and United Nations, and anti-war protest movements. We employ a historical lens to understand the United States’ recent disputes with foreign powers and bouts of domestic strife, which raise the possibility of inter-state and/or civil war. By studying why wars start, what it takes to end them, and what measures have worked better than others to restrain or prevent conflict, we will better understand ourselves, our societies, our current crisis, and the prospects for humanity’s future.

Class Notes:

You are expected to attend live lecture synchronously twice weekly at the times listed above. You are also expected to attend a weekly TF-led synchronous section meeting that will be based on your preferences and scheduled after the enrollment deadline. This course has an enrollment cap, so to be considered, you must request permission to enroll and rank your choices through my.harvard by **11:59 p.m.**

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Related Sections: Discussion TBA

GENED 1149 ONE BOOK, TWO RELIGIONS, MANY TRUTHS

Class Number: 16507 Course ID: 120880

Spring 2021

Shaye Cohen

MW 10:30am-11:45am

The Hebrew Scriptures, what Christians call the “Old Testament” and Jews call the “Bible,” are the basis of both Judaism and Christianity, and stand behind many debates in our contemporary culture wars. In this course we shall survey how this work of literature, through interpretation and re-interpretation, spawned and spawns a wide variety of truths. Implicit themes: What is truth? How do we know it when we see it? Can a text written long ago contain truths for contemporary society?

Class Notes:

You are expected to attend live lecture synchronously twice weekly at the times listed above. You are also expected to attend a weekly TF-led synchronous section meeting that will be based on your preferences and scheduled after the enrollment deadline.

Related Sections: Discussion TBA

BIBLICAL AND ANCIENT

**ANE 120B INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT 2:
LATTER PROPHETS AND WRITINGS**

Class Number: 14995 Course ID: 126065

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

A critical introduction to the literature and theology of the Hebrew Bible, considered in light of the historical contexts of its formation and the interpretive contexts of its reception within Judaism and Christianity. The course, the second part of a divisible, year-long sequence, will focus on the Latter Prophets and the Writings.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 1103.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1103

**HDS 1103 INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT 2:
LATTER PROPHETS AND WRITINGS**

Class Number: 18184 Course ID: 129086

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

*see full course description under **ANE 120B**, *Biblical and Ancient*

HDS 1309 TOPICS IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS: EXEGESIS AT QUMRAN

Class Number: 18186 Course ID: 129105

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

T 3:00pm-5:00pm

*see full course description under **JEWISHST 149**, *Biblical and Ancient*

HDS 1808 THE BINDING OF ISAAC (AQEDAH): SEMINAR

Class Number: 17819 Course ID: 129138

Spring 2021

Jon Levenson

Th 3:00pm-5:00pm

*see full course description under **HEBREW 235**, *Biblical and Ancient*

HEBREW 235 THE BINDING OF ISAAC (AQEDAH): SEMINAR

Class Number: 19984 Course ID: 120896

Spring 2021

Jon Levenson

Th 3:00pm-5:00pm

An examination of Genesis 22 in multiple contexts - its settings in the Hebrew Bible and various forms of its afterlife in Second Temple Judaism, early Christianity, Rabbinic Judaism, and the Qur'an. Emphasis placed on the interpretation and expansion of the story in rabbinic midrashim, read in Hebrew. Some discussion of the use of the story in modern theology (especially Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*) and of rationalist and feminist critiques. Jointly offered as Hebrew 235.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1808.

Recommended Prep: Three years of Hebrew or the equivalent, and acquaintance with historical critical methods.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1808

JEWISHST 149 TOPICS IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS: EXEGESIS AT QUMRAN

Class Number: 23032 Course ID: 126339

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

T 3:00pm-5:00pm

This course explores the diverse functions of scripture within the literature of the Dead Sea Scrolls, focusing in particular on the forms and methods of interpretation attested, considered in light of other varieties of interpretation in early Judaism. Sessions will be devoted to reading, translation and discussion of primary sources in Hebrew, as well as to discussion of relevant secondary literature.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1309.

Recommended Prep: Two years of Biblical Hebrew strongly recommended.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1309

CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

COMPLIT 137 CHILD SACRIFICE, PROS AND CONS: THE BINDING OF ISAAC IN JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, ISLAMIC, AND MODERN LIT

Class Number: 19767 Course ID: 160331

Spring 2021

David Stern

T 12:00pm-2:45pm

Child Sacrifice-- specifically, the story of the parent's sacrifice of the first-born child-- lies at the heart of Western religion and culture. The Biblical narrative in Genesis 22, known as the Binding of Isaac, is one of the most famous and problematic tales in the Bible. The same narrative is foundational to Christianity. Later Jewish tradition has interpreted the Biblical text in countless ways from the ancient period down to the present day. The narrative figures prominently in Islam from the Qur'an on. And the Biblical story has been criticized and critiqued since the Middle Ages as a barbaric narrative. Recent works have blamed it for the ubiquity of child abuse in Western society, and it has become a ubiquitous motif of anti-war and protest poetry all over the world. This course will use the interpretive career and literary history of Genesis 22 as a lens through which to study the place of this foundational narrative in Western culture.

Readings will include Biblical texts, Euripides' *Iphigeneia in Aulis*, Philo of Alexandria, ancient Jewish sources, the New Testament, St. Augustine and other

Christian exegetes, the Qur'an and later Islamic traditions, Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, Martin Buber, Kafka, Bob Dylan, Yehuda Amichai, and Leonard Cohen, among many other modern writers and poets.

Jointly Offered with:

Faculty of Arts & Sciences as HEBREW 137
Faculty of Arts & Sciences as RELIGION 1150
Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1134

COMPLIT 222 THE PASSOVER HAGGADAH

Class Number: 19768 Course ID: 217544

Spring 2021

David Stern

TBA

The Passover Haggadah is the Jewish book of redemption par excellence. As the script for the seder (the ritual banquet on the first night(s) of Passover), the Haggadah has changed and developed as the Jews have moved from one diasporic center to another from Late Antiquity until the present day. In this course we will study the history and development of both the seder and the Haggadah-- as a ritual, as a text, and as a physical book. Readings will be drawn from the Bible, Mishnah, the Jerusalem and Babylonian Talmuds, the New Testament and early Christian writers, medieval Haggadah manuscripts and early printed editions, as well as more recent versions of the Haggadah from both Israel and America (including non-traditional haggadot). We will deal extensively with the tradition of Haggadah illustration, and will utilize Harvard's extensive collection of Haggadot in both Widener and Houghton Library. The focus of the course will be on the reading and analysis of primary sources. No previous experience with Passover is required, but students should have at least two years of Hebrew (Biblical or modern) and be prepared to read texts in Hebrew. Any student with questions about their Hebrew competence should contact Professor Stern.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 1641.

Recommended Prep: Two years of Hebrew.

Jointly Offered with:

Faculty of Arts & Sciences as HEBREW 255
Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1641

HDS 1134 CHILD SACRIFICE, PROS AND CONS: THE BINDING OF ISAAC IN JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, ISLAMIC, AND MODERN LIT

Class Number: 19911 Course ID: 205488

Spring 2021

David Stern

T 12:00pm-2:45pm

*see full course description under **COMPLIT 137**, *Classical and Medieval Jewish Literature, History, and Culture*

HDS 1641 THE PASSOVER HAGGADAH

Class Number: 19910 Course ID: 211176

Spring 2021

David Stern

TBA

*see full course description under **COMPLIT 222**, *Classical and Medieval Jewish Literature, History, and Culture*

HDS 3036 JUDAISM: TEXT AND TRADITION

Class Number: 10066 Course ID: 205216

Spring 2021

Jon Levenson

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

*see full course description under **RELIGION 1250**, *Classical and Medieval Jewish Literature, History, and Culture*

HEBREW 137 CHILD SACRIFICE, PROS AND CONS: THE BINDING OF ISAAC IN JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, ISLAMIC, AND MODERN LIT

Class Number: 19784 Course ID: 211072

Spring 2021

David Stern

T 12:00pm-2:45pm

*see full course description under **COMPLIT 137**, *Classical and Medieval Jewish Literature, History, and Culture*

HEBREW 255 THE PASSOVER HAGGADAH

Class Number: 17279 Course ID: 210972

Spring 2021

David Stern

TBA

*see full course description under **COMPLIT 222**, *Classical and Medieval Jewish Literature, History, and Culture*

JEWISHST 129 JOSEPHUS

Class Number: 17090 Course ID: 128160

Spring 2021

Shaye Cohen

Th 12:00pm-2:45pm

A survey of the works of Flavius Josephus, and of modern Josephan scholarship. Knowledge of Greek is desirable but not required.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1468.

**RELIGION 1150 CHILD SACRIFICE, PROS AND CONS: THE BINDING OF ISAAC
IN JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, ISLAMIC, AND MODERN LIT**

Class Number: 19816 Course ID: 217581

Spring 2021

David Stern

T 12:00pm-2:45pm

*see full course description under **COMPLIT 137**, *Classical and Medieval Jewish Literature, History, and Culture*

RELIGION 1250 JUDAISM: TEXT AND TRADITION

Class Number: 18709 Course ID: 205396

Spring 2021

Jon Levenson

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

A general and wide-ranging exploration of the Jewish religious tradition, from its inception in biblical Israel through its rabbinic, medieval, and modern iterations. The central focus lies on the literary meanings and existential questions of the classical tradition, as well as on the relationships between texts, religious claims, and practices. We shall also consider some of the restatements, reformulations, and challenges to tradition that have arisen in modern times. Open to undergraduates, including first year students, by permission.

Course Notes: Jointly offered with Divinity as 3036.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 3036

MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

COMPLIT 119 MAINSTREAM JEWS

Class Number: 19710 Course ID: 216022

Spring 2021

Saul Zaritt

TBA

Why is it that Jews and discussions of Jewishness appear with such frequency and with such prominence in American culture of the twentieth and the twenty-first century? One can often hear the claim that Hollywood is “owned by Jews.” Many call attention to the number of Jews involved in comics and graphic novels. The State of Israel, and its definition of Judaism, has become an important touchstone in American politics, while antisemitic dog whistles have become commonplace in contemporary political discourse. Contemporary left-wing activists often refer to the legacies—contested or otherwise—of Jewish American labor politics of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. What can we make of these intersecting and surprising references to Jews/Judaism/Jewishness in the current American

moment? This seminar discusses the ways that images of the Jew—philosemitic, antisemitic, and everything in between—recur in the American mainstream. Through analysis of film, television, music, comics, and other mass media, we will track the multiple and contradictory portrayals of Jewishness in the popular American imagination.

Jointly Offered with: Faculty of Arts & Sciences as JEWISHST 106

COMPLIT 224 JEW THEORY

Class Number: 17202 Course ID: 216044

Spring 2021

Saul Zaritt

TBA

This seminar will discuss the possibility of "Jew theory" as a method for theorizing the modern. Beginning with a survey of the history of Jewish studies and its place in the academy, the course will then examine how the figure of the Jew, as symbol and stereotype, enters the work of important thinkers of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century—from Marx to Slezkine, from Rosezweig to Blanchot, Derrida, and Agamben. In parallel we explore the potential of new modes of "Jewish cultural studies" emerging over the last decades in Jewish studies.

Jointly Offered with: Faculty of Arts & Sciences as JEWISHST 224

HIST 2008B JEWISH HISTORY AS WORLD HISTORY: GRADUATE READINGS SEMINAR

Class Number: 18719 Course ID: 216480

Spring 2021

Derek Penslar

W 9:00am-11:00am

Although Jews have historically been dispersed throughout much of the world, until recently modern Jewish historians have worked within the framework of the nation-state. In this class we will read both older and newer works of Jewish history through a comparative, trans-national, and international lens. We will assess the strengths and weaknesses of local, national, regional, and global approaches to the study of the Jews of modern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Americas. Aside from active participation in and facilitation of weekly meetings, the course's main requirement is a 20-page historiographical essay on a subject chosen by the student and relevant to the course's purview. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Course Requirements: Pre-requisite HIST 2008A

JEWISHST 106 MAINSTREAM JEWS

Class Number: 19733 Course ID: 215966

Spring 2021

Saul Zaritt

TBA

*see full course description under **COMPLIT 119**, *Modern Jewish Literature, History, and Culture*

JEWISHST 224 JEW THEORY

Class Number: 17110 Course ID: 215968

Spring 2021

Saul Zaritt

TBA

*see full course description under **COMPLIT 224**, *Modern Jewish Literature, History, and Culture*

SOCIOL 1138 THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN CONFLICT: CONTEMPORARY

SOCIO-LEGAL ASPECTS

Class Number: 14876 Course ID: 212817

Spring 2021

Tally Amir

Th 6:00pm-8:00pm

The decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict has attracted significant international attention and is perceived as an international threat. This seminar offers a nuanced and safe discussion of the conflict's socio-legal context and its implications for Palestinian and Israeli society, through exploring the works of scholars from diverse backgrounds and views. We will take a closer look at some of the main controversies, and how these impact the lived experiences of people in both societies, including Israel's control over and settlements in the West Bank; the separation wall and policy; concepts of citizenship, migration and refugeehood; Palestinian and Israeli statehood; and more. Readings for the course include court decisions, international law instruments, and domestic legislation, as well as sociological analyses.

YIDDISH 111 OLD YIDDISH

Class Number: 22877 Course ID: 217859

Spring 2021

Marion Aptroot

TBA

Literary histories use genre definitions to discuss Old Yiddish literature: they mention epic poems, romances, historical songs, ethical works, supplicatory prayers etc. In this course, we'll discuss the use of genre definitions applied to medieval and early modern Yiddish literature and also how Yiddish culture is situated in European and Jewish contexts in select secondary literature. Primary texts are read in the original in order to develop reading skills in Older Yiddish. They are made available in reproductions of manuscripts and early printed editions, allowing us to identify aspects of the material culture of Old Yiddish Literature.

YIDDISH 118 YIDDISH CINEMA

Class Number: 22974 Course ID: 211187

Spring 2021

Sara Feldman

TBA

From love-sick demons (“The Dybbuk”) to crossdressing fiddlers (“Yidl mitn fidl”), the Yiddish “talkie” of the 1930s and 40s was dynamic medium for both preservation and innovation in Jewish culture. This “golden age” of Yiddish film was short but wide-ranging, with films produced in Soviet, US, and Polish contexts that explored themes of class struggle, immigration, tradition versus modernity, generational conflict, queerness, Jewish persecution, and the fate of Yiddish culture. This course will delve into the diversity of this tradition while also exploring its impact on later Yiddish films, from Israeli confrontations with the Holocaust to the rise of the Yiddish YouTube video and contemporary filmic depictions of the Hasidic world.

Course Notes: No prior knowledge of Yiddish or film studies required.

HEBREW (BIBLICAL AND MODERN) AND YIDDISH LANGUAGE

CLAS-HEB AB ELEMENTARY CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 12531 Course ID: 159881

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

TBA

Continuation of Classical Hebrew AA. A thorough and rigorous introduction to Biblical Hebrew, with emphasis on grammar in the first term, and translation of biblical prose in the second. Daily preparation and active class participation mandatory. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4010B. Classical Hebrew AA/AB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Course Requirements: Pre-requisite: CLAS-HEB AA

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4010B

CLAS-HEB 120B INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 12469 Course ID: 123873

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

TBA

Readings in prose and poetic books; review of grammar. Prerequisite: Classical Hebrew 120a or the equivalent. Jointly offered as HDS 4021.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4021.

Recommended Prep: Classical Hebrew 120a or equivalent.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4021

CLAS-HEB 130BR RAPID READING CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 12473 Course ID: 122693

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

TBA

Advanced reading in selected biblical poetic texts and intensive review of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew.

Recommended Prep: Classical Hebrew 130a or equivalent. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1626.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1626

HDS 4010B ELEMENTARY CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 12531 Course ID: 159881

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

MWF 9:00am-10:00am

*see full course description under **CLAS-HEB AB**, *Hebrew (Biblical and Modern), and Yiddish Language*

HDS 4021 INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 18133 Course ID: 103496

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

*see full course description under **CLAS-HEB 120B**, *Hebrew (Biblical and Modern), and Yiddish Language*

HDS 1626 RAPID READING CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 18134 Course ID: 103802

Spring 2021

Andrew Teeter

Th 12:00pm-2:00pm

*see full course description under **CLAS-HEB 130BR**, *Hebrew (Biblical and Modern), and Yiddish Language*

MOD-HEB BB ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 12578 Course ID: 159988

Spring 2021

Irit Aharony

TBA

The course introduces students to the phonology and script as well as the fundamentals of morphology and syntax of Modern Hebrew. Emphasis is placed on developing reading, speaking, comprehension and writing skills, while introducing students to various aspects of contemporary Israeli society and culture. This is an indivisible course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 4015B. Not open to auditors. Cannot be taken pass/fail. This is an indivisible course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit. In specific cases the instructor will consider approval of enrollment in MOD-HEB BB and MOD-HEB 120A as fulfillment of the one-year language requirement, depending on the student's proficiency level.

Course Requirements: Pre-requisite: MOD-HEB BA

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4015B

MOD-HEB 120B INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 11761 Course ID: 111756

Spring 2021

Irit Aharony

TBA

Continuation of Hebrew 120a.

Course Notes: Conducted primarily in Hebrew. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4041. Not open to auditors.

Recommended Prep: Modern Hebrew 120a.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4041

MOD-HEB 130B ADVANCED MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 12389 Course ID: 126531

Spring 2021
Irit Aharony
TBA

This course is a continuation of Hebrew 130a. Texts, films, and other materials expose students to the richness and complexity of the contemporary sociolinguistics of Israeli society.

Course Notes: Conducted in Hebrew. Not open to auditors. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4043.

Recommended Prep: Modern Hebrew 130a, or equivalent level of proficiency.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4043

MOD-HEB 241R ADVANCED SEMINAR IN MODERN HEBREW: ISRAELI CULTURE: CINEMA & LITERATURE

Class Number: 23055 Course ID: 127670

Spring 2021
Irit Aharony
TBA

This course constitutes the final level of Modern Hebrew language studies. The course offers representative readings and screenings from contemporary Israeli literature and cinema, and it forms bases of discussion on major cultural and linguistic themes through academic readings.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4045. Not open to auditors. Discussions, papers, movies and texts presented only in Hebrew. Course sessions are 1 hour and 30 minutes long, with half an hour of conversation (personal and in group).

Recommended Prep: Modern Hebrew 130b or equivalent.

HDS 4015B ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 18989 Course ID: 160521

Spring 2021
Irit Aharony
TBA

*see full course description under **MOD-HEB BB**, *Hebrew (Biblical and Modern), and Yiddish Language*

HDS 4041 INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 18990 Course ID: 129549

Spring 2021
Irit Aharony
TBA

*see full course description under **MOD-HEB 120B**, *Hebrew (Biblical and Modern), and Yiddish Language*

HDS 4043 ADVANCED MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 18991 Course ID: 154511

Spring 2021

Irit Aharony

TBA

*see full course description under **MOD-HEB 130B**, *Hebrew (Biblical and Modern), and Yiddish Language*

HDS 4045 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN MODERN HEBREW: ISRAELI CULTURE: CINEMA & LITERATURE

Class Number: 23057 Course ID: 105537

Spring 2021

Irit Aharony

TBA

*see full course description under **MOD-HEB 241R**, *Hebrew (Biblical and Modern), and Yiddish Language*

YIDDISH AB ELEMENTARY YIDDISH II

Class Number: 12524 Course ID: 159871

Spring 2021

Sara Feldman

TBA

Continuation of Yiddish AA. Introduction to Yiddish language, literature, and culture. In the course of the year, students will acquire a thorough grounding in Yiddish grammar and will develop strong foundational reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills. The course will introduce students to the 1000-year history of Yiddish culture in Eastern Europe, the United States, and around the world. Students will learn about the past and present of this culture through exposure to Yiddish literature, music, theater, film, radio, oral history, and the Yiddish internet—an introduction to the dynamic world of Yiddish culture and scholarship that exists today. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Course Notes: For students with little or no knowledge of Yiddish. Additional sections at different times may be added as needed. Yiddish AA/AB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Recommended Prep: No prerequisites.

YIDDISH BB INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH II

Class Number: 12152 Course ID: 119875

Spring 2021

Sara Feldman

TBA

Continuation of Yiddish BA. Students will further develop their Yiddish reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension skills. Focus will be on working with a wide variety of textual and cultural materials spanning the Yiddish-speaking world in the modern era. Course materials include selections from Yiddish fiction, poetry,

drama, film, music, the press, and historical documents. Students will become familiar with the language's dialects, writing conventions, and historical development. Course activities will introduce students to the latest developments in online Yiddish publishing and digital humanities scholarship.

Recommended Prep: Yiddish BA or permission of the instructor.

YIDDISH CB ADVANCED YIDDISH II

Class Number: 15091 Course ID: 124883

Spring 2021

Sara Feldman

TBA

Continuation of Yiddish CA. The emphasis of this course is on gaining ease in reading, speaking, writing, and listening comprehension. Students will be guided in exploring their individual areas of interest in Yiddish culture, and will be encouraged to begin producing their own research, creative projects, and translations; taking part in the latest developments in online Yiddish publishing and digital humanities scholarship. Continued exposure to a wide variety of textual and cultural materials, including literature, journalism, folklore, music, film, and theater; with a special focus on the diversity of Yiddish in terms of dialects, vocabulary, historical development, and writing conventions. Ample use of audio-visual and digital materials.

Recommended Prep: Yiddish CA or permission of the instructor.

JEWISH LAW (HARVARD LAW SCHOOL)

HLS 2437 ADVANCED TOPICS IN JEWISH LAW AND LEGAL THEORY

Class Number: 19098 Course ID: 217029

Spring 2021

Noah Feldman

Th 7:00pm-9:00pm

Prerequisite: This seminar will be by permission of the instructor, who strongly prefers that students have a background in advanced study of Jewish legal material. To apply please send a short statement of interest including background in Jewish legal studies to nfeldman@law.harvard.edu with a copy to swhalen@law.harvard.edu.

Exam Type: No exam.

The group will examine sociological questions of the Yeshiva world as well as theoretical/textual ones regarding what is studied, and how, and by whom.

Note: The reading group will meet on the following dates: TBD

ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES

ANE 227 CRITICAL READINGS ON ANCIENT HISTORY

Class Number: 17099 Course ID: 205397

Spring 2021

Gojko Barjamovic

Th 3:00pm-5:45pm

A weekly seminar for graduate students (advanced undergraduates can apply) in which we read and discuss a selection of old and new key monographs (and a few key articles) relevant to the field of Ancient Studies. The seminar targets students in Assyriology, Classics, Divinity, Egyptology, Hebrew Bible and Religion, but others might also find it interesting and relevant. We rehearse skills in critical reading, writing scholarly reviews, debating, and (of course) engage with a massive amount of relevant literature that we would not otherwise find the time to read.

COMPLIT 193 WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT; LOVE POETRY OF THE MIDDLE AGES AND EARLY MODERNITY

Class Number: 19731 Course ID: 108791

Spring 2021

Luis Girón-Negrón

M 9:00am-11:45am

Does love have a history? This course will explore a particularly rich, multiseccular episode in the literary history of this emotion: the efflorescence and varieties of love poetry, both lyrical and narrative, in Europe and the Middle East from the Middle Ages through the 16th century. Weekly discussions will center on close readings of selected love poems and versified narratives from a variety of literary traditions, including: Provençal troubadour lyric; French chansons, the Germanic Minnesang and the Galician-Portuguese cantigas (the question of amour courtois); Ibero-Romance and colloquial Arabic jarchas; the Italian dolce stil novo; the Petrarchan sonnet and its early modern heirs in Portugal, England and Spain; Arabo-Andalusian and Hispano-Jewish qaṣā'id and muwashshahāt, medieval Latin love lyric; Persian Sufi and Christian mystical love poetry; Dante's Vita nuova; and selections from two other erotological classics in narrative verse, Libro de buen amor and Roman de la Rose. Discussions will be framed by an overview of both premodern discussions on love – how love is conceptualized at the intersection of philosophy, theology and medicine by Jewish, Christian and Muslim thinkers– and contemporary scholarly debates on the origins and development of medieval love literature.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 3725.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 3725

HDS 1202 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Class Number: 18174 Course ID: 129102

Spring 2021

Karen King

MW 10:30am-11:45am

The course will introduce the basic contents, theologies, and ethics of the New Testament through examination of diverse interpretations in both ancient and modern contexts. We will ask: What is the New Testament? What work does it do? For whom? Issues include: slavery, gender/sexualities, colonialism, and relation to Judaism.

NB: This is a limited enrollment course. To apply, send a statement to kking@hds.harvard.edu (selection process will begin Jan. 19) with the following information: your name, degree program, year of study, school or university, previous background in New Testament studies, and a brief statement of your goals for the course. Course is not open to Auditors.

HDS 2291 REPRESENTATION, RELIGION, AND THE HOLOCAUST: AN ADVANCED GRADUATE SEMINAR

Class Number: 17803 Course ID: 104079

Spring 2021

Kevin Madigan

M 10:00am-12:00pm

This seminar will focus the issue of representation of religion in filmic, literary, and memorial representations of the Holocaust. After a brief historical overview of the history of the Holocaust, we will turn our attention to the following issues and themes: philosophical and theological reflections on the issues of representation, especially on the limits of traditional media to represent extremes of human evil and suffering; literary texts and films that are recognized as classics in attempting to mediate the experience of the Holocaust; issues of memory and postmemory; the aestheticization of trauma; God and evil; and the reception of memorializing artifacts in Germany, Israel, and the United States. **Prerequisite:** Master's students in religion with previous course in history of the Holocaust or equivalent.

HDS 2293 THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES, 1933-45

Class Number: 17920 Course ID: 104081

Spring 2021

Kevin Madigan

M 3:00pm-5:00pm

*see full course description under **RELIGION 1529**, *Additional Courses Relevant to Jewish studies*

HDS 3034 THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN MODERN AMERICA

Class Number: 18000 Course ID: 161229

Spring 2021

Liza Stern

W 3:00pm-5:00pm

Jews have been a religious and cultural presence in America since the colonial era, and the community of Jews in the United States today--some six million people--

-continues to make a significant contribution to the American religious landscape. This seminar will examine the history of the Judaic tradition in America and the vitality and variety of contemporary American Judaic life, from the arrival of the first Jews to the present, highlighting the emergence and continual development of the four branches: Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform. We will also examine the variety of ways in which Jews became part of the communal, social, and political landscape of America, and the roles they continue to play in American life today. We will then look at the practical aspects of working as Jewish professionals in American life and the different skills that are needed, whether one works in a congregational, campus, hospital, or organizational setting. **Note:** Not open to auditors.

HDS 3725 WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT; LOVE POETRY OF THE MIDDLE AGES AND EARLY MODERNITY

Class Number: 19738 Course ID: 129489

Spring 2021

Luis Girón-Negrón

M 9:00am-11:45am

*see full course description under **COMPLIT 193**, *Additional Courses Relevant to Jewish studies*

HIST 12K ARABS, JEWS, AND “ARAB JEWS” IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Class Number: 17472 Course ID: 216117

Spring 2021

Caroline Kahlenberg

T 12:00pm-2:45pm

What has it meant to be an Arab, a Jew, or an “Arab Jew” in the modern Middle East? We will historicize these identities by tracing their shifting meanings in the late 19th and 20th-century Arabic-speaking world, from Morocco to Iraq to Yemen. We'll examine everyday relationships and political encounters between Jews and Arabs in the context of the Ottoman Empire, British and French colonialism, Zionism and Arab nationalism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Students will be assigned fiction literature, primary documents, podcasts, theoretical texts, visual sources, and films.

RELIGION 1529 THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES, 1933-45

Class Number: 15145 Course ID: 124910

Spring 2021

Kevin Madigan

M 3:00pm-5:00pm

This seminar will approach the Nazi persecution of European Jewry from several disciplinary perspectives. Initially the seminar will explore the topic historically. In these weeks, the seminar will use a variety of historical materials dealing with the history of European anti-semitism, German history from Bismarck to the accession of Hitler, the evolution of anti-Jewish persecution in the Third Reich, and the history of the Holocaust itself. Sources to be used will include primary sources produced by the German government 1933-1945, by Jewish victims-to-be or survivors, documentary films, and secondary interpretations. The aims of this part of the seminar will be to understand the basic background to and narrative of the Holocaust, to introduce students to the critical use of primary historical sources,

and to familiarize them with some of the major historiographical debates. Then the members of the seminar will ponder religious and theological reactions to the Holocaust. The seminar will also consider the historical question of the role played by the Protestant and Catholic churches and theologies in the Holocaust. The seminar will conclude with an assessment of the role played by the Holocaust in today's world, specifically in the United States. Throughout the seminar, participants will use various literary and cinematographic sources and test their limits in helping to understand and to represent the Holocaust.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 2293



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