Fall 2011 JEWISH STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Note: Listed at the end of the course titles are letters and symbols which represent Arts and Sciences breadth and distribution requirements. These are subject to change. Please verify this information with the instructor. Definitions of these letters and symbols are provided on the last page.

JWST 1101 Elementary Modern Hebrew I (also NES 1101) 4 credits
MTWR (Sem 01) 9:05-9:55 S. SHOER
MTWR (Sem 02) 10:10-11:00 S. SHOER

Letter grade recommended. Prerequisite for NES 1102: Completion of NES 1101 with a grade equivalent to C- or above or permission of instructor. Intended for beginners. This course provides a thorough grounding in reading, writing, grammar, oral comprehension and speaking. Students who complete the course will be able to function in basic situations in a Hebrew-speaking environment. Limited to 18 students in each section.

JWST 1103 Elementary Modern Hebrew III (also NES 1103) 4 credits
MTWR (Sem 01) 11:15-12:05 S. SHOER
MTWR (Sem 02) 1:25-2:15 S. SHOER

Letter grade recommended. Prerequisite for NES 1103: Completion of NES 1102 with a grade equivalent to C- or above or permission of instructor. Successful completion of NES 1103 fulfills Option 2 language requirement. A sequel to NES 1101-1102. Continued development of reading, writing, grammar, oral comprehension, and speaking skills.

JWST 2661 Ancient Ships & Seafaring: Intro to Nautical Archaeology (also ARKEO/NES 2661)@#(HA-AS) 3 credits
TR 2:55-4:10 C. MONROE

A survey of the history and development of ships and seafaring as revealed by shipwrecks, boat burials, texts, art and other evidence. The role of nautical technology and seafaring among the maritime peoples of the ancient Mediterranean world--Canaanites, Minoans, Mycenaean, Phoenicians, Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans--as well as the riverine cultures of Mesopotamia and Egypt, is addressed. The survey stretches from the earliest evidence for Mediterranean seafaring around 10,000 BCE to the first transatlantic voyages in the 15th century, including Arab, Viking, and European explorers, and the birth of modern capitalism in the Italian Maritime Republics. Along the way, economics, war, exploration, cult, life at sea, and colonization are discussed.

JWST 2662 Daily Life in the Biblical World (also ARKEO/NES 2662, LA 2520, RELST 2662) HA 3 credits
MW 8:40-9:55 J. ZORN

The course will survey the common and not-so-common daily activities of the world of ancient Israel and its neighbors in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Canaan. Many courses cover aspects of ancient political history or ancient literature, but these often focus on the activities of members of social elites, at the expense of the activities of more average citizens. The focus of this class is on ancient technologies and human interactions with the environment. It will provide a broad spectrum, spanning all social classes, and many different kinds of resources and activities. Material to be covered will include topics such as food production and processing, pottery production, metallurgy, glass making, cloth production and personal adornment, implements of war, medicine, leisure time (games and music), and others.

JWST 2666 Jerusalem Through the Ages (also ARKEO/NES/ RELST 2666) HA 3 credits
MWF 12:20-1:10 J. ZORN

Jerusalem is a holy city to the adherents of the three great monotheistic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. For most of its existence it has also been a national capital or major provincial center for the many states and empires which vied for control of the vital land bridge connecting Africa, Europe and Asia. Thus many of the pivotal events which shaped western civilization were played out in the streets and structures of Jerusalem. This class will explore the history, archaeology, and natural topography of Jerusalem throughout its long life, from its earliest remains in the Chalcolithic period (ca. 4000 B.C.E.) to the 19th century, including Jebusite Jerusalem, Jerusalem as the capital of the Davidic dynasty, the Roman era city of Herod and Jesus, the Crusaders and medieval Jerusalem, and Ottoman Jerusalem as the city entered the modern era. Students will examine the original historical sources (e.g. the Bible, Josephus, the Madaba map, etc.) which pertain to Jerusalem. PowerPoint shows will be used to illustrate the natural features, man-made monuments, and artifacts which flesh out the textual material providing a fuller image of the world’s most prominent spiritual and secular capital.
JWST 2799 Hebrew Bible, New Testament, & Quran in Comparative Perspective (also NES/RELST 2799) LA 3 credits
MW Lec 11:15-12:05 R. BRANN
F (Sec 1) 9:05-9:55 STAFF
F (Sec 2) 11:15-12:05 STAFF
F (Sec 3) 12:20-1:10 STAFF
F (Sec 4) 1:25-2:15 STAFF
This course examines (in translation) the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Qur’an as foundational documents of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religious traditions respectively and as texts by which their corresponding religious communities came to constitute and define themselves and their historical memory. The approach in this course will be comparative, analyzing primarily literary aspects of parallel narrative traditions on Creation, the Noah story, Abraham/Ibrahim and his sons, the Joseph/Yusuf cycle, the Solomon-Sheba material and the figure of Jesus in the synoptic Gospels and in the Quran. The class will also discuss the concepts of revelation and prophethood and notions of history, eschatology and apocalypse set forth in the three Scriptures.

JWST 3101 Advanced Intermediate Modern Hebrew I: Aspects of Israeli Society (also NES 3101)@ 4 credits
TR 10:10-11:25 N. SCHARF
3101, fall; 3102, spring. Letter grade recommended. Prerequisite for NES 3101: Completion of NES 2100 with a grade equivalent to C- or above or permission of instructor. Successful completion of NES 3101 fulfills Option 1 language requirement.
Advanced study of the Hebrew Language both orally and through the analysis of mostly unedited texts of social, political, and cultural relevance with less emphasis on the study of grammar. Students are introduced to articles published in Israeli newspapers, magazines, works by authors and movies. Students develop composition and advanced writing skills by studying language structure, idioms, and various registers of style.

JWST 3108 Intensive Conversational Hebrew (also NES 3108 ) @ 2 credits
T 12:20-2:15 N. SCHARF
Letter grade recommended. Prerequisite: NES 3101, NES 3102 or permission of instructor. For Non-Native Speakers Only. This course is intended to continue the development of all aspects of the language. Emphasis, however, will be placed on speaking skills and understanding by using text material relevant to Israeli contemporary society. The instructor will be sensitive to individual student needs.

JWST 3637 History and Literature of Early Christianity (also CLASS/RELST/NES 3637) HA 4 credits
MW 8:40-9:55 K. HAINES-EITZEN
This course traces the historical development of Christianity from its roots in 1st century Palestinian Judaism to the emergence of Islam in the early 7th century. The focus will be on exploring the rich diversity of Christianity by reading a wide range of primary literary sources—selections from the New Testament, church fathers, Gnostic writings, monastic literature, and much more—and studying the material culture through archaeology, art, inscriptions, and papyri. Special attention will be given to the ways in which Christianity in different regions around the Mediterranean interfaced with paganism, Judaism, and Islam.

JWST 3661 Sumerian Language and Culture I (also NES/ARKEO/JWST 6661, ARKEO/NES 3661) HA 4 credits
TR 1:25-2:420 D. OWEN
This course focuses on an intense introduction to Sumerian language and grammar with additional readings in literature in translation. Particular emphasis is placed on the reading and interpretation of original texts from the Cornell collection and their use in the reconstruction of Mesopotamian history and culture in the third millennium B.C.E.

JWST 3664 Origins of Mesopotamian Civilization (also NES/JWST 6664, ARKEO 3764, NES 3664) HA 4 credits
TR 8:40-9:55 D. OWEN
Introduction to the language, literature, history, culture, and archaeology of Syro-Mesopotamia in the fourth and third millennia bce. Focuses on Sumerian civilization from its emergence in the archaeological record in the fourth millennium until its disappearance around 2000 bce. In addition, it emphasizes the parallel development of the Semitic peoples in Syria (Eblaites) and upper Mesopotamia (Akkadians). A special feature of the course is a basic introduction to the Sumerian language using original cuneiform tablets in the collection of the Department of Near Eastern Studies.
JWST 3700  **History of the Holocaust** (also HIST 3700)  4 credits  
TR  2:55-4:10  
V. CARON  
There will be a film series linked to this course in lieu of discussion sections. Students will be expected to see the films either during group viewings in the evenings or individually in the event of schedule conflicts. This course will analyze the meaning of the Holocaust from three vantage points: that of European history; that of Jewish history; and that of those states and religious institutions that shared responsibility by having stood by in silence. Topics include: the evolution of modern anti-Semitism, the role of anti-Semitism in the Nazi ideology and program; the bureaucratization of death; Jewish life in ghettos and concentration camps; the fate of Jews in occupied Europe and the question collaboration; Jewish political behavior under duress; the responses of the Western allies and the Churches; contemporary interpretations of the Holocaust and the meaning of evil.

JWST 4221  **Judeo-Arabic Seminar (also NES 4221)**  4 credits  
T  12:20-2:15  
R. BRANN  
Prerequisites: Intermediate Arabic and familiarity with the Hebrew alphabet. This seminar presents an introduction to Judeo-Arabic through the study of selected classical texts and the study of its grammar and lexicon. Because Judeo-Arabic combines elements of Hebrew and Arabic the course will also study aspects of the two classical languages in comparative perspective and examine how the development of classical Arabic grammar established the study of classical Hebrew grammar.

JWST 4450  **The “European Civil War”: Violence, Politics and Culture in Europe 1914-1945** (also JWST 6450, HIST 4450/6450, FREN 4510/6520, GOVT 4493/6493)  4 credits  
R  12:20-2:15  
E. TRAVERSO  
At the end of the Great War, Europe became the realm of a new relationship between violence, culture and politics. From 1914 to 1945, the continent experienced an extraordinary entanglement of inter-state wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions, civil wars and genocides. Born as a classical inter-state conflict, the Great War lead to a Weltanschauungskrieg (war of worldviews). In spite of its highly controversial uses, the concept of “European Civil War” is probably the most pertinent in order to capture such an “age of extremes” in which wars no longer have rules, now becoming wars against civilians. Politics is now between irreconcilable enemies and an endemic violence deeply reshapes both cultures and collective imagination. Merging political theory, cultural and intellectual history, the course will analyze some of the most important features of this cataclysmic time, which include the following: the age of “European Civil War”; industrial killing and total war; Fascism, Nazism and the European colonial legacy; European intellectuals between fascism and antifascism; new concepts in politics (totalitarianism); total war and the imagination of fear; the Great War and post-traumatic cinema; gendered wars – the utopias of the “New Man”; the intellectuals in exile; Auschwitz's impact on European culture. A general bibliography will be distributed at the beginning of the course.

JWST 4550  **Archaeology of the Phoenicians** (also ARKEO/NES 4550, CLASS 4670) CA  4 credits  
R  10:10-12:35  
C. MONROE  
The Phoenicians have long been an enigma, a people defined by distant voices. Originating from present-day Lebanon, they were Semitic speakers, renowned seafarers and transmitters of an innovative alphabet that transformed how Mediterranean and Near Eastern folk wrote their languages. Having left us virtually no texts of their own, their history has resembled a patchwork of recollections from Old Testament and Hellenistic times. Recent archaeological discoveries, however, reveal patterns of trade, colonization and socioeconomic transformations that make the Phoenicians less enigmatic while raising new questions. Our class explores the third and second millennium Canaanite roots of the Phoenicians, as well as the Biblical and Greco-Roman perceptions of their early first millennium heyday. We will explore the Phoenician homeland and its colonies, and investigate their maritime economy, language, and religion through both archaeological and textual sources. Temporally the focus is on Phoenician rather than Carthaginian or Punic history, thus up to about 550 BCE. The class has a seminar format involving critical discussions and presentations of scholarly readings, and requires a research paper.

JWST 4674  **Topics in Modern European Intellectual History** (also HIST & COML 4740/6720)  4 credits  
M  1:25-4:25  
D. LACAPRA  
The course will focus on the problem of the representation or figuration of violence in different genres, with respect both to humans and to other animals. It will treat a series of works in which this problem arises in an especially acute form, especially (but not exclusively) with respect to the issue of certain dimensions of fascism and Nazism. Readings and viewings include Hannah Arendt, Adolf Eichmann, Saul Friedlander, Sven Lindqvist, Leni Riefenstahl, Gita Sereny, and W.G. Sebald.
The “European Civil War”: Violence, Politics and Culture in Europe 1914-1945 (also JWST 4450, HIST 4450/6450, FREN 4510/6520, GOVT 4493/6493) 4 credits

E. TRAVERSO

At the end of the Great War, Europe became the realm of a new relationship between violence, culture and politics. From 1914 to 1945, the continent experienced an extraordinary entanglement of inter-state wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions, civil wars and genocides. Born as a classical inter-state conflict, the Great War lead to a Weltanschauungskrieg (war of worldviews). In spite of its highly controversial uses, the concept of “European Civil War” is probably the most pertinent in order to capture such an “age of extremes” in which wars no longer have rules, now becoming wars against civilians. Politics is now between irreconcilable enemies and an endemic violence deeply reshapes both cultures and collective imagination. Merging political theory, cultural and intellectual history, the course will analyze some of the most important features of this catalytic time, which include the following: the age of “European Civil War”; industrial killing and total war; Fascism, Nazism and the European colonial legacy; European intellectuals between fascism and antifascism; new concepts in politics (totalitarianism); total war and the imagination of fear; the Great War and post-traumatic cinema; gendered wars – the utopias of the “New Man”; the intellectuals in exile; Auschwitz’s impact on European culture. A general bibliography will be distributed at the beginning of the course.

Sumerian Language and Culture I (also JWST/ARKEO/NES 3661, ARKEO/NES 6661) 4 credits

D. OWEN

This course focuses on an intense introduction to Sumerian language and grammar with additional readings in literature in translation. Particular emphasis is placed on the reading and interpretation of original texts from the Cornell collection and their use in the reconstruction of Mesopotamian history and culture in the third millennium B.C.E.

Origins of Mesopotamian Civilization (also JWST/NES 3664, ARKEO 3764, NES 6664) 4 credits

D. OWEN

Introduction to the language, literature, history, culture, and archaeology of Syro-Mesopotamia in the fourth and third millennia bce. Focusses on Sumerian civilization from its emergence in the archaeological record in the fourth millennium until its disappearance around 2000 bce. In addition, it emphasizes the parallel development of the Semitic peoples in Syria (Eblaites) and upper Mesopotamia (Akkadians). A special feature of the course is a basic introduction to the Sumerian language using original cuneiform tablets in the collection of the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

** @ = Indicates course counts towards the research seminar requirement for NES majors.

# = Historical breadth

@ = Geographical breadth

(LA-AS) = Literature & the Arts

(HA-AS) = Historical Analysis

(CA-AS) = Cultural Analysis

(SBA-AS) = Social & Behavioral Analysis

(KCM-AS) = Knowledge, Cognition and Moral Reasoning