JEWISH STUDIES  SPRING 2010  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 1102  Elementary Modern Hebrew II (also NES 1102)  4 credits
MTWR  (sem 101)  9:05-9:55  Shoer, S.  4662
MTWR  (sem 102)  10:10-11:00  4670
MTWR  (sem 103)  11:15-12:05  4672
Letter grades only. Limited to 18 students per section. Prerequisite: JWST 1101 with grade of C- or better or permission of instructor. Intended for beginners. Provides a thorough grounding in reading, writing, grammar, oral comprehension, and speaking. Students who complete the course are able to function in basic situations in a Hebrew-speaking environment.

JWST 2100  Intermediate Modern Hebrew II: Special Topics in Hebrew (also NES 2100) @  4 credits
MTWR  2:30-3:20  Scharf, N.  4590
Provides language proficiency and satisfies Option 1. Prerequisite: JWST 1103 with grade equivalent to C- or above or permission of instructor. Letter grade recommended. Introduces Hebrew literature and Israeli culture through the use of texts and audiovisual materials.

JWST 2629  Intro to New Testament & Other Early Christian Literature (also NES 2629, CLASS 2613, RELST 2629) @ # (HA-AS)  3 credits
MW  (lec)  11:15-12:05  Haines-Eitzen, K.  25695
F  (dis 1)  10:10-11:00
F  (dis 2)  11:15-12:05
F  (dis 3)  12:20-1:10
F  (dis 4)  2:30-3:20
This course provides a literary and historical introduction to the earliest Christian writings, most of which eventually came to be included in the New Testament. Through the lens of the gospel narratives and earliest Christian letters, especially those of Paul, the course explores the rich diversity of the early Christian movement, from its Jewish roots in first-century Palestine through its development and spread to Asia Minor and beyond. Careful consideration is given to the political, economic, social, cultural, and religious circumstances that gave rise to the Jesus movement, as well as those that facilitated the emergence of various manifestations of early Christian beliefs and practices. (Students who have had at least one year of Greek and would like to participate in a 1-credit, New Testament Greek reading weekly seminar should also enroll in NES 3629 Introduction to New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.)

JWST 2668  Ancient Egyptian Civilization (also NES 2668, ARKEO 2668, HIST 2880) @ # (HA-AS)  3 credits
MWF  1:25-2:15  Monroe, C.  4604
The course surveys the history and culture of pharaonic Egypt from its prehistoric origins down to the early first millennium BCE. Within a chronological framework, the following themes or topics will be considered: the development of the Egyptian state (monarchy, administration, ideology); social organization (class, gender and family, slavery); economic factors; empire and international relations.

JWST 2728  Introduction to Modern Middle Eastern Literature (also COML/NES 2728)  3 credits
MWF  10:10-11:00  Starr, D.  25815
This course offers an introduction to modern literatures in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. All readings will be in English. We will discuss poetry, short stories, and a novel from each tradition. Readings will be drawn from the work of an array of influential authors, including Nobel laureates S. Agnon (Israel), Naguib Mahfouz (Egypt), and Orhan Pamuk (Turkey).
In this course students will use writing to imagine cities and the spaces created by cities. We will also study the urban imaginings of others by studying fictional, non-fictional, and visual texts about cities. Students should be prepared to write analytically and imaginatively about both texts and urban spaces. A significant portion of the class will be devoted to studying film and developing a language for writing about film. Students will be expected to attend approximately four out-of-class film screenings. Films may include *The Jazz Singer, Roman Holiday, Vertigo,* and *Annie Hall.* We will also study works by such authors as Joan Didion, Mike Davis, John Edgar Wideman, and Raymond Chandler.

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 and magazines, works by authors, and movies. Students develop composition and advanced writing skills by studying language structure, idioms, and various registers of style.

The purpose of the course is to place the Bible within the context of a larger ancient world that can be explored by systematic excavation of physical remains. Students will become familiar with archaeological excavations and finds from ancient Syria-Palestine from 10,000 BCE to 586 BCE. We will explore this archaeological evidence on its own terms, taking into consideration factors such as archaeological method and the interpretive frameworks in which the excavators themselves work, as well as the implications of this body of evidence for understanding the complexity and diversity of biblical Israel.

This course examines the history of the conflict between two peoples with claims to the same land (Palestine/Israel), from the rise of their national movements at the turn of the 20th century and their eventual clash down to the present crisis. We will investigate the various stable and shifting elements in the evolution of the conflict including conflicting Israeli and Palestinian narratives and mythologies about the nature of the conflict. Among many issues to be addressed are: the relationship of this conflict to the history of European colonialism in the Middle East, the emergence of Pan-Arabism and Islamism, the various currents in Zionism and its relationship to Judaism, the implication of great power rivalry in the Middle East, the different causes and political repercussions of the four Arab–Israeli wars, efforts at peacemaking including Oslo and Camp David, and the significance of the two Palestinian uprisings.
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 of 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 4550 Archaeology of the Phoenicians** (also NES 4550, HIST 4552, ARKEO 4550, CLASS 4670) 4 credits

The Phoenicians were an enigmatic culture and people who originally lived in a coastal region approximately where Lebanon is today. An ancient Semitic people known for seafaring and inventing our alphabet, they left us virtual skeletons of their culture. In order to understand their material culture and historical importance, we must look broadly in time and space, and this reveals to us a "world" of cultural interactions that stretches across the Mediterranean and Near East, and from the Early Bronze Age or third millennium BCE into Greco-Roman times. We will read about the Phoenician homeland and its colonies, and investigate their maritime economy, language, religion, and adventures abroad. In doing so, we will be exploring the ancient Mediterranean and beyond and meeting a host of other fascinating peoples in the process. Some research and a written paper will be required.

**JWST 4580 Imagining the Holocaust** (also GERST 4570, ENGL 4580) 4 credits

What is the role of the literary imagination in keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive for our culture? We shall examine major and widely read Holocaust narratives that have shaped the way we understand and respond to the Holocaust. We shall begin with first-person reminiscences—Wiesel's Night, Levi's Survival at Auschwitz, and The Diary of Anne Frank—before turning to realistic fictions such as Kineally's Schindler's List (and Spielberg's film), Kertesz's Fateless, Kosinski's The Painted Bird, and Ozick's "The Shawl." We shall also read the mythopoetic vision of Schwarz-Bart's The Last of the Just, the illuminating distortions of Epstein's King of the Jews, the Kafkaesque parable of Appelfield's Badenheim 1939, and the fantastic cartoons of Spiegelman's Maus books.

**JWST 4738 Imagining the Mediterranean** (also NES 4738, COML 4960) 4 credits

Through a series of readings in poetry and prose from Greece, Spain, Morocco, Turkey, Israel and Egypt, the course examines how Mediterranean writers interact with the sensuous aesthetics of landscape, music, and ritual in the Mediterranean. We will be concerned with how poetry, music, dance and image interact in the region, and how this relationship is reflected in 20th-century literature from and about the Mediterranean. The readings will focus on particular cases, such as the relationship of Lorca's poetry to Andalusia, lowbrow musical form in Greece, and the nostalgia for the mythical city of Alexandria in Cavafy and other Alexandrian authors. We will also consider how the myth of the Mediterranean has affected modern literary imagination within and beyond the region.
In this course we will read a selection of works by Israeli authors written in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. We will focus in particular on how these literary works construct identity—individual and collective, local and national. Some of the texts we read explore tensions between the self and nation, while others propose alternate collective identities within or beyond the confines of the city, nation or the state. Among the authors we may read are: Orly Castel-Bloom, David Grossman, Sami Mikhail, Ya’akov Shabtai, Anton Shammas, and A. B. Yehoshua. This course offers two tracks that will meet simultaneously under the same course number.

This seminar surveys research approaches and puzzles in contemporary Middle Eastern politics. Students will be introduced to some of the major arguments, hypotheses and debates in the literature. Topics to be considered include: the nature and legacies of colonialism, state-building and the character of contemporary Middle Eastern regimes, the political economy of oil, economic crises, elections and political “liberalization,” and the role of Islamism in political, social, and economic life. The seminar is designed principally for graduate students who focus their research on the Middle East and advanced undergraduates who have taken courses in Middle Eastern politics or history.

Amidst widespread discussion of Holocaust memory as a “globalized” phenomenon, which becomes increasingly untethered from the historical referent, this seminar explores literature written in German since 1945, largely by Jewish authors, on the subject of Jewish life and German history. For these writers and their texts, the historical encounter with National Socialism remains pivotal to a broad range of aesthetic strategies for representing the complexity of Jewish life in West, East, and unified Germany. Readings include works by authors such as Elisabeth Langgess, Nelly Sachs, Paul Celan, Hans Keilson, Peter Weiss, Edgar Hilsenrath, Grete Weil, Jeannette Lander, Esther Dischereit, Irene Dische, Rafael Seligmann, Maxim Biller, Barbara Honigmann, and others. This material will be considered against the larger background of postwar German attempts to represent both Jewish identity and the Holocaust. To this end the course will consider pivotal crises of representation such as those reflected in the Fassbinder scandal, the “Historians' Debate,” the competition for a “German national monument to the murdered Jews of Europe,” Daniel Goldhagen’s reception in Germany, and recent debates about anti-Semitism. Additionally, we will consider how these literary works and cultural contexts are relevant to international cultural studies in memory, diaspora, “hybridity,” and the aesthetics of representation.

Topic: Sharing the City: Pagans, Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity.