

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**
MTWRF (sem 101) **9:05-9:55** **Shoer, S.** 4662
MTWRF (sem 102) **10:10-11:00** 4670
MTWRF (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).

JWST 2880 **Urban Imaginings** (co meets with ENGL 2890) **3 credits**
TR **1:25-2:40** **Shapiro, E.** 25815

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.

JWST 3102 **Advanced Intermediate Modern Hebrew II: Aspects of Israeli Culture** (also NES 3102) **4 credits**
TR **10:10-11:25** **Scharf, N.** 4620

3101, fall; 3102, spring 4 credits. Satisfies Option 1. Limited to 15 students. Prerequisites: for 3101, NES 2100 with grade of C- or above or permission of instructor; for 3102, NES/JWST 3101.

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.

JWST 3588 **Biblical Archaeology** (also NES 3588, RELST 3588, ARKEO 3588) **4 credits**
TR **8:40-9:55** **Monroe, L.** 25841

A Writing in the Majors course.

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.

JWST 3629 **Intro to New Testament & Other Early Christian Literature** (also CLASS 3629, NES 3629, RELST 3629) **1 credit**
TBA **Haines-Eitzen, K.** 26755

Pre- or corequisite: NES 2629 or one year of ancient Greek. K. A weekly seminar that may be taken in addition to NES 2629. The seminar will provide an opportunity to read portions of the New Testament and other early Christian writings in Greek. We will work on grammatical and textual issues as well as other problems related to translations.

JWST 3697 **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** (also NES 3697, HIST/SOC 3970, GOVT 3977) @ (HA-AS) **4 credits**
TR (lec) **10:10-11:25** **Brann, R.** 25844

F (dis 1) **9:05-9:55**
F (dis 2) **10:10-11:00**
F (dis 3) **11:15-12:05**
F (dis 4) **12:20-1:10**
F (dis 5) **1:25-2:15**
F (dis 6) **2:30-3:20**

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.

JWST 3700 **History of the Holocaust** (also HIST 3700) **4 credits**
TR **2:55-4:10** **Caron, V.** 5686

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 3920 **German-Jewish Perspectives** (also GERST 3220) **4 credits**
TR **11:40-12:55** **Glazova, A.** 25387

Prerequisites: any German course at 3000–3200 level or by placement exam. Taught in German.

The term “modernism” is usually associated with projects of renewal, which “re-write” the world within their own, newly founded language. The early 20th century, when European modernism was in bloom, was also a time of this renewal in the sphere of German-Jewish culture. Specifically Jewish themes such as Hassidic tales or kabbalistic knowledge become for the first time a part of the German literary tradition. While Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig’s new translation of the Bible is symptomatic, their theological writings and efforts in re-defining Jewish learning are paradigmatic for this renewal. Simultaneously with Buber and Rosenzweig, Franz Kafka who, as Walter Benjamin once said, did not establish a new religion, began the work of this renewal in his prose. We will begin this class by reading Buber’s and Rosenzweig’s essays on Judaism and then turn our attention to Kafka’s narratives. Finally, we will proceed to Walter Benjamin and Gershom Scholem, in whose works the Jewish thought finds a new strength in face of the imminent catastrophe.

JWST 4170 **History of Jews in Modern France** (also HIST 4170, FREN 4130) **4 credits**
M **2:30-4:25** **Caron, V.** 26520

Permission of instructor required.

This course will explore the integration and acculturation of French Jews since the French Revolution of 1789. Topics will include: the debate over Jewish emancipation during the French Revolution and Napoleonic era; religious and social assimilation; the emergence of modern antisemitism and the Dreyfus Affair; Jewish Responses to antisemitism; the East European immigrant challenge; Vichy France and the Jews; Jewish responses to Vichy and Nazi antisemitism; and the reconstruction of French Jewish life since 1945.

JWST 4550 **Archaeology of the Phoenicians** (also NES 4550, HIST 4552, ARKEO 4550, CLASS 4670) @#(CA-AS) **4 credits**
W **10:10-12:35** **Monroe, C.** 7284

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 virtually no texts of their own. The Phoenicians are known mostly from the writings of others, notably ancient Greeks and biblical authors, and from artifacts in ivory, stone, and metal. 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) (LA-AS) **4 credits**
R **12:20-2:15** **Schwarz, D.** 25844

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 mythopoeic vision of Schwarz-Bart’s The Last of the Just, the illuminating distortions of Epstein’s King of the Jews, the Kafkaesque parable of Appelfeld’s Badenheim 1939, and the fantastic cartoons of Spiegelman’s Maus books.

JWST 4738 **Imagining the Mediterranean** (also NES 4738, COML 4960) **4 credits**
TR **8:40-9:55** **Holst-Warhaft, G.** 7284

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.

