**JEWSIH STUDIES**

*Jewish Studies is offered exclusively as a concentration.*

**Program Office:** Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, 617 Kent Hall; 212-654-2581; [http://www.iijs.columbia.edu/](http://www.iijs.columbia.edu/)

**Program Director:** Dr. Isabelle Levy, icl2001@columbia.edu

The academic discipline of Jewish studies is an interdisciplinary field centered on the analysis and investigation of Jewish history, religion, language, and literature. The discipline ranges from the study of Jews and Judaism in antiquity to the present day. It explores Judaism not only as a religion, but as a civilization and culture.

A special concentration in Jewish studies is available for undergraduates and allows students to draw upon classes in a wide range of departments across the University, including History; Sociology; Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies; Germanic Languages and Literature; and Religion. The requirements for the special concentration are designed to provide students with the interdisciplinary knowledge necessary to study Jewish civilization both broadly and deeply.

The roots of Judaism lie deeper than one region, gender, language, or culture; and by studying the interconnectedness of these areas, the depth of understanding across a range of spheres and disciplines greatly increases. The special concentration in Jewish studies enhances the current scholarly programs, adding to current Jewish studies courses' vitality as students come to each course with a deeper understanding and background based on their complementary coursework.

Students wishing to complete a special concentration in Jewish studies work with a program adviser to decide upon course selection and sequencing. The program office provides and keeps on record a planning form to track the fulfillment of requirements for the special concentration.

**Affiliated Faculty**

Beth Berkowitz (Religion, Barnard)
Clemence Boulouque (Religion)
Elishava Carlebach (History)
Yinon Cohen (Sociology)
Jeremy Dauber (Germanic Languages)
Ofer Dynes (Slavic Languages and Literatures)
Rebecca Kobrin (History)
Agieszka Legutko (Germanic Languages)
Seth Schwartz (History)
Michael Stanislawski (History)

**Special Concentration in Jewish Studies**

In addition to the requirements of the special concentration, students must complete a major or a full concentration.

In addition to the requirements of the special concentration, students must complete a major.

For a special concentration in Jewish studies, students are required to complete a minimum of 21 points. Please note:

- At least one course must be taken from each of three of the focus areas listed below.
- Credits for language courses may constitute at most 10 points, and one year of Hebrew or Yiddish language is strongly recommended.
- A minimum of 18 points must be taken at Columbia or as part of an approved study abroad program (unless equivalent courses are not offered at Columbia, as determined by the faculty adviser).

The focus areas and courses listed below are examples and do not include all the potential courses which may count. Additionally, as new courses are introduced, new focus areas may develop. Some courses may fall under multiple headings. Determination of a course’s focus area is at the discretion of the faculty adviser.

**Focus Areas**

**Bible and Rabbinics/Ancient Judaism**

- RELI V3512 The Bible and its Interpreters
- RELI GU4537 Talmudic Narrative
- RELI W4520 Patriarchal and Rabbinic Authority in Antiquity
- RELI V3501 Introduction To the Hebrew Bible
- RELI V3508 Origins of Judaism
- RELI V3561 Classics fo Judaism: Ethics of the Fathers
- RELI V2510 Jews and Judaism in Antiquity

**Medieval Judaism**

- HIST UN2657 Medieval Jewish Cultures
- HIST W3616 Jews and Christians in the Medieval World
- RELI W4510 The Thought of Maimonides
- RELI V3870 Inquisitions, New Christians, and Empire
- RELI GU4515 Reincarnation and Technology
- HIST UN3180 Religious Conversion in HIST

**Modern Judaism**

- HIST W3630 American Jewish History
- RELI V3571 Judaism, Jewishness, and Modernity
- MDES UN3542 Introduction to Israeli Literature

**Israeli Society**

- MDES UN3541 Zionism: A Cultural Perspective
- MDES UN3542 Introduction to Israeli Literature

**Gender and Judaism**

- HIST W3640 Jewish Women and Family, 1000-1800
- RELI V3570 Women and Judaism: Folklore or Religion?
- RELI W4504 Reading the Patriarchal and Matriarchal Stories in Genesis

**Jewish History and Culture**

- MUSI G4125 Jewish Music: Uniqueness and Diversity
- RELI V3585 The Sephardic Experience
- RELI W4503 Readings from the Sephardic Diaspora
- RELI UN2306 Intro to Judaism
- RELI W4511 Jewish Ethics
- HIST UN2657 Medieval Jewish Cultures
- HIST UN3645 Jews in Early Modern Europe, 1492-1750

**Jewish Literature**

- CLYD UN3500 Readings in Jewish Literature: American Jewish Literature: A survey
- YIDD UN3800 Readings in Yiddish Literature: The Family Singer [In English]
- RELI V3561 Classics fo Judaism: Ethics of the Fathers
Jewish Studies courses are housed in a number of departments throughout the University. For a full list of courses for the 2023-2024 academic year please visit the Institute website.

Fall 2024 Courses

Jewish Studies

JWST GU4145 Topics in Israeli Cinema. 3.00 points.
Israel has a unique and constantly-evolving national cinema, the product of its diverse immigrant population, influences from neighboring nations, and dramatic national history. Beginning with artistic influences from abroad and culminating with native self-examinations, this course will provide a survey of Israeli film history, recurring foci of Israeli cinema, and introductions to influential filmmakers from early director and impresario Menahem Golan to Orthodox writer/director Rama Burshtein. Each class meeting will include a complete screening of an Israeli feature film, as well as clips of related works. Readings will include critical essays and histories which elaborate on in-class screenings and cover additional topics and films. Written assignments will be three analytical essays which will encourage critical thinking, close analysis of films, and independent research beyond the materials presented in class. All readings are in English. All feature films and film clips are in Hebrew and independent research beyond the materials presented in class.

JWST GU4990 Topics in Jewish Studies. 4.00 points.
This course approaches Jewish Studies from theoretical and pedagogical standpoints. In addition to looking back at ancient, medieval and Early Modern approaches to the study of Jewish topics and examining the theoretical, historical and religious underpinnings of Jewish Studies as a modern discipline, we will also read theoretical writings from related disciplines. The course will balance these materials with pedagogical materials and exercises. Faculty from disciplines related to Jewish Studies will visit the seminar to offer perspectives on current approaches to the field, and the class will visit the Rare Book and Manuscript Library with Jewish Studies Librarian Michelle Chesner. This course is required for students in the Jewish Studies MA program. It is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates may register with permission from the instructor.

Fall 2024: JWST GU4145
Course | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
JWST 4145 | 001/11261 | T 10:00am - 1:45pm | Stuart Weinstock | 3.00 | 25/25

JWST GU4147 Between Tradition # Innovation: Readings in Hasidic History and Literature. 3.00 points.
The popular eighteenth-century mystical revivalist movement known as Hasidism transformed the religious and cultural life of Eastern European Jewry and remains a vibrant form of Judaism to this day. This seminar will introduce students to the history, ideology and major personalities of the Hasidic movement through a close reading of a broad selection of primary texts, including mystical tracts, collections of sermons, spiritual directives, hagiographical tales and polemical writings. We will explore the mystical ideas and practices taught by the founders of the movement, the new forms of leadership they developed and the fierce controversies they aroused. We will also consider the role played by Hasidic literature in the formation and spread of the movement and the tensions it embodied between tradition and innovation, elitism and populism, and oral and written modes of communication. This course is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates may register with permission from the instructor.

Fall 2024: JWST GU4147
Course | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
JWST 4147 | 001/14137 | M 4:10pm - 6:00pm | Elly Moseson | 3.00 | 9/15

Hebrew

MDES UN1501 1ST YR MOD HEBREW:ELEM I. 5.00 points.
This is an introductory course for which no prior knowledge is required. Equal emphasis is given to listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar. Daily homework includes grammar exercises, short answers, reading, or paragraph writing. Frequent vocabulary and grammar quizzes. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2024: MDES UN1501
Course | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
MDES 1501 | 001/13902 | M T W Th 8:50am - 9:55am | Illan Gonen | 5.00 | 7/12

MDES 1501 | 002/13908 | M T W Th 10:10am - 11:15am | Illan Gonen | 5.00 | 3/12

MDES UN2501 2ND YR MOD HEBREW:INTER I. 5.00 points.
Prerequisites: 1st Year Modern Hebrew II or the equivalent and instructor’s permission.

Prerequisites: 1st Year Modern Hebrew II or the equivalent and instructor’s permission. Equal emphasis is given to listening, speaking, reading and writing. Regular categories of the Hebrew verb, prepositions, and basic syntax are taught systematically. Vocabulary building. Daily homework includes grammar exercises, short answers, reading, or short compositions. Frequent vocabulary and grammar quizzes. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2024: MDES UN2501
Course | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
MDES 2501 | 001/13910 | M T W Th 11:40am - 12:45pm | Danielle Katz-Shenhar | 5.00 | 8/12
MDES UN2516 INT HEBREW: INTENSIVE GRAMMAR REV. 4.00 points.
This course focuses on Modern Hebrew grammar, and verb conjugation in particular. It is designed for students with substantial knowledge of Modern Hebrew. Over the semester, students will systematically review the grammatical patterns of regular verbs (shlemim), and learn the grammatical patterns of the irregular verbs (gzarot), as well as several other grammatical topics. After successful completion of this course, the foreign language requirement will be fulfilled (for students of Columbia College and other academic units that require a 4th-semester proficiency). Successful completion of this course also allows students to register in third-year Modern Hebrew.

Fall 2024: MDES UN2516
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 2516 001/13912 M W Th 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA Iloan Sonen 4.00 7/12

MDES UN2517 HEBREW FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS I. 4.00 points.
Fee: Language Resource Center Fee - 15.00
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I forms part of a year-long sequence with Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II. The course is intended for those who have developed basic speaking and listening skills through exposure to Hebrew at home or in day-school programs but do not use Hebrew as their dominant language and have not reached the level required for exemption from the Columbia language requirement. Heritage speakers differ in the degree of their fluency, but their vocabulary is often limited to topics in daily life and many lack skills in reading and writing to match their ability to converse. The course focuses on grammar and vocabulary enrichment, exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics in daily life and beyond. By the end of the semester students are able to read and discuss simple texts and write about a variety of topics. Successful completion of the year-long sequence prepares students to enroll in third-year modern Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2024: MDES UN2517
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 2517 001/13913 M W Th 10:10am - 11:25am Room TBA Danielle Katz Shenhari 4.00 8/12

MDES GU4501 READINGS IN HEBREW TEXTS I. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: (MDES GU4510) and (MDES GU4511) 3RD Year Modern Hebrew or the instructor's permission. This course focuses on central identities shaping Israeli society and is designed to give students extensive experience in reading Hebrew. Through selected readings of contemporary literary works and media texts, students will increase their proficiency in Hebrew and enhance their understanding of Israeli culture and society. All readings, written assignments, and class discussions are in Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class.

Fall 2024: MDES GU4510
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 4510 001/13920 M W Th 10:10am - 12:00pm Room TBA Naama Halev 4.00 3/12

History
HIST UN2611 JEWS # JUDAISM IN ANTIQUITY. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Students must also enroll in required discussion section. Field(s): ANC

Fall 2024: HIST UN2611
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
HIST 2611 001/10333 M W 8:40am - 9:55am Room TBA Seth Schwartz 4.00 25/35

HIST GU4525 Immigrant New York. 4.00 points.
This seminar explores the intersection of immigration, race, and politics in New York City, both from the perspective of history and in relation to contemporary realities. In this course we will discuss the ways in which immigration has reshaped the cultural, economic, and political life of New York City both in the past as well as the present. Readings will focus on the divergent groups who have settled in New York City, paying close attention to issues of gender, class, race, the role of labor markets, the law, and urban development. At several points during the semester, the class will relocate to various locations in New York City, so that the class can meet those shaping the image of immigrant life in New York [in places such as the Tenement Museum] as well as leaders shaping immigrants' lived experience of the city today.

HIST GR8132 THE JEWISH BOOK IN EARLY MOD WORLD. 4.00 points.
This course will situate the Jewish book within the context of the theoretical and historical literature on the history of the book: notions of orality and literacy, text and material platform, authors and readers, print and manuscript, language and gender, the book trade and its role in the circulation of people and ideas in the early age of print.

Religion
RELI UN2306 INTRO TO JUDAISM. 4.00 points.
A historical overview of Jewish belief and practice as these have crystallized and changed over the centuries. Special attention to ritual and worship, the forms of religious literature, central concepts, religious leadership and institutions, Israel among the nations.

Fall 2024: RELI UN2306
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
RELI 2306 001/00035 T Th 8:40am - 9:55am Room TBA Beth Berkowitz 4.00 48/48

Jewish Studies*
RELI GU4509 CRIME/PUNISHMENT-JEWISH CULTRE. 4.00 points.
Jews have stood on every imaginable side of criminal justice: accuser and accused; prosecutor, defendant, and defender; judge and judged; spectator; storyteller; journalist; critic; advocate. How did Jews approach these various roles, and what notions of crime, criminality, punishment, and justice did they bring with them? This course crosses chronological eras, geographical regions, and academic disciplines to explore configurations of crime and punishment in Jewish cultures. It strives to achieve a balance in its coverage of Ashkenaz vs. Sephard; ancient, late ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary Judaisms; the specific and historical vs. the philosophical and theoretical; and varieties of sex, race, and gender. The role of classical Jewish texts, theology, and community in shaping Jewish approaches to criminal justice will all be considered.

Fall 2024: RELI GU4509

RELI 4509 001/00356 T 2:10pm - 4:00pm 113 Milstein Center
Instructor: Beth Berkowitz
Points: 4.00
Enrollment: 14/20

SOCIO UN3285 ISRAELI SOC # ISR-PLS CONFLICT. 3.00 points.
The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with Israeli society through the lens of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The underlying assumption in this course is that much of the social, economic, political, and cultural processes in contemporary Israel have been shaped by the 100-year Israeli-Arab/Palestinian conflict.

Fall 2024: SOCIO UN3285

SOCI 3285 001/10914 T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm Room TBA
Instructor: Yinon Cohen
Points: 3.00
Enrollment: 19/45

SOCI GR6161 Dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. 4.00 points.
The seminar will explore the Israeli-Palestinian (and Israeli-Arab) conflict from the beginning of the 20th century until today. The first part of the seminar will focus on the historical background informing the conflict and leading to the Palestinian refugee problem and the establishment of a Jewish, but not Palestinian, state in 1948. The second part of the seminar focuses on Palestinian-Arab citizens in Israel, Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the settlement project, and possible political solutions, as well as the USA’s role and its impact on the conflict, the occupation, and the current Gaza war.

Women’s Studies

WMST GU4336 GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN YIDDISH LITERATURE. 4.00 points.
Early publications in Yiddish, a.k.a. the mame loshn, ‘mother tongue,’ were addressed to “women and men who are like women,” while famous Yiddish writer, Sholem Aleichem, created a myth of “three founding fathers” of modern Yiddish literature, which eliminated the existence of Yiddish women writers. As these examples indicate, gender has played a significant role in Yiddish literary power dynamics. This course will explore representation of gender and sexuality in modern Yiddish literature and film in works created by Sholem Aleichem, Sholem Asch, Fradl Shtok, Sh. An-sky, Malka Lee, Anna Margolin, Celia Dropkin, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Kadya Molodowsky, Troim Katz Handler, and Irena Klepfisz. You will also acquire skills in academic research and digital presentation of the findings as part of the Mapping Yiddish New York project that is being created at Columbia. No knowledge of Yiddish required.

Fall 2024: WMST GU4336

WMST 4336 001/00556 T 4:10pm - 6:00pm 306 Milbank Hall
Instructor: Agnieszka Legutko
Points: 4.00
Enrollment: 10/20

Yiddish

YIDD UN1101 ELEMENTARY YIDDISH I. 4.00 points.
This course offers an introduction to the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, and an opportunity to discover a fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language and culture in a fun way. Using games, new media, and music, we will learn how to speak, read, listen and write in a language that is considered one of the richest languages in the world (in some aspects of vocabulary). We will also venture outside the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, Yiddish organizations, such as YIVO or Yiddish farm, and so on. We will also have Yiddish-speaking guests and do a few digital projects. At the end of the two-semester course, you will be able to converse in Yiddish on a variety of everyday topics and read most Yiddish literary and non-literary texts. Welcome to Yiddishland!

Spring 2024: YIDD UN1101

YIDD 1101 001/13595 M W 2:10pm - 4:00pm 318 Hamilton Hall
Instructor: Noa Tsauzhu
Points: 4.00
Enrollment: 3/15

Fall 2024: YIDD UN1101

YIDD 1101 001/12835 M W 6:10pm - 8:00pm Room TBA
Instructor: Joshua Beinich
Points: 4.00
Enrollment: 3/15
YIDD UN1102 ELEMENTARY YIDDISH II. 4.00 points.
This course offers an introduction to the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, and an opportunity to discover a fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language and culture in a fun way. Using games, new media, and music, we will learn how to speak, read, listen and write in a language that is considered one of the richest languages in the world (in some aspects of vocabulary). We will also venture outside the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, YIVO, Yiddish Farm, and so on. We will also have Yiddish-speaking guests and do a few digital projects. At the end of the two-semester course, you will be able to converse in Yiddish on a variety of everyday topics and read most Yiddish literary and non-literary texts. Welcome to Yiddishland!

YIDD UN2101 INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH I. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: YIDD UN1101-UN1102 or the instructor's permission. Prerequisites: YIDD UN1101-UN1102 or the instructor’s permission. This year-long course is a continuation of Elementary Yiddish II. As part of the New Media in Jewish Studies Collaborative, this class will be using new media in order to explore and research the fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language, and culture, and to engage in project-oriented activities that will result in creating lasting multi-media online presentations. In addition to expanding the command of the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, i.e. focusing on developing speaking, reading, writing and listening skills, and on the acquisition of more advanced grammatical concepts, students will also get some video and film editing training, and tutorials on archival research. The class will continue to read works of Yiddish literature in the original and will venture outside of the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through exciting field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, YIVO, Yiddish Farm, and so on. And we will also have the Yiddish native-speaker guest series. Welcome back to Yiddishland!

YIDD GU4113 Yiddish for Academic Purposes I. 3 points.
The course focuses on developing skills in reading and translating Yiddish texts for academic research. It starts with an accelerated review of Yiddish grammar, accompanied by short texts and grammar and translation exercises, and then continues with reading a variety of more advanced literary and scholarly texts. Some of the material listed on the syllabus may be substituted by texts suggested by the students. The objective of the class is to acquire solid grammar base as well as reading proficiency that goes beyond word-for-word translation, includes skills of making reasonable guesses based on the context, and develops reading strategies. The course is designed primarily for graduate students who need to conduct research in Yiddish but it is open to everyone. No knowledge of Yiddish required but some background is strongly recommended.
Spring 2024 Courses

JWST GU4149 A History of Jewish-Muslim Encounters: From the Beginning of Islam Until Today. 4.00 points.

Much of what Americans know today about Jews and Muslims historically comes through journalistic depictions of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East. This seminar will introduce students to a far longer history of the many social, cultural, political, and economic encounters and entanglements between Jews and Muslims that spans centuries and continents. We will nuance narratives of both Jews and the Middle East as we move both chronologically and thematically to trace the experiences of Jews in Arabia before and with the rise of Islam, and how Jews and Muslims shaped the theology and religious literature of one another. We will examine how the Islamic conquests brought about the need to create an institutional framework for minorities, and the histories of Jewish communities under various Islamic caliphates, moving from Babylonia, to the eastern Mediterranean, and al-Andalus (Islamic Spain). Following Sephardic Jews with their expulsion in 1492, we will trace the formation of a Sephardic diaspora across the Ottoman Empire and North Africa. Finally, we will chart modern transformations in Jewish-Muslim encounters in daily life, popular culture, religious practice, and political movements. In doing so, we will consider their encounters as part of more global and interregional processes in the Middle East and beyond, such as colonialism, imperialism, nationalism, the formation of modern nation states in the Middle East, and the Israeli-Arab conflict. Through reading scholarly literature and analyzing primary documents—including letters and petitions, newspapers and state records, literature, music, and photography—this course guides students in thinking like historians, reading texts, and formulating interpretations. By centering a wide range of historical voices, we will examine how encounters between Jews and Muslims were shaped by gender, class, race, religious practice, and regionality. In taking our guiding frameworks and approaches from different disciplines and fields, including history, anthropology, visual culture, and postcolonial studies, we will work to better understand the long history of Jewish-Muslim encounters in the Middle East and beyond.

JWST GU4153 U.S. Civil and Human Rights Lawyers. 4.00 points.

What is the role of the individual in changing the legal system? To what extent, if any, can individuals transform legal norms? If transformation is possible, how do they go about it? What motivates them? Do these individuals understand themselves as having achieved their aims? This class examines these questions by exploring the work of “cause lawyers,” civil and human rights lawyers who engaged with the legal system for the purpose of changing it to better reflect their values and priorities. By studying works by and about cause lawyers and legal organizations, students will learn to identify overlooked sources of power in the U.S. and global legal system.

JWST GU4154 Magic in Jewish History and Culture. 4.00 points.

The belief in the possibility of certain actions to supernaturally alter the laws of nature can be found in virtually every culture and period of human history and the Jewish tradition was no exception. Drawing on a wide range of primary texts, visual media, and ethnographical studies this course will offer an introduction to the broad variety of Jewish magical beliefs and practices from the bible to the present. Students will learn about the various kinds of magic practiced by Jews in different historical periods and cultural contexts, the tensions that existed between magic and prevailing religious and social norms, and the ways magic was integrated as an acceptable and even valued aspect of Jewish culture. The course will also highlight the symbiotic relationship between Jewish magical traditions and those of other cultures, the social functions of Jewish magicians, and the role played by women as practitioners and transmitters of magical lore.
This course will take a longue durée approach to one of the most widely-attested, and least studied, genres in the Western canon: horror. We will take as an orienting assumption the idea that horror is a serious genre, capable of deep and sustained cultural, political, and historical critique, despite its contemporary status as “pulp” or “pop culture.” We will ask what horror is as an affective and cognitive state, and we will also ask what horror means as a genre. We will ask how horror gets registered in narrative, drama, and in poetic form, and we will address how horror evolves over the centuries. Indeed, the course will range widely, beginning in the early 14th century, and ending in the second decade of the 21st. We will explore multiple different sub-genres of horror, ranging from lyric poetry to film, to explore how horror afforded authors with a highly flexible and experimental means of thinking through enduring questions about human life, linguistic meaning, social connectedness, connectedness with The Beyond, scientific inquiry, and violence. We will explore a series of through-lines: most notably that of cultural otherness, with Jewishness as a particularly archetypal other, thus the pronounced treatment of Jewish literature throughout the course. Other through-lines will include the ideas of placelessness, violence toward women, perverse Christian ritual, and the uncanny valley that separates humans from non-humans. Ultimately, we will try to map out the kinds of social, political, and historical work that horror can do.

ENGL GU4938 HISTORY OF HORROR. 3.00 points.

This course will examine theoretical and historical developments that framed the notions of censorship and free expression in early modern Europe. In the last two decades, the role of censorship has become one of the significant elements in discussions of early modern culture. The history of printing and of the book, of the rise nationalistic and historical work that horror can do.

HIST UN3604 Jews and the City. 4 points.

Priority given to majors and concentrators, seniors, and juniors.

Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission.

Over the course of the nineteenth century, millions of Jews uprooted themselves from their places of birth and moved to cities scattered throughout the world. This mass urbanization not only created new demographic centers of world Jewry, but also fundamentally transformed Jewish political and cultural life. In this course, we shall analyze primary source material, literary accounts as well as secondary sources as we examine the Jewish encounter with the city, and see how Jewish culture was shaped by and helped to shape urban culture. We shall compare Jewish life in six cities spanning from Eastern Europe to the United States and consider how Jews’ concerns molded the urban economy, urban politics, and cosmopolitan culture. We shall also consider the ways in which urbanization changed everyday Jewish life. What impact did it have on Jewish economic and religious life? What role did gender and class play in molding the experiences of Jews in different cities scattered throughout the world?

HIST UN3120 Censorship and Freedom of Expression in Early Modern Europe. 4 points.

In this course we will examine theoretical and historical developments that framed the notions of censorship and free expression in early modern Europe. In the last two decades, the role of censorship has become one of the significant elements in discussions of early modern culture. The history of printing and of the book, of the rise nationalistic and historical work that horror can do.

RELI UN3301 Hebrew Bible. 3 points.

Introduction to the literature of ancient Israel against the background of the ancient Near East.
RELI GR6420 RELIGION # PUBLIC LIFE. 4.00 points.

MDES UN1502 1ST YR MOD HEBREW:ELEM II. 5.00 points.
Prerequisites: MDES UN1501, or the equivalent, based on placement test.
Prerequisites: MDES UN1501, or the equivalent, based on performance on the placement test. Continued introduction to Hebrew, with equal emphasis on all languages skills. (See MDES UN1501.) No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class

Spring 2024: MDES UN1502
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 1502 001/12274 M T W Th 10:10am - 11:15am 101 Knox Hall Ilan Gonen 5.00 7/12
MDES 1502 002/12275 M T W Th 11:40am - 12:45pm 101 Knox Hall Ilan Gonen 5.00 10/12

MDES UN2502 2ND YR MODERN HEBREW II. 5.00 points.
Prerequisites: Second Year Hebrew: Intermediate I or instructor permission.
Prerequisites: Second Year Hebrew: Intermediate I or instructor permission. Equal emphasis is given to all language skills. Irregular categories of the Hebrew verb, prepositions and syntax are taught systematically. Vocabulary building. Daily homework includes grammar exercises, short answers, reading, or writing short compositions. Frequent vocabulary and grammar quizzes. (Students completing this course fulfill Columbia College and Barnard language requirement.) No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class

Spring 2024: MDES UN2502
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 2502 001/12292 M T W Th 11:40am - 12:45pm 114 Knox Hall Danielle Katz-Shenhar 5.00 13/15

MDES UN2518 HEBREW FOR HERITAGE SPEAKERS. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I
Prerequisites: Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II forms the second part of a year-long sequence with Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I. The course is intended for those who have developed basic speaking and listening skills through exposure to Hebrew at home or in day-school programs but do not use Hebrew as their dominant language and have not reached the level required for exemption from the Columbia language requirement. Heritage speakers differ in the degree of their fluency, but their vocabulary is often limited to topics in daily life and many lack skills in reading and writing to match their ability to converse. The course focuses on grammar and vocabulary enrichment, exposing students to a variety of cultural and social topics in daily life and beyond. By the end of the semester students are able to read and discuss simple texts and write about a variety of topics. Successful completion of the year-long sequence prepares students to enroll in third-year modern Hebrew. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class

Spring 2024: MDES UN2518
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 2518 001/12297 M W Th 10:10am - 11:25am 114 Knox Hall Danielle Katz-Shenhar 4.00 6/12

MDES GU4511 3RD YR MODERN HEBREW II. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: Third Year Modern Hebrew I or Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II
Prerequisites: Third Year Modern Hebrew I or Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II Focus on transition from basic language towards authentic Hebrew, through reading of un-adapted literary and journalistic texts without vowels. Vocabulary building. Grammar is reviewed in context. A weekly hour is devoted to practice in conversation. Daily homework includes reading, short answers, short compositions, listening to webcasts, or giving short oral presentations via voice e-mail. Frequent vocabulary quizzes. No P/D/F or R credit is allowed for this class

Spring 2024: MDES GU4511
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 4511 001/12299 M W Th 11:10am - 1:15pm 103 Knox Hall Daniella Katz-Shenhar 4.00 9/12

MDES UN2516 INT HEBREW:INTENSIVE GRAMMAR REV. 4.00 points.
This course focuses on Modern Hebrew grammar, and verb conjugation in particular. It is designed for students with substantial knowledge of Modern Hebrew. Over the semester, students will systematically review the grammatical patterns of regular verbs (shlemim), and learn the grammatical patterns of the irregular verbs (gzarot), as well as several other grammatical topics. After successful completion of this course, the foreign language requirement will be fulfilled (for students of Columbia College and other academic units that require a 4th-semester proficiency). Successful completion of this course also allows students to register in third-year Modern Hebrew

Fall 2024: MDES UN2516
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
MDES 2516 001/13912 M W Th 11:40am - 12:55pm Room TBA Ilan Gonen 4.00 7/12
MDES GU4532 Beyond Human in Modern Hebrew Literature. 4.00 points.
“..."The possibility of pogroms," claims Theodor Adorno, “is decided in the moment when the gaze of a fatally-wounded animal falls on a human being. The defiance with which he repels this gaze—“after all it’s only an animal”—reappears irresistibly in cruelties done to human beings.” This course traces the development of Modern Hebrew literature, from its fin-de-siècle revival to contemporary Israeli fiction, through the prism of animality and animalization. We will focus on human-animal relations and animalization/dehumanization of humans in literary works by prominent Hebrew authors, including M.Y. Berdichevsky, Devorah Baron, S.Y. Agnon, Amos Oz, David Grossman, Orly Castel-Bloom, Almog Behar, Etgar Keret, and Sayed Kashua. Employing posthumanist and ecofeminist theoretical lenses, we will analyze the bio-political intersections of species and gender, as well as animalization as a process of otherization of marginalized ethnic groups. Throughout the course, we will ask questions, such as: why animals abound in Modern Hebrew literature? Are they merely metaphors for intra-human issues, or rather count as subjects? What literary devices are used to portray animals? How has the depiction of human-animal relations changed in Hebrew over the last 150 years? How do cultural and political frameworks inform representations of human-animal relations? No prior knowledge of Hebrew is required; all readings and class discussions will be in English. Course participants with reading knowledge of Hebrew are encouraged to consult the original literary texts, provided by the instructor upon request.

Spring 2024: MDES GU4532
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
MDES 4532 | 001/13884 | W 2:10pm - 4:00pm
207 Knox Hall | Yael Flusser | 4.00 | 11/20

YIDD UN1101 ELEMENTARY YIDDISH I. 4.00 points.
This course offers an introduction to the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, and an opportunity to discover a fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language and culture in a fun way. Using games, new media, and music, we will learn how to speak, read, listen and write in a language that is considered one of the richest languages in the world (in some aspects of vocabulary). We will also venture outside the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, Yiddish organizations, such as YIVO or Yiddish farm, and so on. We will also have Yiddish-speaking guests and do a few digital projects. At the end of the two-semester course, you will be able to converse in Yiddish on a variety of everyday topics and read most Yiddish literary and non-literary texts. Welcome to Yiddishland!

Spring 2024: YIDD UN1101
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
YIDD 1101 | 001/13595 | M W 2:10pm - 4:00pm
318 Hamilton Hall | Noa TsauShu | 4.00 | 3/15

Fall 2024: YIDD UN1101
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
YIDD 1101 | 001/12835 | M W 6:10pm - 8:00pm
Room TBA | Joshua Beirich | 4.00 | 3/15

YIDD UN1102 ELEMENTARY YIDDISH II. 4.00 points.
This course offers an introduction to the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, and an opportunity to discover a fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language and culture in a fun way. Using games, new media, and music, we will learn how to speak, read, listen and write in a language that is considered one of the richest languages in the world (in some aspects of vocabulary). We will also venture outside the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, Yiddish organizations, such as YIVO or Yiddish farm, and so on. We will also have Yiddish-speaking guests and do a few digital projects. At the end of the two-semester course, you will be able to converse in Yiddish on a variety of everyday topics and read most Yiddish literary and non-literary texts. Welcome to Yiddishland!

Spring 2024: YIDD UN1102
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
YIDD 1102 | 001/13596 | T Th 10:10am - 12:00pm
507 Hamilton Hall | Ethan Fraenkel | 4.00 | 14/15

YIDD UN2102 INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH II. 4.00 points.
Prerequisites: YIDD UN1101-UN1102 or the instructor’s permission.
Prerequisites: YIDD UN1101-UN1102 or the instructor’s permission.
This year-long course is a continuation of Elementary Yiddish II. As part of the New Media in Jewish Studies Collaborative, this class will be using new media in order to explore and research the fabulous world of Yiddish literature, language, and culture, and to engage in project-oriented activities that will result in creating lasting multi-media online presentations. In addition to expanding the command of the language that has been spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews for more than a millennium, i.e. focusing on developing speaking, reading, writing and listening skills, and on the acquisition of more advanced grammatical concepts, students will also get some video and film editing training, and tutorials on archival research. The class will continue to read works of Yiddish literature in the original and will venture outside of the classroom to explore the Yiddish world today: through exciting field trips to Yiddish theater, Yiddish-speaking neighborhoods, YIVO, Yiddish Farm, and so on. And we will also have the Yiddish native-speaker guest series. Welcome back to Yiddishland!

YIDD UN3333 ADVANCED YIDDISH. 3.00 points.
May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisites: YIDD UN2101-YIDD UN2102 or the instructor’s permission.
Prerequisites: YIDD UN2101-YIDD UN2102 or the instructor’s permission.
Reading of contemporary authors. Stress on word usage and idiomatic expression, discussion.

Spring 2024: YIDD UN3333
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
YIDD 3333 | 001/13598 | Th 1:00pm - 2:15pm
505 Lewisohn Hall | Agnieszka Legutko | 3.00 | 4/15
YIDD 3333 | 001/13598 | Th 2:30pm - 3:45pm
408 Hamilton Hall | Agnieszka Legutko | 3.00 | 4/15

Fall 2024: YIDD UN3333
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
YIDD 3333 | 001/12832 | M W 2:10pm - 3:25pm
Room TBA | 0. FACULTY | 3.00 | 4/15
YIDD UN3500 SURVEY OF YIDDISH LIT (ENG). 3.00 points.
For the better part of a thousand years Yiddish was the primary language of European Jewry – and the language of its most exciting and vibrant literary and cultural achievement. This class hopes to trace the history of that literature – which is at its heart a history of much of the Jewish people as it lived traditionally faced modernity and suffered catastrophe. Stories poems plays – by authors ranging from Nobel prize winners like Isaac Bashevis Singer to seventeenth century women like Gluckel of Hameln – are not only great works of art in their own right but they open a window into a largely vanished world.

Additional Courses, Including Those Not Currently Offered

Germanic Languages
YIDD UN2102 INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH II
YIDD UN3333 ADVANCED YIDDISH
YIDD UN3520 MAGIC # MONSTERS IN YIDD LIT
YIDD W3550 Twentieth-Century Yiddish Literature and Film (in English)

History
HIST UN2611 JEWS # JUDAISM IN ANTIQUITY
HIST UN2628 HIST STATE OF ISRAEL, 1948-PRES
HIST UN2630 American Jewish History
HIST UN2657 Medieval Jewish Cultures
HIST UN3604 Jews and the City
HIST W4610 The Ancient Jews and the Mediterranean
HIST W4611 Jews and Muslims in the Middle Ages
HIST W4635 Ancient Jewish Texts: Leviticus Rabbah

Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies
MDES UN1502 1ST YR MOD HEBREW: ELEM II
MDES UN2502 2ND YR MODERN HEBREW II
MDES W1516 Second Year Hebrew: Intensive Grammar Review
MDES UN3541 Zionism: A Cultural Perspective
CLME W3546 Intro to Hebrew Literature
MDES GU4510 3RD YR MODERN HEBREW I

Religion (Barnard)
RELI W4501 Psalms Through the Commentary of the Baal Shem Tov
RELI W4505 The Beginnings of Jewish Mysticism
RELI W4508 Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah

Religion
RELI UN3501 Introduction To the Hebrew Bible
RELI V3512 The Bible and Its Interpreters
RELI UN3315 Readings in Kabbalah
RELI V3571 Judaism, Jewishness, and Modernity
RELI V3585 The Sephardic Experience
RELI W4507 Readings in Hasidism
RELI W4508 Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah
RELI GU4637 TALMUDIC NARRATIVE
RELI GU4515 Reincarnation and Technology

Sociology
SOCI UN3285 ISRAELI SOC # ISR-PLS CONFLICT

SOCI W3930 Immigration and Ethnicity in Israel
WMST BC3122 Contemporary American-Jewish Women Writers: 1990 to the Present
WMST GU4302 The Second Wave and Jewish Women's Artistic Responses: 1939-1990
WMST GU4310 CONTEM AMER JEWISH WOMEN'S LIT