Jewish
Studies Program

Course
Catalog
Fall 2021

UNIVERSITY of PITTSBURGH

Jewish Studies Program
The Dietrich School

Course Catalog

Fall 2021

Elementary Hebrew 1

Independent Study (aka Hebrew 1.5)

Intermediate Hebrew 3

Advanced Hebrew 5

Mythology in the Ancient Near East

U.S. & the Holocaust

Modern Israel & Palestine

Israeli Film and Television

Germany Today

Feeding the Soul: Food & Gender in Religious Life

The Guide of the Perplexed

Special Topics: Israel Studies

Hebrew at Pitt
Part of the Jewish Studies Program and JS Certificate
Recognized as a non-Western language for the Linguistics major

Elementary Hebrew 1
(JS 0011/HEB 0101)
MoWeFr 10:00AM–10:50AM
Instructor: Haya Feig

Fulfills the 1st semester of second language acquisitions for Gen Ed.

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the Hebrew language. We study basic vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure, and learn to read and write Hebrew. Emphasis is learning to speak the language.

Independent Study (aka Hebrew 1.5)
(JS 1902/HEB 2902)
Instructor: Haya Feig

Prepare for Hebrew 2 or for a trip to Israel. Build your knowledge of Hebrew reading and writing. Prior knowledge required.

Intermediate Hebrew 3
(JS 0025/HEB 0103)
MoWeFr 11:00AM–11:50AM
Instructor: Haya Feig

Part of the Jewish Studies certificate

Students continue to develop the skills acquired in Hebrew 2 with emphasis on speaking and on understanding the spoken language. Readings this term include short stories and articles.

Advanced Hebrew 5
(JS 0037/HEB 0105)
TuTh 9:30AM–10:45AM
Instructor: Haya Feig

Part of the Jewish Studies certificate

This course is for advanced level students and uses Hebrew language literature, print and electronic media, film, and TV shows. Emphasis is placed on conversation, modern Hebrew literature, and composition.

Mythology in the Ancient Near East

(JS 0090)
MoWeFr 9:00AM–9:50AM
Instructor: Benjamin Gordon

DSAS Cross-Cult. Awareness General Ed. Requirement
DSAS Geographic Region General Ed. Requirement
SCI Polymathic Contexts: Global&Cross Cul GE. Req.

The myths of the ancient near East are among the earliest written interpretations of the world and human existence. They are also among the most enduring, although they have only been unearthed in the last 200 years. In this course, we read myths from ancient Mesopotamia, Ugarit, and Israel. We study the myths as literary works, representative of the ideas and issues of the original cultural context in which they were shaped. These myths offer insight into the religious mentality of the ancient near east, as well as societal and political issues. We examine themes such as the presentation of the life of the gods, the relationship between the human and divine worlds, the issues of mortality and immortality, existence, fertility, kingship, and ethics. The primary goal of this course is to better understand these myths as they existed and developed in their ancient settings. Of course, because the myths are expressions of human thought, we may find that in studying them we also come to better understand ourselves.

U.S. & the Holocaust

(JS 0283)
TuTh 1:00PM–2:30PM
Instructor: Barbara Burstin

This course examines the period of the Holocaust focusing on America's response in the 1930s and 1940s, and on antisemitism and anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States. The course compels students to think not only about what happened then and why, but also about contemporary implications for Americans.

Modern Israel & Palestine

(JS 1256)
TuTh 9:30AM–10:45AM
Instructor: Staff

SCI Polymathic Contexts: Global&Cross Cul GE. Req.
SCI Polymathic Contexts: Soc/Behav. GE Req.

We trace the history of modern Israel from the idea of the return in the second half of the 19th century through the state of Israel today.

Israeli Film and Television

(JS 1259/HEB 1259)
Tu 4:30PM - 7:00PM
Instructor: Haya Feig

DSAS Geographic Region General Ed. Requirement
SCI Polymathic Contexts: Global&Cross Cul GE. Req.

This class aims to show Israeli society through Israeli films. Students learn about different aspects of Israeli life and culture such as compulsory army service; the influence of war; the complexity of Jewish and non-Jewish elements in Israeli society; the role of women, sexuality and gender (including the LGBTQ+ community); and the secular and the Orthodox among Israeli Jews. Students choose to watch and discuss from among 40 films in different categories. All films are subtitled in English.

Germany Today

(JS 1270)
TuTh 4:00PM–5:15PM
Instructor: Amy Colin

SCI Polymathic Contexts: Global&Cross Cul GE. Req.
European and Eurasian Studies
West European Studies

Through lectures, readings, films, and group discussions, this course explores key political, social, economic, and cultural developments in contemporary Germany such as Germany's leading role in the EU, its relationship to the United States, its growing multi-ethnicity, the integration of refugees, the rise of an extreme right-wing political party, ongoing efforts to learn from German history, civic movements that are trying to stop hate crimes, racism, and antisemitism.

Feeding the Soul: Food & Gender in Religious Life
(JS 1715)
We 12:00PM–2:25PM
Instructor: Frayda Cohen

Gender, Sexuality & Women's St

Food is sustenance and absolutely essential to life. But food is never simply about nutrition. Because it is fundamental to the human experience, food is also a medium for the expression of culture and social identity. Moreover, food relays complex social messages about gender, sexuality, and family. Consequently, food is also a means for expressing the social and symbolic use of power and control in which social inequalities are expressed in culinary forms. This course will examine food from the vantage point of gendered and religious systems of production, distribution, and consumption as we consider: How does your food come to your table (or not) and what are the political implications of personal tastes?

The Guide of the Perplexed
(JS 1762)
TuTh 2:30PM–3:45PM
Instructor: Brock Bahler

DSAS Phil. Think or Ethics General Ed. Requirement
Medieval & Renaissance Studies
SCI Polymathic Contexts: Ethical/Policy GE. Req.

This course engages in a close reading of the widely influential work by 12th century Jewish philosopher Moses Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*. We will consider Maimonides's approach to interpreting divine texts, his account of negative theology, his view of human knowledge, and his appropriation of Greek philosophy within Medieval thought. We will then analyze Maimonides's far-reaching influence in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic thought during his day as well as his continued influence in religious thought today.

Special Topics: Israel Studies
(JS 1800)
TuTh 4:00PM–5:15PM
Instructor: Staff

Enroll today!

Jewish
Studies Program

More about Jewish Studies:

Jewish Studies is an exploration of Jewish history, culture, thought, literature, and artistic expression through the past, present, and future in relation to the wider cultural and social settings in which Jews lived.

Website: jewishstudies.pitt.edu
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