Elementary Hebrew 2
Intermediate Hebrew
Biblical Hebrew
Israel in the Biblical Age
Jerusalem: History and Imagination
Jews and the City
Holocaust History and Memory
Israeli Film and Television
Special Topics: Picturing Biblical Narrative
Independent Study: Portfolio JS Certificate
Elementary Hebrew 2
(JS 0014)
MoWeFr 10:00AM - 10:50AM
Haya Feig

Fulfills DSAS Second Language General Ed. Requirement
Global Studies

Continuation of the introductory work begun in Hebrew 1. Students further develop their reading, writing and speaking skills with the greatest emphasis being placed on oral communication.

Intermediate Hebrew 4
(JS 0026)
MoWeFr 11:05AM - 11:55AM
Haya Feig

Global Studies

Students continue to develop their Hebrew reading and speaking skills. Sophisticated Hebrew texts are introduced.

Biblical Hebrew
(Hebrew 1065/JS 1065)
TuTh 9:30AM - 10:45AM
102 Benedum Hall
Haya Feig

This is a 3-credit course that teaches the language of the ancient Hebrew of the Bible. The goal is for students to learn to read the original Hebrew Scriptures decoding their vocabulary with minimal need for the use of a dictionary. Students will develop their skills in reading and reading comprehension, writing in script, and composition in the Biblical language.
Israel in the Biblical Age
(JS 1100)
MoWeFr 11:05AM - 11:55AM
Benjamin Gordon

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

This course explores the history and development of the people of Israel in ancient times. What do we know about the Israelites and how do we know it? Using biblical texts and archaeological remains, students will learn about everyday life in ancient Israel, the role of class and gender, life-cycle events, religious festivals, political institutions, systems of belief, and famous personages in history and lore. The trajectory of the course will begin with the Near Eastern origins of the people, continue through the rise of the Israelite and Judahite monarchies, and end with the Second Temple commonwealth of Judea in the Persian and Hellenistic periods.
Jerusalem: History and Imagination

(JS 1160)
MoWe 3:25PM - 4:40PM
Benjamin Gordon

Fulfills DSAS Geographic Region General Ed. Requirement
Fulfills DSAS Historical Analysis General Ed. Requirement
Fulfills SCI Polymathic Contexts: Global&Cross Cul GE. Req.
Fulfills SCI Polymathic Contexts: Soc/Behav. GE. Req.

This course examines the political, religious, and cultural history of Jerusalem, focusing primarily on Jerusalem as a concrete and conceptual phenomenon in the premodern period.

Jews and the City

(JS 1240)
TuTh 4:30PM - 5:45PM
Rachel Kranson

Fulfills DSAS Global Issues General Ed. Requirement
Fulfills DSAS Historical Analysis General Ed. Requirement
Fulfills SCI Polymathic Contexts: Global&Cross Cul GE. Req.
Fulfills SCI Polymathic Contexts: Soc/Behav. GE. Req.

Comedian Lenny Bruce riffed in 1963 that “If you live in New York or any other big city, you are Jewish. It doesn’t matter even if you’re Catholic; if you live in New York you’re Jewish.” In this course, we will discover why Lenny Bruce – and so many other observers of Jewish life -- came to understand urbanity as a core component of the Jewish experience.

We will begin our study of the Jewish encounter with urban life in the 19th century, as millions of Eastern European Jews migrated from the small villages of their birth to cities across the globe. This course will trace this Eastern European Jewish diaspora to urban destinations around the world, before training its lens on the Jewish encounter with American cities. We will pay close attention to how patterns of Jewish urbanization changed regionally and over time; how urbanization affected Jews’ home-life, leisure time, religious practices and occupational choices; how differences in gender and class affected Jews’ experiences in urban spaces; and how Jews interacted with other ethnic groups in diverse, urban environments. Delving into the history, built environment, and archival sources pertaining to the Jewish experience in Pittsburgh will provide us with a dynamic case study for this crucial relationship between Jews and the city.
The holocaust - that is, the genocide of six million Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II - was a critical event of the early twentieth-century that continues to resonate today. Our historical survey will look at the holocaust primarily through the experiences of its Jewish victims, though we will discuss some of the other groups, such as the roma, disabled people, and gay men, who were also targeted and systematically murdered by the Nazis. Additionally, we will think about the perpetrators of the holocaust and the ideologies that led to the genocide, such as racism, nationalism, and antisemitism. Finally, we will move beyond the history of the holocaust to think about the ways that this event has been remembered and reconstructed by survivors, nations, institutions, museums, the arts, popular culture and the media. Looking at how institutions here in Pittsburgh commemorate the holocaust will offer us local, concrete examples of how people continue to grapple with this history.
Israeli Film and Television
(JS 1259)
Tu 4:30PM - 7:00PM
Haya Feig

Fulfills DSAS Geographic Region General Ed. Requirement
Fulfills 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.
Special Topics: Picturing Biblical Narrative
(JS 1111)
Th 12:00PM - 12:50PM
Ben Schachter

This 1-credit interdisciplinary course looks at the use of Jewish texts in graphic novels. Each week, students will explore the formal and narrative elements of graphic novel writing and how these elements are used in conjunction with biblical Jewish texts. Exercises will include: hands on drawing and visual story telling as well as analysis with an ear (and eye) for learning how to create visual stories. While we will read, discuss, and create comics, there is not enough time to cover all the material to make a full comic or book. Our goal will be to explore the way Jewish texts and comics or graphic novels can work together. Grading P/F. The planned operational modality for this class is REMOTE. For more information please visit http://www.provost.pitt.edu/students/student-success-flexpitt/flex-pitt-guarded-risk-posture-all-students-remote/

Independent Study: Portfolio JS Certificate
(JS 1901)
Days/Times: TBA
Irina Livezeanu

Jewish Studies Certificate students in this 1-credit course will develop a portfolio from their course-work in Jewish Studies and write a reflective essay about it during their last semester.
Enroll today!

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.