

JEWISH STUDIES  
COURSES AT  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



2018-2019  
CENTER FOR  
JEWISH STUDIES

This publication is for informational purposes only. The listing of a course in this booklet does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Center for Jewish Studies, nor does the absence of a course necessarily imply the lack of endorsement. The goal of this publication is to aid the process of course selection by students interested in Jewish studies, and we apologize for inadvertent inclusions and exclusions.

Course listings as of September 7, 2018. Course offerings and times may change. Please check the Website of the Registrar's Office of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for updated information. <https://courses.my.harvard.edu>

# FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

FALL SEMESTER

FRESHMAN SEMINARS

**FRSEMR 62J HARVARD'S GREATEST HITS: THE MOST IMPORTANT, RAREST,  
AND MOST VALUABLE BOOKS IN HOUGHTON LIBRARY**

Class Number: 19456 Course ID: 207807

Fall 2018

David Stern

Th 3:00pm-5:45pm

Have you ever fantasized of turning the pages of a Gutenberg Bible with your own fingers? Or a medieval illustrated Book of Hours? Or touching a papyrus fragment of Homer? Or a First Folio edition of Shakespeare? Or seeing close-up Copernicus' diagram of the heliocentric universe? The Houghton Library of Harvard University is one of the world's greatest repositories of ancient scrolls, papyrus codices, illuminated manuscripts on parchment and paper, early printed books, rare books published since the sixteenth century down until today, and stunning prints and other types of graphic art. In this freshman seminar, we will utilize Houghton's extraordinary holdings to study first-hand the history of the book in the West as a material artifact from its beginnings in the ancient Near East down to the present day. Each week we will focus upon a cluster of books. Before class, students will be asked to examine selected books in Houghton's

Reading Room as well as online. During class-time, we will study the books again as a group. Visiting experts will demonstrate how to unroll a papyrus codex, the technology involved in creating a codex and printing on a hand-pulled press, and the techniques modern conservators use to preserve manuscripts and books. You will emerge from this seminar with a heightened understanding of what a rich thing a book is, and so much more than just a text. And you will have seen and studied close-up some of the most visually spectacular and culturally significant books in all Western history.

**Course Requirements:** Course open to Freshman Students Only

# BIBLICAL/ANCIENT NEAR EAST

## ANE 209 BIOGRAPHIES IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

Class Number: 18905 Course ID: 207757

Fall 2018

Yair Zakovitch

Th 9:00am-11:45am

The Hebrew Bible's historiography is designed as a series of life stories. From Abraham to Isaac, from Jacob to Joseph, Moses, Joshua and on to the judges, prophets, and kings, this is a long-distance relay race in which the baton is being passed from one character to his successor, from the beginning of history till the expulsion of Israel from its Land. Some of these life stories, like Moses's, are rather complete, starting with pre-birth traditions and ending with death; others, such as Joshua, are only partial.

In this course, we will conduct a close reading of some of the Bible's biographies, noting and explaining the relationships, similarities and differences between them. Since we deal with religious literature, special attention will also be given to each character's relationship with God and its significance. All the while, we will question the biblical writers, their motivations, who they were supporting and who they were criticizing, what their ideological motivations were, and noticing and enjoying their literary techniques.

Finally, we will also be looking at how some biographies came to be retold in Second Temple Period literature as well as rabbinic literature, and question the varying motives, literary tastes and modes of interpretation of the different eras and socio-political contexts.

**Class Notes:** The instructor for this course is Professor Yair Zakovitch, Weinstock Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies (Fall 2018).

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1437

### **HEBREW 204 READING THE SONG OF SONGS**

Class Number: 18903 Course ID: 207756

Fall 2018

Yair Zakovitch

W 9:00am-11:45am

The Song of Songs, a collection of secular and often erotic poems, is a riddle within the anthology of sacred literature we know as the Hebrew Bible. Its poems describe various encounters between the young woman and her lover and several of her dreams, include both dialogues and monologues, riddles and wasfs (a poetic genre of poems describing the human body), and many seem to portray the world and viewpoints of the young woman—a rarity in the very male-oriented literature of the Bible.

Over the course of the semester, we will do a close reading of many of these poems. We will learn about the different genres and the poems' relationships with other parts of the Bible—wisdom, prophecy, and narrative—as well as with the literature of the Ancient Near East. We will question the redactive process that formed the collection, its attribution to Solomon and his portrayal in the book's poems and, towards the end, we will reach conclusions about the book's origins, language, dating and, finally, the book's allegorization and canonization.

**Course Notes:** Intermediate Hebrew reading proficiency is recommended.

**Class Notes:** The instructor for this course is Professor Yair Zakovitch, Weinstock Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies (Fall 2018).

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1771

## HEBREW 218 THE JOSEPH STORY AND THE BOOK OF ESTHER

Class Number: 19956 Course ID: 116764

Fall 2018

Jon Levenson

Th 3:00pm-5:00pm

A close critical reading of Genesis 37-50 and the Book of Esther in Hebrew. Emphasis on literary design and religious messages and on the influence of the story of Joseph upon the Book of Esther.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1802.

**Recommended Prep:** Three years of Hebrew or the equivalent, and a good acquaintance with the historical-critical method.

## RELIGION 1232 ANCIENT JEWISH WISDOM LITERATURE

Class Number: 20260 Course ID: 122312

Fall 2018

Jon Levenson

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

A close critical reading and interpretation of works thought to derive from the Wisdom tradition of ancient Israel, principally in the Second Temple period. The workings of the world and the ways of God as they appear in works such as Proverbs, Job, Qohelet, Ben Sira, some Psalms, the Wisdom of Solomon, Fourth Maccabees, Pseudo-Phocylides, and the Syriac Menander as well as narratives such as the Joseph story, Esther, and Daniel. Concludes with the early rabbinic Pirqé Avot. Egyptian and Mesopotamian antecedents and parallels briefly considered. Emphasis on matters of worldview and literary form. Jointly offered with the Divinity School as HDS 1416.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1416.

# CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

## HEBREW 153 CRITICAL STUDY OF MIDRASH

Class Number: 18792 Course ID: 112948

Fall 2018

David Stern

W 3:00pm-5:45pm

An examination of rabbinic interpretations of the Bible and their relationship to other early exegetical traditions. Focuses on a series of specific midrashic themes and motifs found in a variety of rabbinic texts and seeks to understand their original exegetical function as well as their development and history of transmission.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 1832.

**Recommended Prep:** Reading knowledge of Mishnaic Hebrew.

## HEBREW 159 STUDIES IN THE BABYLONIAN TALMUD: PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Class Number: 19392 Course ID: 207795

Fall 2018

Shaye J.D. Cohen and Miriam Simma-Walfish

Th 3:00pm-5:45pm

What obligations do children have to their parents? Parents to their children? In this course, we will study legal and narrative passages about these questions, which will provide a window into rabbinic thinking about how the parent-child relationship fits into an ideal way of communicating values and maintaining a culture. This course will also serve as a methodological introduction to the academic study of the Babylonian Talmud. Secondary readings will be primarily focused on academic tools such as source criticism, social history, critical gender studies, and literary theory, as scholars have applied these tools to the Babylonian Talmud. We will also explore how traditional commentators can help raise critical questions about the

text.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1640.

**Recommended Prep:** One year of intensive Talmud study or permission of the instructor.

### **COMPLIT 211 MYSTICISM AND LITERATURE**

Class Number: 19526 Course ID: 114368

Fall 2018

Luis Giron Negron

M 3:00pm-5:45pm

Examines trends, issues and debates in the comparative study of mystical literature. Close readings of primary works by Jewish, Christian and Muslim authors from the Middle Ages through the 16th century. Premodern authors include Saint John of the Cross, Saint Theresa of Ávila, Mechtild of Magdeburg, Hadewijch, Pseudo-Dionysius, Dante Alighieri, Bernard of Clairvaux, Margery Kempe, Bahya ibn Paquda, Solomon ibn Gabirol, Yehudah Halevi, Moses de León (Sefer ha-Zohar), Maulana Rumi, al-Hallaj, Ibn Farid, Ibn al-‘Arabi, and Fariduddin Attar. Topics include poetry and mysticism; allegory, symbolism and Scripture; body and gender; apophasis vs cataphasis; exemplarity and autobiographism; language and experience. Also examines creative engagement of pre-modern mystical literature in selected works by modern authors (Borges, T.S. Eliot, Rilke), scholars of religion (Bernard McGinn, Moshe Idel, Annemarie Schimmel) and literary/cultural theorists (Michel de Certeau, Michael Sells).

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 3802.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 3802.



# MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

## JEWISHST 111 MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

Class Number: 18359 Course ID: 116199

Fall 2018

Jay Harris

Th 12:00pm-2:45pm

A study of significant Jewish thinkers in the modern period and their reflections on the past and present meaning of Judaism. All thinkers studied against the background of premodern Jewish thought and the challenges posed by modern Western philosophical systems.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 3682.

## COMPLIT 107 THE POLITICS OF YIDDISH

Class Number: 19535 Course ID: 207574

Fall 2018

Saul Zaritt

W 12:00pm-2:00pm

A bastardized German, a jargon, a woman's vernacular, an old world language, a dying and ghostly tongue, a Hasidic language, a queer language, a radical language—these are just a few of the ways that Yiddish has been labeled over its one-thousand-year history. This course will trace the shifting politics attached to Yiddish from its early modern beginnings as a language of translation between Jewish and non-Jewish cultures to its postwar vacillation between a language of mourning and nostalgia, Jewish American humor, Hasidic isolation, and contemporary Jewish radicalism. Through poetry, fiction, essay, and film, we will discuss what it might mean to discover “the secret language of the Jews” at the origins of Jewish socialism and at the foundations of diaspora nationalism. All texts will be read in translation.

**Jointly Offered with:** Faculty of Arts & Sciences as YIDDISH 107.

**COMPLIT 179 GHOSTWRITERS AND VENTRILOQUISTS: POSTWAR JEWISH  
AMERICAN CULTURE**

Class Number: 19534 Course ID: 203082

Fall 2018

Saul Zaritt

F 12:00pm-2:00pm

This course takes ideas of the “ghostwriter” and the “ventriloquist” as a lens through which to read postwar Jewish American culture. In the wake of the Holocaust, Jewish American writers and cultural producers began to feel a responsibility to a lost civilization that seemed to haunt their every creative act. Even as they achieved worldwide fame, these artists felt both burdened and inspired by old world ghosts. Often the very success of a given work was attributed to the ways in which it reanimated and revoiced ghosts in order to alternately dazzle and comfort audiences. This course asks: How do strategies of ghostwriting and ventriloquy compensate for trauma and loss? In what ways do such reenactments modify an original text? Through analysis of postwar texts and films in English and Yiddish (in translation), this course studies how specters of the past function both as arbiters of cultural value and as reminders of the discontinuities and traumas of the Jewish American present. Films include *Tevya*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and the TV series *Transparent*. We will read texts by Sholem Aleichem, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Philip Roth, Cynthia Ozick, Grace Paley, and others.

**Class Notes:** This course meets 12-2pm

**Jointly Offered with:** Faculty of Arts & Sciences as JEWISHST 179.

**MOD-HEB 241R ADVANCED SEMINAR IN MODERN HEBREW: ISRAELI  
CULTURE: CINEMA & LITERATURE**

Class Number: 13172 Course ID: 127670

Fall 2018

Irit Aharony

T 12:00pm-2:45pm; Th 12:00pm-1:15pm

This course constitutes the final level of Modern Hebrew language studies. The course offers representative readings and screenings from contemporary Israeli literature and cinema, and it forms bases of discussion on major cultural and

linguistic themes through academic readings.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4045. Not open to auditors. Discussions, papers, movies and texts presented only in Hebrew.

**Class Notes:** Enrollment limited to 15.

**Recommended Prep:** Modern Hebrew 130b or equivalent.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4045

## **SOCIOL 1120 HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES**

Class Number: 19595 Course ID: 207866

Fall 2018

Tally Amir

T 12:00pm-2:00pm

“Human rights” has become a ubiquitous concept around the world. It is used to justify, legitimize, and critique policies, practices, and laws. Despite the evolution of “human rights” over the last half-century in both international and domestic law, the content and impact of the concept remains unclear. This seminar will address key issues in contemporary human rights theory and practice through a comparison of Israel and the United States. Seminar participants will first study the philosophical and political processes that led to codification of human rights in both countries. We will then take a closer look at some of the main human rights controversies, including desegregation of education, freedom of religion, housing equality, extra-territorial application of human rights, and employment rights. Readings for the course include Court decisions, International Law instruments, Domestic legislation and socio-legal articles, as well as sociological analyses. “Human rights” has become a ubiquitous concept around the world. It is used to justify, legitimize, and critique policies, practices, and laws. Despite the evolution of “human rights” over the last half-century in both international and domestic law, the content and impact of the concept remains unclear. This seminar will address key issues in contemporary human rights theory and practice through a comparison of Israel and the United States. Seminar participants will first study the philosophical and political processes that led to codification of human rights in both countries. We will then take a closer look at some of the main human rights controversies,

including desegregation of education, freedom of religion, housing equality, extra-territorial application of human rights, and employment rights. Readings for the course include Court decisions, International Law instruments, Domestic legislation and socio-legal articles, as well as sociological analyses.

# CLASSICAL (BIBLICAL AND MODERN), ARAMAIC, AND YIDDISH LANGUAGE

## CLAS-HEB AA ELEMENTARY CLASSICAL HEBREW I

Class Number: 13515 Course ID: 123023

Fall 2018

Jon Levenson

MWF 9:00am-10:00am

A thorough and rigorous introduction to Biblical Hebrew, with emphasis on grammar in the first term, and translation of biblical prose in the second. Daily preparation and active class participation mandatory. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4010A. Classical Hebrew AA/AB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4010A

## CLAS-HEB 120A INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL HEBREW I

Class Number: 19454 Course ID: 116431

Fall 2018

Jon Levenson

MWF 10:30am-11:30am

Readings in prose books; review of grammar.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4020.

**Recommended Prep:** Classical Hebrew AA/AB sequence or equivalent.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4020

### **CLAS-HEB 130AR RAPID READING CLASSICAL HEBREW I**

Class Number: 13720 Course ID: 122692

Fall 2018

Jon Levenson

Th 12:00pm-2:00pm

Advanced reading in selected biblical prose texts and intensive review of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1625.

**Recommended Prep:** Classical Hebrew AA/AB sequence, CH 120A, and 120B, or equivalent.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1625

### **MOD-HEB BA ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW I**

Class Number: 13554 Course ID: 114218

Fall 2018

Irit Aharony

MTWThF 9:00am-10:15am

The course introduces students to the phonology and script as well as the fundamentals of morphology and syntax of Modern Hebrew. Emphasis is placed on developing reading, speaking, comprehension and writing skills, while introducing students to various aspects of contemporary Israeli society and culture. This is an indivisible course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4015A. Not open to auditors. Cannot be taken pass/fail. Modern Hebrew BA/BB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit. In specific cases the

instructor will consider approval of enrollment in MOD-HEB BB and MOD-HEB 120A as fulfillment of the one-year language requirement, depending on the student's proficiency level.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4015A

### **MOD-HEB 120A INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW I**

Class Number: 15332 Course ID: 110947

Fall 2018

Irit Aharony

MTWThF 10:30am-11:45am

The course reinforces and expands knowledge of linguistic and grammatical structures, with emphasis on further developing the four skills. Readings include selections from contemporary Israeli literature, print media, and internet publications. Readings and class discussions cover various facets of Israeli high and popular culture. Conducted primarily in Hebrew. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4040. Modern Hebrew B or passing of special departmental placement test.

**Course Notes:** Conducted primarily in Hebrew. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4040. Not open to auditors.

**Class Notes:** Enrollment limited to 18.

**Recommended Prep:** Modern Hebrew BA/BB sequence or passing of special departmental placement test.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4040.

### **MOD-HEB 130A ADVANCED MODERN HEBREW I**

Class Number: 12726 Course ID: 119630

Fall 2018

Irit Aharony

M 12:00pm-2:45pm; WF 12:00pm-1:15pm

This course constitutes the third year of the Modern Hebrew language sequence. The course emphasizes the development of advanced proficiency in all skills. Readings include texts of linguistic and cultural complexity that cover

contemporary Israeli literature and culture.

**Course Notes:** Conducted in Hebrew. Not open to auditors. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4042.

**Class Notes:** Enrollment limited to 18.

**Recommended Prep:** Modern Hebrew 120A/120B sequence, or equivalent level of proficiency.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4042.

### **ARAMAIC A INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL ARAMAIC**

Class Number: 19730 Course ID: 116764

Fall 2018

Jon Levenson and Rachel Slutsky

F 12:00pm-2:45pm

This course covers all of the essential grammatical features of biblical Aramaic, and enables students to fully access those portions of the Bible composed in Aramaic, eg. Daniel and Ezra. We will also read the Second Temple book of Tobit in its original Aramaic, thus familiarizing ourselves with an interesting but understudied text in a deep way. Jointly offered with the Divinity School as HDS 4059.

**Jointly Offered with:** Faculty of Arts & Sciences as RELIGION A  
Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4059

### **YIDDISH AA ELEMENTARY YIDDISH I**

Class Number: 13508 Course ID: 114058

Fall 2018

Sara Feldman

MTWThF 10:30am-11:45am

Introduction to Yiddish language, literature, and culture. In the course of the year, students will acquire a thorough grounding in Yiddish grammar and will develop strong foundational reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills. The course will introduce students to the 1000-year history of Yiddish culture in Eastern Europe, the United States, and around the world. Students will learn about the past and present of this culture through exposure to Yiddish literature, music,

theater, film, radio, oral history, and the Yiddish internet—an introduction to the dynamic world of Yiddish culture and scholarship that exists today. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Course Notes:** For students with little or no knowledge of Yiddish. Additional sections at different times may be added as needed. Contact instructor if you have a scheduling conflict. Yiddish AA/AB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Recommended Prep:** No prerequisites; knowledge of Yiddish not assumed.

### **YIDDISH BA INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH I**

Class Number: 12820 Course ID: 119874

Fall 2018

Sara Feldman

TTh 3:00pm-4:15pm

Building on the skills gained in Yiddish AA/AB, students will further develop their Yiddish reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension skills. Focus will be on working with a wide variety of textual and cultural materials spanning the Yiddish-speaking world in the modern era. Course materials include selections from Yiddish fiction, poetry, drama, film, music, the press, and historical documents. Students will become familiar with the language's dialects, writing conventions, and historical development. Course activities will introduce students to the latest developments in online Yiddish publishing and digital humanities scholarship.

**Course Notes:** Additional sections at different times may be added as needed. Contact instructor if you have a scheduling conflict.

**Recommended Prep:** Yiddish AA/AB sequence, or equivalent.

### **YIDDISH CA ADVANCED YIDDISH I**

Class Number: 12727 Course ID: 123432

Fall 2018

Sara Feldman

MW 3:00pm-4:15pm



Building on the skills gained in Yiddish BA/BB, the emphasis of this course is on gaining ease in reading, speaking, writing, and listening comprehension. Students will be guided in exploring their individual areas of interest in Yiddish culture, and will be encouraged to begin producing their own research, creative projects, and translations; taking part in the latest developments in online Yiddish publishing and digital humanities scholarship. Continued exposure to a wide variety of textual and cultural materials, including literature, journalism, folklore, music, film, and theater; with a special focus on the diversity of Yiddish in terms of dialects, vocabulary, historical development, and writing conventions. Ample use of audiovisual and digital materials

**Course Notes:** Additional sections at different times may be added as needed. Contact instructor if you have a scheduling conflict.

**Recommended Prep:** Yiddish BB or permission of the instructor.

# JEWISH LAW (HARVARD LAW SCHOOL)

## ADVANCED TOPICS IN JEWISH LAW AND LEGAL THEORY

Professor Noah Feldman

Fall 2018 reading group

Th 7:00pm - 9:00pm in WCC Room 4059

1 classroom credit

**Prerequisite:** This seminar will be by permission of the instructor, who strongly prefers that students have a background in advanced study of Jewish legal material. To apply please send a short statement of interest including background in Jewish legal studies to [nfeldman@law.harvard.edu](mailto:nfeldman@law.harvard.edu) with a copy to [swhalen@law.harvard.edu](mailto:swhalen@law.harvard.edu) and [ecooper@law.harvard.edu](mailto:ecooper@law.harvard.edu).

**Exam Type:** No exam.

The group will examine sociological questions of the Yeshiva world as well as theoretical/textual ones regarding what is studied, and how, and by whom.

**Note:** The reading group will meet on the following dates: TBD.

**Subject Areas:** International, Comparative & Foreign Law, Disciplinary Perspectives & Law

# ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES

## ANE 103 ANCIENT LIVES

Class Number: 15331 Course ID: 110014

Fall 2018

Gojko Barjamovic

TTh 12:00pm-1:15pm

What are the essential elements of human society? Have our fundamental conditions developed, and how? Can we use themes from ancient history to think about contemporary society and culture? These questions are in focus in this course on 'Ancient Lives', which explores the earliest human civilizations in the region commonly known as Mesopotamia (c. 3000-300 BCE) in what is now Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey. Few elements in the way we live and organize ourselves today are to be taken for granted. There is, and has always been, a wealth of ways in which humans live. But biologically we are the same as our ancestors of 5000 years ago, at the dawn of history. Any likeness or difference between 'us and them' is therefore likely to be a product of history and culture. 'Ancient Lives' builds upon this realization to inspire a critical way of thinking about society in the broadest possible scope. Areas explored during the course are selected for their relevance across the range of contemporary life - they include freedom, music, public health, food, jurisprudence, trade, the visual arts, science, sexuality, religion and political power. You learn about how societies and individuals have dealt with change on multiple levels, from large-scale societal revolutions to personal transformation. Having taken this course, you will have gained a fundamental understanding and appreciation of human life in the broadest scope, as well as of your own life as a part of history. You will be able to critically assess contemporary discourses on the study of 'the other' in past and present; engage with core concepts of human society, such as justice, beauty, value and belief on a broad historical base; be familiar with examples of classical social theory and thinkers through concrete cases in which their work has been applied to or shaped by the study of the past; and acquire skills in presenting scholarly work to a general audience.

**Related Sections:** Discussion TBA

## ETHRSON 37 ADAM & EVE

Class Number: 18016 Course ID: 109904

Fall 2018

Joseph Koerner and Stephen Greenblatt

MW 1:30pm-2:45pm

What is the power of a story? For several thousand years Adam and Eve were the protagonists in the central origin myth of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim worlds. That myth was the arena for ethical reasoning about transgression and innocence, sexuality, gender roles, labor, suffering, and death. Jointly taught by History of Art and Architecture and English, our course focuses on this enigmatic story and its spectacular elaborations in theology, philosophy, literature and art. Above all, looking closely at some of the greatest achievements of European art and literature--from Dürer, Michelangelo and Rembrandt to Milton's Paradise Lost--we will compare the possibilities of the verbal and visual arts in portraying human existence.

**Related Sections:** Discussion TBA.

## GOV 940F LAW AND POLITICS IN MULTICULTURAL DEMOCRACIES

Class Number: 13210 Course ID: 128009

Fall 2018

Ofrit Liviatan

M 3:00pm-5:45pm

Examines the role of law in the governance of cultural diversity drawing on examples from the USA, Western Europe, India and Israel. Central themes at the intersection of law and politics will be explored, including: the impact of courts on rights protections, law's function as a venue of conflict resolution, and courts' relationship with other political institutions. Specific attention will be given to contemporary controversies such as Islamic veiling, abortion and same sex marriage.

**Class Notes:** Undergraduate seminar. *Enrollment by lottery*. Please see Gov Dept undergraduate website for details.

## **RELIGION 1316 SPIRIT POSSESSION AND EXORCISM IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY**

Class Number: 20238 Course ID: 208115

Fall 2018

Giovanni Bazzana

Th 3:00pm-5:00pm

This course will focus on the role played by spirit possession and exorcism in the religious experience and cultural trajectories of the early Christ group. Texts related to these two themes will be contextualized within the Second Temple Jewish and broader Mediterranean religious and cultural environments that witnessed the beginnings and the spread of the movement. Particular attention will be paid to the need to understand possession as a productive religious and cultural practice through which humans embody knowledge of their cultural past in performance, reflect and build their subjectivity, and map alternative ontologies. To this effect, a significant component of the course will consist in engaging and discussing ethnographic materials related to possession on the way to establish how these contemporary descriptions of possession phenomena might help guiding our historical imagination of the past and construe an effective and productive hermeneutics of it. No specific linguistic knowledge is required. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 1558.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1558.

## **RELIGION 2546 WO/MEN AND EARLY CHRISTIAN BEGINNINGS: REVISITING IN MEMORY OF HER**

Class Number: 19861 Course ID: 207999

Fall 2018

Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza

T 9:00am-11:00am

*In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*, appeared in 1983, almost 40 years ago, and has become a foundational text for the study of wo/men in early Christianity and for feminist the\*logy. Since the book inaugurated the field of feminist historical and theological studies in early Christianity, the seminar will revisit this volume and explore questions of Christian origins, its Jewish roots and Greco-Roman historical contexts, the development of

institutional structures, wo/mens leadership and the book's reception and ongoing significance for historical gender studies in religion and feminist the\*logy.

**Jointly Offered with:** Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1571.

# FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SPRING SEMESTER

GENERAL EDUCATION

SOCWORLD 35 CONDITIONAL EQUALITY: THE CASE OF THE JEWS OF  
EUROPE IN MODERN TIMES

Class Number: 18563 Course ID: 126640

Spring 2019

Jay Harris

TTh 1:30pm-2:45pm

This course is a study in the relations between majorities and minorities in modern Europe, using the Jews as a focus. It will examine the ways in which the equal status of a minority is negotiated through cultural and political interaction, both subtle and blunt. It will further focus on the role that such negotiations have in the formation of identities of both the majority and the minority. Finally, it will examine the ways in which majorities can exercise control over minorities rendering them conditionally rather than fully equal participants in the national projects of the age.

**Related Sections:** Discussion TBA

# BIBLICAL/ANCIENT NEAR EAST

## HEBREW 236 THE SONG AT THE SEA: SEMINAR

Class Number: 19552 Course ID: 120897

Spring 2019

Jon Levenson

Schedule: TBA

A close reading of Exodus 13:17-15:21 and parallel biblical texts in the context of the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 1816.

**Recommended Prep:** An introductory course in the critical study of the Hebrew Bible and a solid command of Hebrew grammar (any period).

# CLASSICAL JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

## COMPLIT 137 CHILD SACRIFICE, PROS AND CONS: THE BINDING OF ISAAC IN JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, ISLAMIC, AND MODERN LIT

Class Number: 18824 Course ID: 160331

Spring 2019

David Stern

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

Child Sacrifice--specifically, the story of the parent's sacrifice of the first-born child-- lies at the heart of Western religion and culture. The Biblical narrative in Genesis 22, known as the Binding of Isaac, is one of the most famous and problematic tales in the Bible. The same narrative is foundational to Christianity. Later Jewish tradition has interpreted the Biblical text in countless ways from the ancient period down to the present day. The narrative figures prominently in



Islam from the Qur'an on. And the Biblical story has been criticized and critiqued since the Middle Ages as a barbaric narrative. Recent works have blamed it for the ubiquity of child abuse in Western society, and it has become a ubiquitous motif of anti-war and protest poetry all over the world. This course will use the interpretive career and literary history of Genesis 22 as a lens through which to study the place of this foundational narrative in Western culture.

Readings will include Biblical texts, Euripides' *Iphigeneia in Aulis*, Philo of Alexandria, ancient Jewish sources, the New Testament, St. Augustine and other Christian exegetes, the Qur'an and later Islamic traditions, Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, Martin Buber, Kafka, Bob Dylan, Yehuda Amichai, and Leonard Cohen, among many other modern writers and poets.

# MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE AND HISTORY

## RELIGION 1255 SELECTED WORKS OF TWENTIETH CENTURY JEWISH THEOLOGY

Class Number: 18628 Course ID: 119359

Spring 2019

Jon Levenson

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

A close reading of selected works of Jewish theology from the twentieth century, with special attention to the questions of God, Torah, and Israel in light of modernity the challenges and opportunities that it presents with regard to traditional Jewish practice, belief, and identity. Authors read will be drawn mostly from the following: Baeck, Buber, Rosenzweig, Kaplan, Soloveitchik, Heschel, Leibowitz, Fackenheim, and Wyschogrod. Jointly offered with the Divinity School as HDS 3668.

## HIST 1008 THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Class Number: 18165 Course ID: 203044

Spring 2019

Eyal Naveh

TTh 3:00pm-4:15pm

This course addresses controversies surrounding the history of Zionism and the state of Israel. Central to these controversies are questions of comparison. Is Zionism a movement for collective liberation, like national movements of stateless or colonized peoples, or a variety of western colonialism? Does Israeli statecraft operate within a normal geopolitical spectrum, or is it unusually expansionist and aggressive? This course seeks to answer such questions through a broad and deep analysis that spans the 19th and 20th centuries, pays close attention to Israel's social and cultural history as well as high politics and military affairs, and imbeds modern Israel into multiple global contexts.

**Related Sections:** Discussion TBA

## SOCIOL 1118 MIGRATION IN ISRAEL AND COMPARATIVE CONTEXT

Class Number: 19620 Course ID: 207867

Spring 2019

Tally Amir

W 3:00pm-5:00pm

With about sixty-five million persons forcibly displaced around the world, most nations have had to create or rethink policies on the admission and integration of migrants. This seminar will focus on migration to Israel from a comparative perspective. Israel, originally founded as the land of Jewish refugees, is struggling to determine who constitutes a "forced" migrant and how it might strike a balance between its legal and moral obligations toward such migrants and its other interests. The seminar covers a number of themes in migration policies such as the categorization and definition of a "forced" migrant; judicial review of immigration policy; detention; encampment; urban integration; and the rights of migrants (including education, cultural rights and employment) in a comparative

context. Comparisons focus on the US, Australia and the EU. Readings for the course include Court decisions, International Law instruments, Domestic legislation and socio-legal articles, as well as sociological analyses.

**Class Notes:** Course offered 3-5pm and taught by Tally Amir.

# CLASSICAL (BIBLICAL AND MODERN), ARAMAIC, AND YIDDISH LANGUAGE

## CLAS-HEB AB ELEMENTARY CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 13395 Course ID: 159881

Spring 2019

Jon Levenson and Andrew Walton

Schedule: TBA

Continuation of Classical Hebrew AA. A thorough and rigorous introduction to Biblical Hebrew, with emphasis on grammar in the first term, and translation of biblical prose in the second. Daily preparation and active class participation mandatory. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 4010B. Classical Hebrew AA/AB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Related Sections:** Discussion TBA

## CLAS-HEB 120B INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 13243 Course ID: 123873

Spring 2019

Andrew Teeter and Eric Jarrard

Schedule: TBA

Readings in prose and poetic books; review of grammar. Prerequisite: Classical Hebrew 120a or the equivalent. Jointly offered as HDS 4021.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4021.

**Recommended Prep:** Classical Hebrew 120a or equivalent.

### CLAS-HEB 130BR RAPID READING CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 13250 Course ID: 122693

Spring 2019

Jon Levenson and Matthew Percuoco

Schedule: TBA

Advanced reading in selected biblical prose texts and intensive review of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 1626.

**Recommended Prep:** Classical Hebrew 130a or equivalent.

### MOD-HEB BB ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 13459 Course ID: 159988

Spring 2019

Irit Aharony

Schedule: TBA

The course introduces students to the phonology and script as well as the fundamentals of morphology and syntax of Modern Hebrew. Emphasis is placed on developing reading, speaking, comprehension and writing skills, while introducing students to various aspects of contemporary Israeli society and culture. This is an indivisible course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Course Notes:** Not open to auditors. Cannot be taken pass/fail. This is an indivisible course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit. In specific cases the instructor will consider approval of enrollment in MOD-HEB BB and MOD-HEB 120A as fulfillment of the one-year language requirement, depending on the student's proficiency level.

## MOD-HEB 120B INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 12283 Course ID: 111756

Spring 2019

Irit Aharony

Schedule: TBA

Continuation of Hebrew 120a.

**Course Notes:** Conducted primarily in Hebrew. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 4041. Not open to auditors.

**Recommended Prep:** Modern Hebrew 120a.

## MOD-HEB 130B ADVANCED MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 13143 Course ID: 126531

Spring 2019

Irit Aharony

Schedule: TBA

This course is a continuation of Hebrew 130a. Texts, films, and other materials expose students to the richness and complexity of the contemporary sociolinguistics of Israeli society.

**Course Notes:** Conducted in Hebrew. Not open to auditors. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 4043.

**Recommended Prep:** Modern Hebrew 130a, or equivalent level of proficiency

## ARAMAIC B TARGUMIC ARAMAIC

Class Number: 19548 Course ID: 114142

Spring 2019

Shaye J.D. Cohen and Miriam Simma-Walfish

Schedule: TBA

Targumic Aramaic is designed to improve the student's ability to work with ancient Aramaic texts. The Aramaic texts studied in this course will be selected from the major Targums – Targums Onqelos, Neofiti, Pseudo-Jonathan, and others.

Class-time will be devoted primarily to reading and analyzing the selected texts. In addition to emphasizing Aramaic vocabulary, morphology, and syntax, this course will explore the exegetical practices of the targumists in their respective Targums. Students will attain reading proficiency in Targumic Aramaic and experience the rich but complex literary nature of the Targums.

**Recommended Prep:** Two years of biblical Hebrew, or the equivalent; and one semester of Aramaic.

## YIDDISH AB ELEMENTARY YIDDISH II

Class Number: 13388 Course ID: 159871

Spring 2019

Sara Feldman

Schedule: TBA

Continuation of Yiddish AA. Introduction to Yiddish language, literature, and culture. In the course of the year, students will acquire a thorough grounding in Yiddish grammar and will develop strong foundational reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills. The course will introduce students to the 1000-year history of Yiddish culture in Eastern Europe, the United States, and around the world. Students will learn about the past and present of this culture through exposure to Yiddish literature, music, theater, film, radio, oral history, and the Yiddish internet—an introduction to the dynamic world of Yiddish culture and scholarship that exists today. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Course Notes:** For students with little or no knowledge of Yiddish. Additional sections at different times may be added as needed. Yiddish AA/AB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

**Recommended Prep:** No prerequisites.

## YIDDISH BB INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH II

Class Number: 12820 Course ID: 119875

Spring 2019

Sara Feldman

Schedule: TBA

Continuation of Yiddish BA. Students will further develop their Yiddish reading,

writing, speaking, and oral comprehension skills. Focus will be on working with a wide variety of textual and cultural materials spanning the Yiddish-speaking world in the modern era. Course materials include selections from Yiddish fiction, poetry, drama, film, music, the press, and historical documents. Students will become familiar with the language's dialects, writing conventions, and historical development. Course activities will introduce students to the latest developments in online Yiddish publishing and digital humanities scholarship.

**Class Notes:** Interested students please email: [nelc@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:nelc@fas.harvard.edu)

**Recommended Prep:** Yiddish BA or permission of the instructor.

### YIDDISH CB ADVANCED YIDDISH II

Class Number: 13604 Course ID: 124883

Spring 2019

Sara Feldman

Schedule: TBA

Continuation of Yiddish CA. The emphasis of this course is on gaining ease in reading, speaking, writing, and listening comprehension. Students will be guided in exploring their individual areas of interest in Yiddish culture, and will be encouraged to begin producing their own research, creative projects, and translations; taking part in the latest developments in online Yiddish publishing and digital humanities scholarship. Continued exposure to a wide variety of textual and cultural materials, including literature, journalism, folklore, music, film, and theater; with a special focus on the diversity of Yiddish in terms of dialects, vocabulary, historical development, and writing conventions. Ample use of audiovisual and digital materials.

**Class Notes:** Interested students please email: [nelc@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:nelc@fas.harvard.edu)

**Recommended Prep:** Yiddish CA or permission of the instructor.

# JEWISH LAW (HARVARD LAW SCHOOL)

## ADVANCED TOPICS IN JEWISH LAW AND LEGAL THEORY

Professor Noah Feldman

Spring 2019 reading group

Th 7:00pm - 9:00pm

1 classroom credit

**Prerequisite:** This seminar will be by permission of the instructor, who strongly prefers that students have a background in advanced study of Jewish legal material. To apply please send a short statement of interest including background in Jewish legal studies to [nfeldman@law.harvard.edu](mailto:nfeldman@law.harvard.edu) with a copy to [swhalen@law.harvard.edu](mailto:swhalen@law.harvard.edu) and [ecooper@law.harvard.edu](mailto:ecooper@law.harvard.edu).

**Exam Type:** No exam.

The group will examine sociological questions of the Yeshiva world as well as theoretical/textual ones regarding what is studied, and how, and by whom.

**Note:** The reading group will meet on the following dates: TBD.

**Subject Areas:** International, Comparative & Foreign Law, Disciplinary Perspectives & Law

## ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES

### CULTBLF 31 SAINTS, HERETICS, AND ATHEISTS: AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Class Number: 18485 Course ID: 122258

Spring 2019

Jeffrey McDonough

Schedule: TBA



Does God exist? What is the nature of evil and where does it come from? Are humans free? Responsible? Immortal? Does it matter? This course will explore foundational questions in the philosophy of religion through the study of classic works by Plato, Augustine, Al-Ghazali, Aquinas, Pascal, Spinoza, Hume, Nietzsche and James. Students will have the opportunity to reexamine their own views and assumptions about religion in the company of some of the greatest thinkers of the past. (Key words: agnosticism, atheism, Christianity, faith, freedom, humanism, immortality, Islam, Judaism, meaning, Muslim, mysticism, reason, sin, soul)

**Related Sections:** Discussion TBA

### RELIGION 1400 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Class Number: 15628 Course ID: 113956

Spring 2019

Karen King

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

The course will address the questions: What is the New Testament? What work does the New Testament do? We will examine various approaches including scripturalizing, minority Biblical criticism, and historical criticism. Topics include teachings of/by/about Jesus, Jews and Christians, empire and colonialism, the roles of women, Roman and US slavery, the politics of storytelling and canon formation, heresy, and sexualities/masculinities/gender.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 1202. Additional hour to be arranged.

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