

JEWISH STUDIES  
COURSES AT  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



SPRING 2018  
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 November 17 2017. 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

SPRING SEMESTER

GENERAL EDUCATION

CULTBLF 23 FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE TO JUDAISM, FROM THE OLD  
TESTAMENT TO CHRISTIANITY

Class Number: 12995 Course ID: 120880

Spring 2018

Shaye J.D. Cohen

MWF 10:00am-11:00am

The Hebrew Scriptures, what Christians call the “Old Testament” and Jews call the “Bible,” are the basis of both Judaism and Christianity. In this course we shall survey how this work of literature, through interpretation and re-interpretation, spawned two different cultural systems. Topics to be surveyed include: canon and prophecy; exegesis and Midrash; Shabbat and Sunday; temple, synagogue, church; the Oral Torah and the Logos; sin and righteousness; messiah and redemption.

**Course Notes:** This course fulfills the requirement that one of the eight General Education courses also engage substantially with Study of the Past.

**Class Notes:** Occasional Fridays are required. Please check course syllabus for details.

**ETHRSON 15 IF THERE IS NO GOD, ALL IS PERMITTED: THEISM AND MORAL REASONING**

Class Number: 18127 Course ID: 146699

Spring 2018

Jay Harris

MW 12:00pm-1:00pm

This course will examine the ways in which a concept of God has informed Western moral discourse trying to help students engage the literature as they consider why one might think “if there is no God, all is permitted” and why one might think if there is a God, human moral achievement is impossible.

**Related Sections:** Discussion TBA

# BIBLICAL/ANCIENT NEAR EAST

**ANE 120B INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT 2:  
LATTER PROPHETS AND WRITINGS**

Class Number: 13191 Course ID: 126065

Spring 2018

Andrew Teeter

TTh 10:00am-11:30am

A critical introduction to the literature and theology of the Hebrew Bible, considered in light of the historical contexts of its formation and the interpretive contexts of its reception within Judaism and Christianity. The course, the second part of a divisible, year-long sequence, will focus on the Latter Prophets and the Writings.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1103.

## HDS 1281 STUDIES IN THE LATTER PROPHETS: SEMINAR

Class Number: 21129 Course ID: 206974

Spring 2018

Andrew Teeter

T 4:00pm-6:00pm

A close examination of select passages within the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Book of the Twelve, with particular attention to large-scale compositional strategies and principles of organization, to analogical patterns, to inner-scriptural relationships, and to the nature and function of allusion and other comparative structures within these texts

## HEBREW 239 EXODUS 2 IN THREE CONTEXTS: SEMINAR

Class Number: 19115 Course ID: 156094

Spring 2018

Jon Levenson

Th 4:00pm-6:00pm

A close critical reading of the account of the early life of Moses in three contexts: (1) the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near Eastern world in which it took shape; (2) rabbinic Judaism in Late Antiquity; and (3) medieval Jewish commentary. Texts to be read in Hebrew include Exodus 2 and a selection of rabbinic midrashim and medieval commentaries on it.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1826.

**Recommended Prep:** Three years of Hebrew or the equivalent (not a course for those lacking a secure grasp of Hebrew grammar).

# CLASSICAL JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

## RELIGION 1250 JUDAISM: TEXT AND TRADITION

Class Number: 19659 Course ID: 205396

Spring 2018

Jon Levenson

TTh 11:30am-1:00pm

A general and wide-ranging exploration of the Jewish religious tradition, from its inception in biblical Israel through its rabbinic, medieval, and modern iterations. The central focus lies on the literary meanings and existential questions of the classical tradition, as well as on the relationships between texts, religious claims, and practices. We shall also consider some of the restatements, reformulations, and challenges to tradition that have arisen in modern times. Open to undergraduates, including first year students, by permission.

**Course Notes:** Jointly offered with Divinity as 3036.

## COMPLIT 258 ANCIENT INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE

Class Number: 18432 Course ID: 160526

Spring 2018

David Stern

W 1:00pm-4:00pm

This is a course about READING; specifically about the different ways in which a single book, the Bible, has been read through the centuries, particularly in the ancient and early medieval periods by Jews and Christians. No book in the history of Western culture has been read more intensively than the Bible, and the main emphasis of the course will fall on close readings of major ancient Jewish and Christian interpreters of the Bible, with a view to considering their exegetical approaches historically as well as through the lens of contemporary critical and hermeneutical theory. We will also consider how the respective religious and theological beliefs of these interpreters shaped and were shaped by the ways

they read Scripture. As a consequence, this will also be a course about the early development of Judaism and Christianity although the focus will always be on the interpretation of the bible. All readings will be in English translation, and will include Dead Sea Scrolls selections, Philo, Rabbinic Midrash and Medieval Jewish Commentaries, the New Testament, Origen and other early Christian commentators, Augustine, Luther, and as a concluding coda, Spinoza. The course is open to both undergraduates and graduate students; there will be extra sessions for the graduate students.

**Course Notes:** To be jointly offered with the Divinity School.

### HEBREW 154 DIVINE JUSTICE?: DISCUSSIONS OF DEATH PENALTY IN TALMUDIC LITERATURE

Class Number: 21041 Course ID: 111791

Spring 2018

Shaye J.D. Cohen and assistant

Th 2:00pm-4:30pm

Tractate Sanhedrin describes an idealized rabbinic legal system, in which the rabbis have control of criminal law, both in terms of defining and delineating punishable offenses as well in implementing their punishments, including the death penalty. We will use these discussions to explore rabbinic views surrounding the death penalty. We will also use this topic as a window into the rabbinic enterprise as a whole, such that the course can serve as an introduction to the study of rabbinic literature. Some questions to be explored include: What crimes do the rabbis designate as being worthy of the death penalty? How do rabbinic discussions of the death penalty complicate their assumptions about human dignity? How do these discussions interface with the Roman criminal system? How do they interface with biblical law?

*Texts will be studied in translation.*

### HEBREW 241 TALMUDIC NARRATIVE

Class Number: 19498 Course ID: 205531

Spring 2018

David Stern

M 2:00pm-5:00pm

Talmudic literature is full of stories. This is surprising, even odd, given the fact that Talmud is primarily a legal literature. What purpose do these stories serve? How, in particular, does narrative serve legal discourse? How are these narratives to be analyzed and understood, both as examples of narrative “art” and within their legal context? In addressing these questions, we will look at narrative theory in general as well as contemporary scholarship on Talmud and Talmudic narrative, with a particular focus on Mishnah and the Babylonian Talmud. Assignments will include secondary readings on and about narrative more generally, but the focus of the course-- and the majority of class-time-- will be on reading the Rabbinic texts in their original language. All readings in the original language will also be provided in English translation.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 3031. Knowledge of Hebrew is required but provisions will be made for students with different levels of proficiency. All readings in the original language will also be provided in English translation. Students with questions as to whether their Hebrew proficiency is sufficient should consult the instructor.

### **JEWISHST 299 SPECIAL TOPICS IN JEWISH STUDIES**

Class Number: 15751 Course ID: 161197

Spring 2018

Shaye J.D. Cohen

TBA

Special Topics in Jewish Studies

# MODERN JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE

## HIST 1007 WAR, STATE, AND SOCIETY

Class Number: 18490 Course ID: 204990

Spring 2018

Derek Penslar

TTh 11:00am-12:00pm

This course surveys the relationship between warfare, the military, politics, and society from the 18th century to the present. Combining methodologies from History and International Relations, we will examine the distinction between war and other kinds of inter-human conflict; the origins and effects of conscription; the relationship between modern nationalism and military service; gendered and minority perspectives on combat; and the impact of 20th- and 21st-century global wars on combatants and civilians. The course is divided into halves. The first half deals with our main themes via a broad, comparative approach that encompasses world history over the past 250 years. The second half applies general concepts to two case studies: the First World War and the Middle East War of 1948.

**Related Sections:** Discussion TBA

## COMPLIT 166 JEWS, HUMOR, AND THE POLITICS OF LAUGHTER

Class Number: 18428 Course ID: 205045

Spring 2018

Saul Zaritt

T 2:00pm-4:00pm

By mistake some thieves found their way into Hershele's house late at night while he was sleeping. They searched and searched but found nothing. Meanwhile, Hershele heard their rummaging and slowly crept up behind one of the thieves. He grabbed him by the arm and the thief, naturally, tried to run away. Hershele held him close, whispering, "Be still. Maybe together we'll actually find something."

Beginning with jokes like this one, this course will examine the question of Jewish humor, exploring the concept of therapeutic joking, the politics of self-deprecation, and strategies of masking social critique behind a well-timed joke. Rather than reach some essential definition, we will instead investigate literature, stand-up comedy, film, and television of the twentieth and twenty-first century in order to 1) think together about the theory, mechanics, and techniques of comedy and humor and 2) ask how and when a text or performance gets labeled Jewish, by whom and for what purposes. Texts, films, and performers include: Freud, Kafka, Sholem Aleichem, the Marx Brothers, Larry David, Jon Stewart, Jill Soloway, *Broad City*, and Rachel Bloom.

### EXPOS 20 245 EXPOSITORY WRITING 20

Class Number: 15520 Course ID: 116353

Spring 2018

Jane Rosenzweig

MW 11:00am-12:00pm

An intensive seminar that aims to improve each student's ability to discover and reason about evidence through the medium of essays. Each section focuses on a particular theme or topic, described on the Expos Website. All sections give students practice in formulating questions, analyzing both primary and secondary sources and properly acknowledging them, supporting arguments with strong and detailed evidence, and shaping clear, lively essays. All sections emphasize revision.

#### ***Topic: Jewish Identity in American Culture***

**Course Notes:** Students must pass one term of Expository Writing 20 to meet the College's Expository Writing requirement.

**Class Notes:** What does it mean to be Jewish in America in 2016? At a time when a majority of American Jews do not belong to a synagogue and an estimated one-third of married American Jews are married to non-Jews, is there such a thing as a shared identity among American Jews? This course will examine representations of Jews in American culture in an attempt to understand how Jewish-American culture has evolved since World War II, as well as how shifts in the cultural

conversation about minorities in America have affected our conception of Jewish identity. As we consider recent works of literature, art, film, and television, we will question how they challenge and reinforce Jewish stereotypes, and how they continue to shape our ideas about assimilation, the Holocaust, ethnicity, and religious practice in America. We will begin by examining stories of assimilation by authors including Grace Paley, Allegra Goodman, Philip Roth, Nathan Englander, and others. We will then consider representations of the Holocaust, including Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, Judy Chicago's *Holocaust Project*, and Larry David's *Curb Your Enthusiasm* "survivor episode." In the final unit of the course, students will choose their own sources as they research and develop their ideas about Jewish identity in American culture.

### HDS 3034 THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN MODERN AMERICA

Class Number: 10070 Course ID: 161229

Spring 2018

Sally Finestone

M 2:00pm-4:00pm

Jews have been a religious and cultural presence in America since the colonial era, and the community of Jews in the United States today--some six million people--continues to make a significant contribution to the American religious landscape. This seminar will examine the history of the Judaic tradition in America and the vitality and variety of contemporary American Judaic life, from the arrival of the first Jews to the present, highlighting the emergence and continual development of the four branches: Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform. We will also examine the variety of ways in which Jews became part of the communal, social, and political landscape of America, and the roles they continue to play in American life today. We will then look at the practical aspects of working as Jewish professionals in American life and the different skills that are needed, whether one works in a congregational, campus, hospital, or organizational setting.

Note: Not open to auditors.

## HIST 1907 GERMANS AND JEWS

Class Number: 18159 Course ID: 204992

Spring 2018

Derek Penslar

W 4:00pm-6:00pm

This course provides offers an intensive examination of the history of Jews in the modern German Kulturbereich – that swath of Europe where German was the sole, or a primary, language of political administration, education, communication, and high culture. Covering the period from the eighteenth through mid-twentieth centuries, we will explore the meaning of Germanness to Jews and of Jews to German Christians. Among the topics to be explored are debates over Jewish emancipation, Jewish struggles with religious and secular identities, processes of acculturation and integration, antisemitism and Jewish responses, economic and family life, Jewish culture in the German empire and Dual Monarchy and in the post-1918 German and Austrian republics, and the fate of the Jews in Nazi Germany and its annexed territories.

# R ELIGION

## RELIGION 1529 THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES, 1933-45

Class Number: 19570 Course ID: 124910

Spring 2018

Kevin Madigan

W 2:00pm-4:00pm

This seminar will approach the Nazi persecution of European Jewry from several disciplinary perspectives. Initially the seminar will explore the topic historically. In these weeks, the seminar will use a variety of historical materials dealing with the

history of European anti-semitism, German history from Bismarck to the accession of Hitler, the evolution of anti-Jewish persecution in the Third Reich, and the history of the Holocaust itself. Sources to be used will include primary sources produced by the German government 1933-1945, by Jewish victims-to-be or survivors, documentary films, and secondary interpretations. The aims of this part of the seminar will be to understand the basic background to and narrative of the Holocaust, to introduce students to the critical use of primary historical sources, and to familiarize them with some of the major historiographical debates. Then the members of the seminar will ponder religious and theological reactions to the Holocaust. The seminar will also consider the historical question of the role played by the Protestant and Catholic churches and theologies in the Holocaust. Throughout the seminar, participants will use various literary and cinematographic sources and test their limits in helping to understand and to represent the Holocaust.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 2293. Some background in European history is desirable but not required.

# Classical (BIBLICAL) AND Modern HEBREW LANGUAGE

## CLAS-HEB AB ELEMENTARY CLASSICAL HEBREW

Class Number: 13638 Course ID: 159881

Spring 2018

Jon Levenson and Andrew Walton

MWF 9:00am-10:00am

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 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.

### CLAS-HEB 120B INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 13464 Course ID: 159881

Spring 2018

Andrew Teeter and Eric Jarrard

MWF 10:00am-11:00am

Readings in prose books; review of grammar.

**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: 13472 Course ID: 122693

Spring 2018

Jon Levenson and Matthew Percuoco

Th 1:00pm-3:00pm

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 1626.

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

### MOD-HEB BB ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW

Class Number: 13708 Course ID: 159988

Spring 2018

Irit Aharony

MTWThF 10:00am-11:00am

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 4015B. 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: 12407 Course ID: 111756

Spring 2018

Irit Aharony

MTWThF 11:00am-12:00pm

Continuation of Hebrew 120a.

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

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

### **MOD-HEB 130B ADVANCED MODERN HEBREW II**

Class Number: 13342 Course ID: 126531

Spring 2018

Irit Aharony

MW 1:00pm-3:00pm

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 4043.

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

# YIDDISH LANGUAGE

## YIDDISH AB ELEMENTARY YIDDISH

Class Number: 13629 Course ID: 159871

Spring 2018

Madeleine Cohen

MWF 9:00am-10:00am

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.

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

**Recommended Prep:** No prerequisites.

## YIDDISH BB INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH II

Class Number: 12976 Course ID: 119875

Spring 2018

Madeleine Cohen

MW 11:00am-12:30pm

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: 13891 Course ID: 124883

Spring 2018

Madeleine Cohen

MW 1:00pm-2:30pm

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 2018 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).

**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

## RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: JUDAISM AS A TEST CASE

Dr. Ayelet Libson  
Spring 2018 seminar  
T 5:00pm-7:00pm  
2 classroom credits

**Prerequisite:** None

**Exam Type:** No exam.

This seminar explores the relationship between religion and human rights in two

ways. The first part of the seminar examines biblical and early Jewish ideas that served as a foundation for the development of human rights, and discusses the significance of the theological background from which human rights emerged. The second part will explore contemporary points of conflict between human rights and religion, focusing in particular on concepts of membership and gender and how they are negotiated within the Jewish tradition.

**Subject Areas:** Human Rights, International, Comparative & Foreign Law

## ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES

### HDS 1277 HISTORICAL JESUS

Class Number: 19350 Course ID: 103685

Spring 2018

Giovanni Bazzana and Shaye J.D. Cohen

Th 2:00pm-4:00pm

The course will introduce the students to the history of the quest for the historical Jesus by examining the most relevant methodological issues and by reviewing the ideological and socio-political stakes in this enterprise that has been intertwined to the cultural history of the western world from the XVIII to the XXI century.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with Faculty of Arts & Sciences as RELIGION 1467.

### RELIGION 13 SCRIPTURES AND CLASSICS: INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF RELIGION

Class Number: 18611 Course ID: 110957

Spring 2018

William A. Graham

TTh 10:00am-11:00am

An introduction to the history of religion through selective reading in significant, iconic texts from diverse religious and cultural traditions. Considers important themes (e.g., suffering, death, meaning, community, transcendence, religion vs. culture) as well as problems of method and definition as they present themselves in the sources considered. Readings from texts such as the Upanisads, Bhagavad Gita, Dhammapada, Lotus Sutra, Analects, Zhuangzi, Dao de Jing, Basho's *Narrow Road to the Far North*, *Gilgamesh*, *Aeneid*, Torah, Talmud, New Testament, and Qur'an.

### **RELIGION 1437 HISTORY OF WESTERN CHRISTIANITY, 1100-1500**

Class Number: 19569 Course ID: 116586

Spring 2018

Kevin Madigan

MW 4:00pm-5:30pm

This course is designed to provide a historical overview of the Church and society in western Europe from the eleventh through the fifteenth centuries. Thus, this course will investigate high and late medieval Christianity in its social and its cultural context. Narrative and theological story lines to be pursued will include medieval monasticism and other new forms of religious life; heresy and its repression; scholasticism, the university and Gothic architecture; the bid for papal monarchy; means of Christianization; saints, relics, pilgrimage and other forms of popular devotion; the decline of the late-medieval papacy and conciliarism; late-medieval heresy; Christianity and other world religions (especially Judaism and Islam); and late-medieval attempts at reform. We will also be strengthening our skills as interpreters of primary sources. Some attention will be paid to major historiographical issues. No prerequisites.

**Course Notes:** Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 2250.

### **RELIGION 1461 GENDER, RELIGION AND SCRIPTURE**

Class Number: 19660 Course ID: 203213

Spring 2018

Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza

M 4:00pm-6:00pm

This course is an introduction to the field of feminist biblical studies. We will

discuss the intellectual history and institutional development of feminist biblical studies around the globe and explore different methods of analysis such as rhetorical, historical, queer, or intersectional kyriarchal analyses. We also will explore biblical women's stories such as Eve, Sarah, Hagar Mary of Magdala, or the slave girl Rhoda. Lectures, group meetings, discussions, and presentations seek to foster participatory, collaborative and democratic styles of learning.

**COMPLIT 237 NON-WESTERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES OF WHAT IS NOW THE UNITED STATES**

Class Number: 18519 Course ID: 205104

Spring 2018

Marc Shell

M 4:00pm-6:00pm

Why has Comparative Literature, so far, made a home in the United States? This seminar looks to the linguistic and literary history of the place to help explain. Our work considers both 'indigenous' and 'incoming' languages and literatures. Topics include: writing systems and literatures of Native American tribes; the roles of Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Spanish Yiddish, and several other non-English literatures in the United States; and philosophical aspects of "first encounters" in the New World. Central concerns are the rise of English as the 'officially unofficial' language in the United States and the definition of anglo-American literature in polar opposition to other languages and literatures. Readings include: Minnesota-based Rolvaag's prize-winning Norwegian-language novel *Giants in the Earth*; the Louisiana-based Mercier's generally unknown bilingual slavery novel (French and Creole) *Saint-Ybars Habitation*, sometimes called the greatest work of American literature; Henry Roth's Yiddish-inflected *Call It Sleep*; and several essays and longer poems by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who founded a traditionalist comparative literature at Harvard. *The Multilingual Anthology of American Literature* includes poetry, epic literature, and discursive essays – all with facing-page English translations. Seminar participants will themselves have opportunity to translate a short written work of their own choice and/or to write an essay historical, sociolinguistic, and/or literary essay.







Published by the Harvard University Center for Jewish Studies

6 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 495-4326

[cjs@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:cjs@fas.harvard.edu)

<http://cjs.fas.harvard.edu>

[www.facebook.com/CenterforJewishStudies](http://www.facebook.com/CenterforJewishStudies)

Twitter - [@HarvardCJS](https://twitter.com/HarvardCJS)