Jewish Studies Program — Tentative Spring 2018 Courses

HBRW 102.01 CRN 20723  Elementary Modern Hebrew
Nitsa Dagan-Auerbach  MWF 10:00-10:50am and W 9:00-9:50am
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)
An introduction of fundamental language structures with emphasis on acquisition of basic language skills: reading and listening comprehension, oral and written expression, including speaking. Prerequisite: HBRW 101.

HBRW 202.01 CRN 20724  Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Nitsa Dagan-Auerbach  MWF 11:00-11:50am and W 12:00-12:50pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)
The object of this course is the development of basic proficiency through practice in the use of basic language skills emphasized in previous courses, and the acquisition of new vocabulary. Prerequisite: HBRW 201.

JWST 210.01 CRN 21662  Jewish History I: Ancient to Modern
Shari Rabin  T, Th 12:15-1:30pm
Jewish Studies Center, NEW LOCATION: JSC 233
A survey of the social, economic, religious and political experience of the Jewish people in the pre-modern world (from its biblical origins through 1700). The course begins its focus just before the destruction of the second Temple (70 C.E.), and continues through the medieval period - paying equal attention to the Jewish experience in the Christian and Muslim worlds - and ends in the seventeenth century, in northwestern Europe, where the transformations of Jewish life in the modern era were already beginning.

JWST 300.01 CRN 22306  Special Topic: After the Holocaust
David Slucki  MW 2:00 – 3:15pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)
This course examines the impact of the Holocaust on Jews and on the world. Beginning in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust, it will explore efforts to attain justice in the decades following World War II, and at the various ways the Holocaust has come to be remembered. It will then look at the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish communities worldwide, and will finally consider contemporary issues that Jews face, particularly in light of the ongoing effects of the Holocaust’s trauma.

JWST 300.02 CRN 22307  Special Topic: Religion and US Immigration History
Shari Rabin  MW 3:30 4:45pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)
The United States has been praised as a nation of immigrants, and is among the most religiously diverse countries in the world. At the same time, both anti-immigration sentiment and religious bigotry have been persistent themes in American history. This course will explore intersections of immigration and religion from the nineteenth century to the present day. We will discuss how religion has affected American perceptions of and policies toward immigrants, how immigrant religious communities have adapted to the American environment, and how second-generation Americans have represented their religious communities in literature and film.

JWST 300.03 CRN 22308  Special Topic: Nazi Medicine
Ted Rosengarten  Mondays 5:30-8:00pm
Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies      Jewish Studies Center, NEW LOCATION: JSC 237
This course explores the biomedical vision at the heart of Nazi thought: the program of "human selection" that sought to remake the demography of Europe by placing the "health" of the state over the individual; the "cleansing" of the German medical profession; so-called medical experimentation as a tool of political and social conquest; and the pursuit of personal gain over the exercise of medical ethics.

JWST325.01 CRN 23349  Jewish Mysticism
Joshua Shanes  T, Th 9:25 – 10:40am
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)
Jewish mysticism is an exhilarating branch of Judaism that reads holy texts in amazing ways to answer fundamental questions of life, including the nature of God and the universe, the nature of human souls, and how we can affect our connections to each other and to God. It teaches the cosmic impact of each and every person. This class will study the major forms of Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah) and especially its modern expression in the Hasidic movement. No prerequisites necessary.

JWST330.01 CRN 22310  Representations of the Holocaust
Ted Rosengarten  Tuesdays 5:30-8:00pm
Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies      Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)
Despite historical inaccuracies, artistic deficiencies, and commercial motivations, documentary and dramatic films about the killing of the Jews and other groups deemed by the Nazis as "unworthy of life" continue to impress the Holocaust into popular consciousness. Novels and short stories, museum exhibitions and public memorials, works of fine art and site-specific art shape conventional ways of thinking about this tragic past. This class will probe issues in Holocaust representation, Hollywood and the Holocaust, the entertainment value of mass murder, voyeurism and atrocity, memory and mourning. We will analyze what happened to Jews and non-Jews—gypsies, homosexuals, communists, trade unionists, defiant Christians, individuals with disabilities—through artistic representations of Hitler's "final solution."

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