Fall 2020 – Jewish Studies Program – Course Offerings

First Year Seminar: Film and Media in Israel
Instructor: Yaron Ayalon
(Open only to first-year students)
FYS 124.01 CRN 23679  Tu 4:00pm-6:45pm, Jewish Studies Center, JSC 210
This course will introduce students to Israeli politics and culture through film, music, television, and short stories. Students will engage such materials throughout the semester via class discussions and short written assignments. Topics will include the Arab-Israeli Conflict, the political system, the economy, religion, immigration, and education.

Elementary Modern Hebrew
Instructor: Noa Weinberg
HBRW 101.01 CRN 10367  MWF 10:00-10:50am and W 9:00-9:50am
HBRW 101.02 CRN 13309  MWF 2:00-2:50pm and M 3:00-3:50pm
Jewish Studies Center, Jewish Studies Center, JSC 237 and JSC210
An introduction of fundamental language structures with emphasis on acquisition of basic language skills: reading and listening comprehension, oral and written expression, including speaking. No prerequisite.

Intermediate Modern Hebrew
Instructor: Noa Weinberg
HBRW 201.01 CRN 10712  MWF 11:00-11:50am and W 12:00-12:50pm
Jewish Studies Center, Jewish Studies Center, JSC 237 and JSC210
The objective 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 101.

Jewish History II: Modern to Present
Instructor: Ashley Walters
JWST 215.01 CRN 11332  Tu, Th 12:15-1:30pm, Jewish Studies Center, JSC 333
JWST 215.02 CRN 11333  Tu, Th 1:40-2:55pm, Jewish Studies Center, JSC 333
A survey of the social, economic, religious, and political experience of the Jewish people in the modern world, emphasizing the diversity of Jewish experience and the interaction between Jews and their surrounding environments. This course counts for the General Education History Requirement.

History of Israel
Instructor: Yaron Ayalon
JWST 220.01 CRN 13310  Tu, Th 10:50am-12:05pm, Jewish Studies Center, JSC 333
This course explores the history of the modern State of Israel from its early beginnings in the nineteenth century, through independence in 1948, to the present. Topics discussed include the Arab-Israeli Conflict, politics and international relations, religion and state, immigration, and education.

The Jewish Tradition
Instructor: John Huddlestun
JWST 225.01 CRN 13614  M W 4:00-5:15pm, Education Center, ECTR 219
This course provides a window into the history, beliefs, and practices of Jewish tradition. Proceeding roughly chronologically, we begin with the Biblical foundations (Abraham) and continue up to the modern State of Israel. Particular emphasis will be given to modern Judaism (i.e., post-1800) and the various ways it has responded to changes in the world around it. As the survey progresses, we will examine the origins and rituals of the various Holy Days and select festivals celebrated or commemorated during the Jewish calendar year. Topics to be discussed include Rabbinic Judaism and the classic texts that emerged from it (Midrash, Mishnah, Talmud, etc.), the central role of study and debate in Jewish tradition, Jewish philosophy and mysticism, messianic movements, the emergence of non-Orthodox movements (e.g., Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Renewal, Humanistic, etc.), the origins of reform here in Charleston, Jewish responses to the Holocaust, and the never ending debates over Jewish identity.

The Holocaust
Instructor: Stacy Veeder
JWST 230.01 CRN 13664  Online only (synchronous)
JWST 230.02 CRN 13665  Online only (synchronous)
An historical examination of the genocide carried out in Nazi Germany from 1933-1945: its causes, its specific operation, its relation to other forms of political violence, and its significance for Jewish and non-Jewish understandings of politics, history, and the nature of evil.

Special Topics: African Americans and Jews in US History
Instructor: Ashley Walters
JWST300.01 CRN 13356  M W 2:00-3:15pm, Jewish Studies Center, JSC 237
This course explores the experiences of African Americans and Jews in US history. It traces the major migrations of African Americans and Jews to America’s urban centers in the early 20th Century and the geographical and economic tensions that developed as a result; comparative histories of racial and anti-Semitic violence in the US and Europe; the role of African Americans and Jews in the development of American popular culture; the establishment of the controversial “black-Jewish alliance” during the Civil Rights movement and its demise in the late 1960s; and black-Jewish relations in the US today.

Representations of the Holocaust
Instructor: Ezra Cappell
JWST330.01 CRN 12290  We 5:30-8:15pm, Jewish Studies Center, JSC 233
In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said: “Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” Yet how should writers, artists, and filmmakers fill the void left by the Holocaust? In our course, we will study survivor testimonies before turning to second and third generation fictional representations of the Holocaust. We will analyze key themes and ideas faced by writers and artists: Is it ethical for writers and artists to create literature and art from the ashes of Auschwitz? Through poems, short stories, novels, essays, comics, paintings, photographs, and films, we will explore the difficult issue of creating ethical representations of the Holocaust. 

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