2018-2019 Course Offerings

HIST 221  Jewish and World Civilization (until 1492) (F)
Dr. Vassili Schedrin

A thematic-chronological history of Jews from ancient times to the beginning of the modern era: the biblical background; political, social, religious and cultural interactions with the ancient Near East, Hellenism, Rome, Christians, and Muslims; the rise of rabbinic Judaism and its opponents; communal life; gender; Diaspora cultures. The course traces continuity and change of Judaism and Jewish civilization through examination of a variety of source material: primary historical texts, historical scholarship, and works of art, including literature and film.

HIST 222  Jewish and World Civilization (since 1492) (W)
Dr. Vassili Schedrin

A thematic-chronological history of Jews from the beginning of the modern era to the post World War II period: the resettlement of Jews in Europe; modernization of Jewish life and culture and resistance to it in Western and Eastern Europe, North America, Palestine, Middle East, and State of Israel; heresy, political emancipation, developments in antisemitism, enlightenment, secularization, nationalism, revolutions and radicalism, modern religious movements. The course analyzes the impact of modernity on Jewish life through examination of a variety of source material: primary historical texts, historical scholarship, and works of art, including literature and film.

HIST 244-001  Jews on Film (W)
Dr. Gordon Dueck

The Jewish presence in American filmmaking has long been the obsession of hate-mongers. But historians have begun to approach the matter as a legitimate subject of enquiry and have shown that it is possible to avoid the bigot-booster trap that so often plagues the study of hot-button issues such as this one. This course attempts to answer the following questions: Has Hollywood's "Jewishness" had a discernible impact on the content of cultural products? Have the changes in American society--and in the film industry--since the early 20th century had an effect on the way in which Jews and Jewish identity are represented on screen? Have Jewish images become "normalized"?
HIST 295  The Holocaust (F)  
Dr. Gordon Dueck  
A fall/winter course taught in conjunction with HIST-295, the first half comprises the lecture component; the second half is a seminar that explores the vast field of Holocaust literature/historiography. The background to and processes of the destruction of the Jews of Europe between 1933 and 1945. Themes to be covered include: modern anti-semitism, Jewish communities in the inter-war era, Nazi racial policies, the Judenrat, the organization of the death camps, the attitudes of the Christian churches, the role of collaborators, the ideology of mass murder, and the questions of ‘compliance’, ‘resistance’, and ‘silence’

HIST 339  Jews without Judaism (W)  
Dr. Gordon Dueck  
What does the secular Jew believe in? From the emergence of Baruch Spinoza—the first secular Jew—in the 17th century, to the eruption of ideology in the 19th and 20th centuries, many modern Jews lost their faith in G-d and placed it in humanity instead. Jewish involvement in modern movements (e.g., socialism, liberalism, and nationalism) will be the focus of this course.

HIST 344  Plural Visions: New World Jews & the Invention of Multiculturalism (F)  
Dr. Gordon Dueck  
This course studies the historical role of Jews as migrants—as strangers in a strange land—and their eventual transformation from "Outsiders" to "Insiders", as a way of understanding their current place in North American society. For the sake of context, readings will include comparisons with the experiences of other minority groups.

HIST 400-004  Jewish Life Under Communism (F)  
Dr. Vassili Schedrin  
The course is a thematic exploration of Jewish history in the Revolutionary Russia and Soviet Union. We will examine how, in 1917-1991, communist ideology, state policies, and everyday life in USSR (such as sweeping emancipation of the Jews and anti-Judaism of the Soviet state, government support of secular Jewish culture and Soviet leaders’ antisemitism) together with global developments and phenomena (such as Jewish assimilation and popular antisemitism, Holocaust and emergence of the Jewish state) shaped an unique Jewish identity, social and cultural profile of the Soviet Jews. With the help of primary sources, scholarship, literature and movies we’ll see how Soviet Jews developed and maintained their identity in the Soviet Union and spread their culture throughout the world when most of them emigrated after the fall of USSR.
RELIGION

RELS 234  Judaism (F)
Dr. Shawna Dolansky

An introduction to the self-definition of Judaism through an analysis of the concepts of God, Torah and Israel past and present. Also, a preliminary study of the struggles facing Jews in Europe, the State of Israel and North America.
Monday - 2:30-5:30

HEBREW

HEBR 190/6.0  Introduction to Modern Hebrew (F)
Na’ama Haklai

This course is designed for students with minimal or no background in Hebrew. The course introduces students with the basic structure and usage of Modern Hebrew.

PREREQUISITE: Permission of the instructor

HEBR 192  Introductory Biblical Hebrew (F)
Dr. Bill Morrow

Provides a basic introduction to reading and understanding biblical Hebrew prose. No prior knowledge of Hebrew assumed.
NOTE: This course replaces the first semester of HEBR 191/6.0.

This course has two purposes:

- to introduce students to the language of biblical Hebrew as a medium for understanding the biblical text;
- to impart a basic knowledge of biblical Hebrew syntax, grammar and vocabulary.

By the end of the course, students should possess the following types of knowledge and skills
Basic knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar and vocabulary
The ability to read a passage such as Genesis 1 in Hebrew

To this end, a semi-inductive method is used to learn the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew.
HEBR 193 Classical Hebrew Fundamentals (W)
Dr. Bill Morrow

Focus is on reading prose portions with comprehension in biblical texts. Certain extra-biblical second Temple literature may also be read (e.g., texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls).

NOTE: This course replaces the second semester of HEBR 191/6.0.

This course has two purposes:

- to enable students to read Biblical Hebrew prose with the aid of a dictionary.
- to enable students to acquire a thorough knowledge of the grammar and syntax typical of classical Hebrew prose.

The focus will be on consolidation of language skills through a semi-inductive method. It assumes knowledge of HEBR 192 or its equivalent. The course is usually based on texts from Genesis. However, depending on the interests and abilities of the class, it is possible that it may also read related material in extra-biblical sources (e.g., inscriptions or texts in the Dead Sea Scrolls).

PREREQUISITE: HEBR 192/3.0 or permission of the instructor.
EXCLUSION: No more than one course from HEBR 191/6.0; HEBR 193/3.0.

HEBR 294/3.0 Intermediate Modern Hebrew I (F)
Na’ama Haklai

An extensive grammar review with practice in speaking, writing and translation, based on the reading of texts by modern Hebrew writers.

PREREQUISITE: HEBR 190/6.0 or permission of the instructor.

HEBR 301/3.0 Special Topics in Hebrew (F)
Na’ama Haklai

Specialized study, as circumstances permit, of a particular author, genre, theme, movement, literary form or some combination of these elements.

PREREQUISITE: HEBR 294/3.0 or HEBR 291/6.0 or permission of the instructor.

HEBR 393/3.0 Reading Modern Hebrew Literature
Selections from current Israeli media including music, newspapers and television, as well as from modern Hebrew prose and poetry. The selections are studied in Hebrew; written assignments may be submitted in English.
PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 367 - Jewish Philosophy (F)
Jackie Davies

An examination of key Jewish thought from Philo to Fackenheim, exploring such themes as the relationship between philosophy, literature, law, and religion; developments within Jewish philosophy; non-Jewish influences on Jewish thought and vice-versa. Contributions to contemporary philosophical work such as those in bioethics and postmodernism may also be considered.