

JEWISH STUDIES

COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 2019- 2020

HEBREW:

HEBR 190/6.0 Introduction to Modern Hebrew

Prof. 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 294/3.0 Intermediate Modern Hebrew I

Prof. 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 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.

HISTORY:

HIST 221 Jewish and World Civilization (until 1492)

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)

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 220 Jews on Film

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

Dr. Gordon Dueck

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

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 400-003 Russian Jewish Encounter in Imperial Russia

Dr. Vassili Schedrin

The course provides a window on the exciting field of Russian Jewish history. In this seminar we will seek to answer the following principal questions: how and why the encounter between Russians and Jews re-shaped both nations and changed their histories? Russian and Jews first encountered one another on considerable scale in the late eighteenth century. By the end of the nineteenth century Russia became a home to 5.2 million Jews, becoming the world's largest Jewish community. Through discussion of primary historical sources and scholarship we will see how, during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Jews increasingly perceived Russia their home and Russians—their countrymen. We will see how Russians increasingly perceived Jews an essential part of Russia's political, economic, and cultural landscape. We will also see how unique modern identity of a "Russian Jew" developed.

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 367 - Jewish Philosophy

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.

RELIGION

RELS 398 Judaism in the Modern Age

Dr.