

## **Jewish Studies Courses 2019-2020**

### **36 Courses that count towards the Jewish Studies minor in 2019-2020**

*You can consult Jewish Studies faculty to explore opportunities for doing independent studies under their guidance.*

### **Fall 2019**

#### **ENG 356-001 (3 credits): "Readings in Jewish Literature," Dr. Marc Bernstein**

Tu/Th, 1:00-2:20 pm, 001 Natural Resources Building

Extensive readings in a range of genres by Jewish writers, including fiction, poetry, drama, memoir, and/or film. Cultural and artistic contexts of Jewish literature.

#### **ESHP 190-005 (3 credits): "The Art of Starting," Dr. Harry Yuklea**

Sec. 005: Tu/Th 2:40-4:00 pm, N100 Business College Complex

Those familiar with global entrepreneurship trends are very aware of Israel as a unique outlier of a country and economy driven by innovation and entrepreneurial activity that has had a global impact from an extremely small geographic footprint. This section will explore the topic matter presented in ESHP 190 from the perspective of an Israeli /global business perspective. Students interested in exploring the topic of entrepreneurship will review Israeli case studies and the unique innovation, policy, and investment strategies that give Israel its nickname as Startup Nation.

#### **FI 491-005 (3 credits): "Economy and Finance of Innovation," Dr. Harry Yuklea**

Tu/W, 4:10-5:30 pm, N105 Business College Complex

The course combines the variety of academic perspectives with practitioners' views, thus making it appropriate both for students interested in pure academic research and for those looking to improve their entrepreneurial skills and knowledge-base for real practice. It will leverage the extended Israeli (known as "The Startup Nation") accumulated experience in the field by using case studies and interacting occasionally with Israeli practitioners.

#### **HEB 101 (4 credits): "Elementary Hebrew I," Dr. Yore Kedem**

Sec. 001- M-Th, 9:10-10:00 am, A126 Wells Hall; Sec. 002- M/W, 6:00-7:50 pm, A220 Wells Hall  
Spoken and written Hebrew for conversation, reading, and research. Basic grammatical analysis of modern Hebrew.

#### **HEB 201-001 (4 credits): "Intermediate Hebrew II," Dr. Yore Kedem**

M-Th, 10:20-11:10 am, A336 Wells Hall

Intermediate-level spoken and written Hebrew for conversation, reading, and research. Advanced grammatical analysis of modern Hebrew.

#### **HEB 290: "Independent Study," Dr. Yore Kedem**

Special projects arranged by an individual student and a faculty member in areas supplementing regular course offerings.

#### **HEB 490: "Advanced Independent Study," Dr. Yore Kedem**

Special projects arranged by an individual student and a faculty member in areas supplementing regular course offerings.

**HST 355: Spain and the Muslim World,” Dr. David Wheat**

Tu/Th, 12:40-2:00 pm, 145 Natural Sciences Building

This course provides an overview of Iberia (Spain and Portugal) in relation to North Africa, West Africa, and the Muslim world during the late medieval and early modern eras. We'll talk about Iberia as an extension of North Africa during the first half of course; the 2nd half will focus on the hundreds of thousands of people of Muslim or Jewish ancestry who were forcibly converted and / or kicked out of Spain and Portugal, many of whom ended up in different parts of northern or western Africa (as exiles, renegades, traders, interpreters, mercenaries, etc). One of the assigned books will be *The Forgotten Diaspora*, by Peter Mark and José da Silva Horta, which examines a group of Sephardim who lived openly as Jews under the protection of Muslim rulers in 17th-century Senegal, and maintained trade networks with Amsterdam and the Spanish Caribbean. We will also cover scholarly debates regarding the extent and importance of *convivencia*, or the ostensibly peaceful co-existence of Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

**HST 411-001(3 Credits): “European Jewish History,” Dr. Amy Simon**

M/W, 10:20-11:40 am, 120 Psychology Building

European Jewry since medieval era. Napoleonic emancipation, Jewish liberalism, assimilation, Zionism, anti-Semitism, and recent issues.

**IAH 211C-003 (4 credits): “Area Studies Americas — Focus on American Jewish Culture: Beyond Seinfeld and Sandler,” Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich**

M/W, 12:40-2:30 pm, 114 Berkeley Hall

Arts and humanities of the Americas: literature, visual arts, music, religion and philosophy presented in historical context.

**IAH 211D-001 (4 credits): "Area Studies Middle East — Israeli Culture and Society," Dr. Marc Bernstein**

Tu/Th, 3:00-4:50 pm, G011 Holden Hall

A multidisciplinary consideration of the ways in which the history and societal features of Israel are reflected in the national culture.

**MC 335-001 (4 credits): "Israeli Politics, Cultures and Society,” Dr. Alon Tal**

Tu/Th, 9:10 am-12:00 pm, 331 Case Hall

Given its modest dimensions and population size, few countries are in the news more frequently than Israel. Yet impressions of this complex and dynamic country are often one-dimensional. This course constitutes an introductory survey about the history of Israel during its tumultuous seventy-one years of existence. Among the issues that will be considered are Zionism, the geopolitical history of the state, demography, government and politics, minorities, economics, and peace negotiations.

**MC 459/LB 459-001 (3 credits): “Demography, Carrying Capacity and Sustainable Population Policies,” Dr. Alon Tal**

Tu/Th, 1:00-3:50 pm, C003 Wilson Hall

The course will discuss a range of topics associated with concepts of carrying capacity, consumption and the impact of high population density on the quality of life and the environment in our increasingly urbanized world. These include issues involving food security, biodiversity, climate change, violence and migration. The challenges associated with family planning, access to contraception and increasing women’s reproductive autonomy will be presented. National policies in countries like Israel, Singapore, Iran, Botswana and Japan will be evaluated, as well as the potential roles for global intervention and development programs.

**MC 498-003 (5 credits): "Senior Seminar in Social Relations: The Holocaust in American Memory," Dr. Amy Simon**

M/W, 3:00-4:50 pm, S319L Case Hall.

American social relations and policy. Analysis of the Holocaust and comparative genocides. During the course of this class, we will discuss questions such as: How does the Holocaust live on in American remembrance? Why should the United States be so invested in the memory of a European genocide? What kinds of stories do Americans tell about the Holocaust?

**PLS 392-006: "Public Administration, Public Policy and Policy Analysis: The Israeli Case," Dr. Lihi Lahat**

Th 9:10 am-12:00 pm, 217 Berkey Hall

This course introduces students to the historical development and current trends in public administration, public policy and policy analysis in Israel. To achieve this goal, we will utilize a threefold perspective. First, we will explore the historical developments of Israeli public administration from the founding of the Israeli state until today. Second, we will discuss different policy issues in the Israeli context. For example, the problem of poverty and changes in the higher education system. In the last part of the course, we will look at policy analysis styles in Israel. During the course, we will identify the unique characteristics of the Israeli model and explore it with respect to other countries. More information on enrolling in this course will be provided soon.

**REL 150-001 (3 credits): "Intro to Biblical Literature," Dr. Chris Frillingos**

Tu/Th, 1:00-2:20 pm, 316 Bessey Hall

"The Bible," Prof. Paula Fredriksen observes, "is not a book, but a library." This semester we will explore many of the volumes in this library. First, we will examine the Hebrew Bible, which is the biblical canon for Jews. It is similar (but not identical) to what most Christians refer to as the "Old Testament." Next, we turn to the New Testament, which, together with the Old Testament, forms the biblical canon for most Protestant Christians. These collections are likewise canonical for Roman Catholic Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians, who also accept books not found in most Protestant Bibles. Rather than practicing religion, will investigate it by learning from and making use of the insights of scholarship in the field of Religious Studies.

**REL 205 (3 credits): "Myth, Self, and Religion," Dr. Margot Valles**

M/W: 3:00-4:20 pm, C003 Wilson Hall

The mythic quest for meaning, identity, value, and transcendence as seen through religious biography and literary narrative. Myth in relation to religious symbols and life-cycle rituals. Cross-cultural perspective on religious world views and the interpretation of myth as sacred narrative.

**REL 310-001 (3 credits): "Judaism," Dr. Laura Yares**

Tu/Th, 1:00-2:20pm, 208 Olds Hall.

Jewish life, thought, and institutions. Jewish calendar. Second Temple and Rabbinic periods. Talmud and Midrash. Jewish life in Europe and America. Hasidic, Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative movements. Anti-Semitism, Zionism, and the Holocaust. Current issues.

**UGS 200H-014 (3 credits): "Honors Research Seminar - History and Testimony in the Digital Age: Studying the Holocaust," Dr. Steve Weiland, Dr. Amy Simon, and Ms. Deborah Margolis**

Th 2:00-3:20 pm, location TBA.

This Honors College Seminar will offer participants an opportunity for work in a unique digital resource for studying the Holocaust. They will have access to the extraordinary USC Shoah Visual History Archive via the MSU Library. Working individually and in small groups with MSU faculty from several departments, and meeting in the seminar format, students will explore these questions: 1) What can be learned about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism from the perspective of those who survived to tell their stories? 2) What are the best methods for learning from testimony as a form of historical evidence? And 3) How can the evidence of testimony best be incorporated into Holocaust research and presented, including the uses of digital resources? The focus will be on capitalizing on digital resources in doing research in a domain of inquiry with profound historical and personal meanings. And students can learn about the uses of digital multi-media presentations in their academic work beyond the Seminar itself.

**UGS 200H/JS390 (3 credits): "Honors Research Seminar -Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Israel" Dr Yore Kedem**

Tu 6:00-8:00 pm, location TBA.

Immigration, cultural diversity, and intercultural relationships present important issues for many countries in the world. Israel, a state which encourages immigration, and therefore is very culturally diverse, is a great site for investigating these issues. Although Israel is the Jewish homeland, the country has a 20% Arab minority, which includes Muslims, Christians, and Druze. Additionally, before its inception, and in the nearly seventy-one years of its existence, Israel absorbed immigrants from about 70 countries. The diversity in many ways is what gives Israel strength, but also creates a pressure cooker where the interaction between the different cultures, nationalities, and religions continue to present the people of Israel with significant challenges. In this course, you will learn about cultural diversity and immigration in Israel, and how different educational, social, government, private and non-governmental organizations deal with these issues. We will study the history and politics of cultures in Israel, and experience the work that some of these organizations do. The class will include two weeks in Israel over winter break. Please contact the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel or the Honors College to register for the course.

**Spring 2020**

**HEB 102 (4 credits): "Elementary Hebrew II," Dr. Yore Kedem**

Sec. 001: M-Th, 9:10-10:00 am, A224 Wells Hall. Sec. 002: M/W, 6:00-7:50 pm, A234 Wells Hall  
Further work on spoken and written Hebrew for conversation, reading, and research. Further basic grammatical analysis of modern Hebrew.

**HEB 202-001 (4 credits): "Intermediate Hebrew II," Dr. Yore Kedem**

M-Th, 10:20-11:10 am, A128 Wells Hall.

Further intermediate-level spoken and written Hebrew for conversation, reading, and research. Further advanced grammatical analysis of modern Hebrew.

**HEB 290 "Independent Study," Dr. Yore Kedem**

Special projects arranged by an individual student and a faculty member in areas supplementing regular course offerings.

**HEB490. "Advanced Independent Study," Dr. Yore Kedem**

Special projects arranged by an individual student and a faculty member in areas supplementing regular course offerings.

**HST 317 (3 credits): "American Jewish History," Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich**

M/W 4:10 pm-5:30 pm, 211A Berkey Hall

American Jewish history from colonial period to present. Jewish immigration to the United States, patterns of religious and cultural adjustment, social relations and anti-Semitism, Jewish politics, the construction of Jewish identities. Location and more information on enrolling in this course will be announced soon.

**HST 392 (3 credits): "History of the Holocaust," Dr. Karrin Hanshew**

Tu/Th 4:10 pm-5:30 pm, Berkey Hall 117

Nazi persecution and genocide in Europe, 1933-1945. Jewish experience within broader context. Perpetrators, victims, bystanders, and resisters. Post-Holocaust memory, film, literature, and philosophical implications. Please contact the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel or the History Department to register for the course.

**HST 414: "History of World War II," Dr. Matthew Pauly**

W 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Old Horticulture 247

This course will provide students with variant perspectives on the experience of the Second World War. It challenges students to consider the moral (immoral) choices that political leaders, war strategists, soldiers, and civilians of occupying and occupied countries faced. It emphasizes the importance of the Second World War to constructions of identity in the latter half of the twentieth century, as well as to the evolution the political and social systems. It will train students in the development of critical reading and writing skills and further their understanding of the continued role of the war on contemporary events.

**HST 481 (3 credits): "From Alexander to Bar Kochva: The Holy Land in the Graeco-Roman Period" Dr. Noah Kaye.**

Tu/Th, 10:20-11:40 am, 106B Berkey Hall.

When did the Judeans become the Jews? What were the Maccabees really fighting for? Was the war with Rome, which resulted in the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, an inevitable consequence of the clash between Judaism and Hellenism? Who was the cruel and chameleon Herod the Great? What was everyday life like in the Galilee of Jesus of Nazareth? These are some of the questions explored in our seminar, which tracks the development of Judaism under the Hellenistic regimes of the Ptolemies, Seleukids, and Hasmoneans, including the millennialism of the Dead Sea Scrolls (Qumran) and the sometimes violent sectarianism of Roman Judaea. The course will emphasize the historical and cultural geography of the Holy Land during a period of great change. Another focus will be relations between Judeans/Jews and others, such as Samaritans, Phoenicians, Nabateans, and Edomites/Idumeans. Students can expect a significant archaeological component, as well as visits to the 360 room in the Digital Scholarship Lab (virtual trips to Masada and elsewhere), as well as to Rare Books where we will examine MSU's Samaritan Pentateuch, a fascinating window on to the making of the Hebrew Bible as we know it today.

**IAH 207 (3 credits): "Jewish Humor," Dr. Margot Valles**

M/W 12:40-2:30 pm, location TBA

This course will conceptualize both the definition and role of "Jewish humor," focusing mostly on the following questions:

What role does humor play in Jewish literatures, cultures and identities? What do we mean when we talk about "Jewish humor"? Is this category bound to the modern age or does it have roots in the pre-

modern? Is it still a viable/useful category in post-modern, twenty-first century comedy? These questions will be explored through the written word, film, tv, and stand-up.

**IAH 231B-002H (4 credits): "Moral Issues in the Arts and Humanities — The Palestinian/Israeli Conflict. Honors and Academic Scholars Section," Dr. Marc Bernstein**

Tu/Th 12:40-2:30 pm, 207 Berkey Hall

An examination of the origins and dynamics of the Israel-Palestinian conflict from the perspective of competing narratives.

**IAH 241F-002 (4 credits): Traditions in World Art (I) — Israeli Cinema, Dr. Marc Bernstein.**

Tu/Th 3:00-4:50pm, Location TBA.

An exploration of Israeli cinema and the ways in which the film culture reflects sociological phenomena and transformations.

**MC 202-014 (4 credits): "Intro to Public Affairs - Narratives of Trauma and Memory, Case Study: The Holocaust," Dr. Amy Simon**

M/W, 3:00-4:50 pm, 335B Case Hall

This class examines Holocaust history and representation, with a focus on the ways in which those representations discuss/reveal important issues relating to trauma and memory. It takes us on a journey through immediate reactions to postwar memoirs and oral testimonies to second generation and fictionalized depictions of events that occurred during the Holocaust. The goal is to become familiar with many genres of writing and a variety of potentials for dealing with similar life experiences. We will examine how different authors constructed their narratives and what trauma meant for each of those authors both during and after the Holocaust. We will analyze the ways that time and memory change narratives and the ways that distance from the events (temporally and physically) influence the kinds of stories people tell.

**MC 387 (4 credits): "Jews and Anti-Semitism," Dr. Amy Simon**

M/W, 10:20-11:40 am, 342 Case Hall

Comparative history and sociology of modern Jewish experiences. Anti-Semitism and intergroup relations; the Holocaust and responses to the Holocaust; assimilation and pluralism in the U.S.

**REL 150-001 (3 credits): "Intro to Biblical Literature," Dr. Chris Frillingos**

Tu/Th, 1:00-2:20 pm, 304 Bessey Hall

"The Bible," Prof. Paula Fredriksen observes, "is not a book, but a library." This semester we will explore many of the volumes in this library. First, we will examine the Hebrew Bible, which is the biblical canon for Jews. It is similar (but not identical) to what most Christians refer to as the "Old Testament." Next, we turn to the New Testament, which, together with the Old Testament, forms the biblical canon for most Protestant Christians. These collections are likewise canonical for Roman Catholic Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians, who also accept books not found in most Protestant Bibles. Rather than practicing religion, will investigate it by learning from and making use of the insights of scholarship in the field of Religious Studies.

**REL 205 (3 credits): "Myth, Self, and Religion," Dr. Margot Valles**

M/W: 3:00-4:20 pm, 217 Berkey Hall.

The mythic quest for meaning, identity, value, and transcendence as seen through religious biography and literary narrative. Myth in relation to religious symbols and life-cycle rituals. Cross-cultural perspective on religious world views and the interpretation of myth as sacred narrative.

**REL 414-001 (3 credits): “Jewish Identity,” Dr. Laura Yares**

M/W, 12:40-2:00 pm, Location TBA.

Understand the major themes of the global Jewish experience in modernity – including Europe, the United States, Israel and the Middle East. Understand how modern Jewish identity has been negotiated through material culture and lived experience. Analyze critical constructions of religious identity in relation to the Jewish experience