

28 Listed Jewish Studies Courses 2020-2021

Fall 2020

ESHP 190-003 and 005 (3 credits): "The Art of Starting," Dr. Harry Yuklea

Lecture will be held online Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:40-2:00 and 2:40-4:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE--This section will explore the topic matter presented in ESHP 190 from the perspective of an Israeli/global business lens. Students will review Israeli innovation policy and investment strategies that give Israel its nickname as Startup Nation.

FI 491: Topics in Finance (3 credits): "Economics and Finance of Innovation," Dr. Harry Yuklea

Sec. 003- Tu/W, online 4:10-5:30 pm

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

Sec. 001- M-Th, 9:10-10:00 am, Sec. 002- M/W, 6:00-7:50 pm, A216 Wells Hall

Spoken and written Hebrew for conversation, reading, and research. Basic grammatical analysis of modern Hebrew.

HEB 201-001 (4 credits): "Second-Year Hebrew I," Dr. Yore Kedem

M-Th, 10:20-11:10 am,

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

Lecture will be held online Tu/Th, 3:00-4:20 pm.

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 211C-003 (4 credits): Area Studies in the Americas: Beyond Sandler and Seinfeld: An Introduction to American Jewish Culture, Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich

M/W Lecture will be held online.

An Introduction to American Jewish Culture

This class is designed to introduce students to some key issues and debates in modern American Jewish culture. Rather than examining Jewish culture as one integrated body, we will look at the different ways that different Jewish people throughout the country construct their identities, their heritage, and their religion. We will also examine the conflicts that have arisen among Jews because of these differences, as well as the unities that make Jews see themselves as one people.

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

Tu/Th, 12:40-2:30 pm Lecture will be held online.

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

IAH 231B-004H (4 credits): "Moral Issues in the Arts and Humanities — The Palestinian/Israeli Conflict. Honors and Academic Scholars Section," Dr. Marc Bernstein

Tu/Th, 3:00-4:50 pm, Lecture will be held online.

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

IAH231B-001 (4 credits): "Moral Issues in the Arts and Humanities: Memory Cultures: Representing the Holocaust in German, US, and Global Contexts," Dr. Elizabeth Mittman

Tu/Th, 8:00-9:50 am, Lecture will be held online.

This course confronts the processes by which the genocide that emanated from Germany has become deeply embedded in our collective imaginations. Students will look at stories from individuals who experienced those events firsthand and see ways in which that testimony has transferred to much larger processes of collective storytelling. In order to understand the Holocaust as a series of historically verifiable events, as well as a story that is told and retold, remolded and reshaped across time and space, students will look at Holocaust memory cultures that have evolved in a variety of contexts.

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

Section 301 Tu/Th, 12:40 pm-3:30 pm, Section 302 Tu/Th 5:00 pm-7:50 pm, Lecture will be held online.

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.

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

Lecture will be held online.

"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

Lecture will be held online.

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 (3 credits): "Jewish Identity," Dr. L Yares

Lecture will be held online.

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

Th 2:00-3:20 pm, Lecture will be held online.

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.

Spring 2021

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, A224 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): "Second-Year Hebrew II," Dr. Yore Kedem

M-Th, 10:20-11:10 am, A324 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.

HEB 291/491 Special Topic: Biblical Hebrew

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, 12:40pm-2:00 pm, 118 Berkey Hall

This course will trace the development of the American Jewish community from its origins in 1654, when 23 Jewish refugees fled Brazil and landed by mistake in the city that would become New York, to the present, when American Jews have become such a successful and well-integrated ethnic and religious community that bagels, schmucks and Seth Rogen have become familiar parts of popular American culture. Composed of many different groups, including Ashkenazic and Sephardic, Reform, Orthodox and Conservative, Reconstructionist, feminist, atheist, and secular, the American Jewish community is not easily typed, and we will devote some of the class to examining battles over what it means to be an American Jew. Focusing on successive waves of immigration, we will also explore the changing ways in which Jews have been included as integral members of the American nation, as well as the ways that they have been excluded as outsiders.

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

M/W, 10:20-11:40 pm, C136 Holden Hall

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 388 (3 credits): "World War II," Dr. Matthew Pauly

Tu/Th, 3:00 pm-4:20 pm, 111 Berkey Hall

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 392 (3 credits): "History of the Holocaust," Dr. Amy Simon

Tu/Th, 10:20 am-11:40 am, 100 Berkey Hall

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.

IAH 207 (4 credits): "Modern Jewish Humor," Dr. Margot Valles

Sec. 026: Tu/Th, 12:40-2:30 pm, C135 Holden Hall

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

Tu/Th, 3:00-4:50pm, 109 Olds Hall

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

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

Tu/Th, 3:00-4:20 pm, 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, 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.

Summer 2021

JS 390: Spec Topics in Jewish Studies, David Mendelson- Education Abroad- Jerusalem, Israel

The Emergence of the Modern State of Israel Surveys ideological, political and social developments from the rise of the Zionist movement to the present.

JS 400: Study Abroad in Jewish St (W), Dr. Yore Kedem- Education Abroad- Jerusalem, Israel

Immigration and Cultural Diversity 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 68 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.