HEBREW AND JUDAIC STUDIES (HBRJD-GA)

HBRJD-GA 1002 Jewish Philosophy and Its Critics (3 Credits)
The early Christian theologian, Tertullian, rhetorically asked, "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem? What agreement is there between the [Platonic] Academy and the Church?" By the medieval period, many Jewish thinkers were grappling with similar questions, often presuming a harmonious relationship between Athens and Jerusalem, but just as often objecting to the integration of the two. This 3-point seminar explores the development of a robust and diverse tradition of medieval Jewish philosophy from the ninth through the fifteenth centuries. Along the way, we will study some of the notable critiques of Jewish philosophy during this period and the heated controversies that they frequently generated. This course aims to familiarize students with the major periods, trends, and motivations of medieval Jewish philosophy, its relationship to philosophical traditions in medieval Islam and Christendom, the dynamic between philosophy and mysticism, the emergence of philosophical dogmatism, the problem of elitism and esotericism, and the robust debate over the place of philosophy in the Jewish tradition. We will devote a majority of class time reading and analyzing the primary sources. Texts written in Judeo-Arabic will be read in English translation, while Hebrew sources will be studied in the original. It is therefore critical that students have the requisite ability to read Hebrew texts (with a dictionary). Knowledge of Hebrew in any period (e.g. biblical, rabbinic, medieval, or modern) is a necessary starting point. Prior background in medieval Jewish per se is not a prerequisite.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1004 Recent Developments in Hebrew and Judaic Studies (3 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
This course will give students a foundation in the development of modern Jewish studies from the 19th century to the present in Europe, North America, and Israel. Students will also learn about the current state of the field by examining recent developments in the sub-fields of history, religious studies, Jewish thought, and Jewish literature.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1005 Prob & Meth in Hebrew & Judaic Studies (3 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
Introduces incoming graduate students to the field of Hebrew and Judaic studies, in its disciplinary, chronological, and geographic diversity. Contemporary issues and innovative approaches in the various areas of Judaic studies are explored.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1059 Intensive Biblical Hebrew (0 Credits)
Summer-specific description: Students in the summer intensive Introductory Biblical Hebrew sequence learn the fundamentals of Hebrew as this language is employed in the Hebrew Bible. Students will master a broad vocabulary that touches on all areas of life, from agriculture and animal husbandry to theology and politics. By means of these approaches, we will equip ourselves with the essential tools for exploring the fascinating and complex literature of the Hebrew Bible and other ancient Hebrew writings. This class will also include several excursions to view Hebrew manuscripts and monumental Hebrew throughout New York City.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1060 Historical Grammar of the Hebrew Language (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Traces the major features of phonology and morphology from the Canaanite language (ca. 1200) to the various stages of biblical Hebrew and then to Hebrew and Mishnah. Includes readings from different states of biblical and inscriptive Hebrew from the Iron, Persian, and Hellenistic periods, as well as Hebrew texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls and later Jewish literature.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1061 Advanced Biblical Hebrew (4 Credits)
Advanced study of Biblical Hebrew syntax, morphology, phonology, and other linguistic phenomena.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1101 Akkadian I (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to cuneiform script and to the Akkadian language, with emphasis on grammatical structure.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1102 Akkadian II (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to cuneiform script and to the Akkadian language, with emphasis on grammatical structure.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1103 Akkadian III (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Reading of Akkadian literature.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1104 Akkadian IV (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Reading of Akkadian literature.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1105 Sumerian I (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This first semester of language training begins with the language type and writing system before moving through an overview of grammar and work through a series of beginning texts, with increasing levels of difficulty.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

Grading: GSAS Graded

HBRJD-GA 1106  Sumerian II (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
The second semester of Sumerian turns to reading texts of larger interest, especially from the large corpus of poetic literature.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1115  Ugaritic I (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to the Ugaritic language and texts, providing important background for further study in the Semitic languages.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1116  Ugaritic II (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to the Ugaritic language and texts, providing important background for further study in the Semitic languages.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1117  Aramaic I (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to the various phases of Aramaic. Readings are selected from early and imperial documents, including Elephantine and inscriptions.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1118  Aramaic II: Qumran Aramaic (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to Aramaic documents found at Qumran and contemporary sites. This represents the intermediate phase of Aramaic and Bar Kokhba texts.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1119  Aramaic III: Christian Syriac (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to sources preserved by the early Christian communities of the ancient and medieval Near East in Syriac.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1120  Aramaic IV (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to Galilean and Babylonian Jewish Aramaic and related texts.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1176  Readings in Yiddish Literature of the 20th Century (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Examination of the origin and development of Yiddishism as an international cultural movement and an ingredient of Jewish subcurrents in socialism, anarchism, folkism, and communism.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1180  Modern Hebrew for Bibliocists (2 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
This course is intended to train students with a strong foundation in Biblical Hebrew to access academic articles in Modern Hebrew. The course will focus on reading material in the students' areas of scholarly interest. The linguistic structure of Biblical and Modern Hebrew will be addressed.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 1215  History of Israelite Religion (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Treats the biblical, archaeological, and comparative ancient Near Eastern evidence for Israelite religion in its origins, change, and conflict. Emphasis is on questions of definition and focus.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1216  Academic Yiddish I (3 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
Intensive study of the language of Yiddish academic discourse. Students study primary source material in their area of specialization and secondary critical material.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1217  Academic Yiddish II (3 Credits)
Typically offered Spring
Intensive study of the language of Yiddish academic discourse. Students study primary source material in their area of specialization and secondary critical material.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1235  Biblical Interpretation (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Traces the interpretation of a central biblical text or theme in the literature of ancient Jewish exegesis. Commentaries are placed in the context of ancient Jewish thought and the history of Jewish biblical interpretation.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1245  History of Philosophy: Selected Topics (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
A close reading of select philosophical texts.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1318  Academic Hebrew (3 Credits)
Typically offered Fall
Intensive study of the language of Hebrew academic discourse. Students study primary source material in their area of specialization and secondary critical material.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 1319  Academic Hebrew II (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Intensive study of the language of Hebrew academic discourse. Students study primary source material in their area of specialization and secondary critical material.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
HBRJD-GA 1320 Yiddishism in The 20th C (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Examination of the origin and development of Yiddishism as an international cultural movement and an ingredient of Jewish subcurrents in socialism, anarchism, folkism, and communism.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1321 Yiddishisms & Communism (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Analyzes history of Yiddish-speaking Communist circles in the twentieth century, most notably in the Soviet Union, America, and Poland.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1420 Israel, the US, & Soviet Jewry (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
The course focuses on main Jewish-related events in Israeli, American, and Soviet life and discusses their interconnection. The topics that will be covered include the impact of the Bolshevik revolution on Jews in the United States and Palestine, the participation of American Jewish organizations in Soviet Jewish projects in the 1920s and 1930s, the international links of the Soviet Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, and the movement for Soviet Jewish emigration. Special attention will be paid to the Cold War period, particularly to the activities of the "triangle": Jewish activists in the Soviet Union, Israel, and the United States.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1512 History of Zionism (3 Credits)
Typically offered all terms
This course reads selections of the major Zionist thinkers of the 19th and early 20th century.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1513 Jewish Collectivity & Mutual Responsibility in the 19th & 20th Centuries (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course provides an academic discussion of the history of Jewish Philanthropy in the 19th and 20th centuries and traces the influence of historical events on the policies of the Jewish organizational world of today.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1516 History of Arab-Israeli Negotiations (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
The course reviews the various attempts to address issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict by negotiations with Israel's Arab neighbors, either directly or through intermediaries. Starting with a review of the history of these negotiations, the course focuses on the main issues negotiated: borders, refugees, water rights, security in the period up to 1967; and the future of the territories occupied in 1967 - Sinai, Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. We will pay particular attention to the Oslo Accords, negotiated in 1993 and 1994, Camp David II and the Taba Talks (2000).
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1517 From Zionist Sabra to Cosmopolitan Israel (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
From Zionist Sabra to Cosmopolitan Israel This seminar addresses some major social, cultural, and political divisions in Israeli society, their historical dynamic and present structure, and their mutual intersectionality, as well as their contexts and implications. This course is of sociological orientation, and hence it will focus on structural processes and on analytical conceptualizations.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1518 History of Jewish Education (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course will look at means, goals, and objectives of Jewish education through the 20th Century.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1520 The Jewish Struggle for Independence 1939-1948 (4 Credits)
The seminar will focus on the decade prior to the creation of the State, examining the history of the Jewish Community in Palestine (Yishuv) in the light of changes in British colonial policy, military and political developments in the Middle East, and the fate of European Jewry during and after World War II. In the light of these developments, the Yishuv faced radical challenges, in response to which it adopted the objective of statehood and independence, breaking with the gradualist policy of the development of the Jewish National Home under British auspices. The emergence of the United States as a great power in the international arena after World War II, and the evolution of American policy on Jewish issues in Europe and the Middle East played a major role in the deliberations of the Zionist movement. Internally, the Yishuv was seriously divided on the means to advance toward statehood. The course will also examine the Arab responses, in Palestine and in the neighboring states, to the growing radicalization of the Yishuv and the Partition decision of the UN.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1601 Core Readings in Modern Jewish Thought (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Philosophical themes in the writings of Mendelsohn, Cohen, Rosenzweig, Buber, Soloveitchik, Fackenheim, and Levinas.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 1684 America and the Jews: Recent Scholarship on an Historic Encounter (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This doctoral course offers an intensive study of nineteenth century American Judaism. It will involve both exposure to secondary sources and careful reading of primary materials. It is geared to preparing students to conduct doctoral level research.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1693 Hist of Contemp Israel (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Study of the ideological origins of the State of Israel, its political history, and the formation of its institutions.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
HBRJD-GA 1702 Core Reading: Modern Jewish History (4 Credits)  
Typically offered occasionally  
This colloquium will introduce students to some of the classic works, orientations, and approaches in the study of modern Jewish history and to challenges that have been raised to them in response both to historical circumstances and to changing conceptions of the nature, purposes, and sources of validation of historical research and writing  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 1750 Anti-Semitism from Ancient to Modern Times (4 Credits)  
Typically offered occasionally  
Anti-Semitism has been called the 'longest hatred' in the history of the west. Although it can be traced back to Greco-Roman antiquity, anti-Jewish animosity struck fertile soil in Christian theology and practice and has morphed many times over throughout the history of medieval Christendom and modern Europe. In modern times, anti-Semitism has taken on new sinister imagery and political expression, both in Christian and Muslim societies, on the far-right and the far-left of the political spectrum. This course takes a deep dive into the history of anti-Semitism in the West and covers much terrain, from antiquity through the present day. It begins with the current controversies over the definition of anti-Semitism and the crisis of the present moment. We then pay special attention to anti-Jewish rhetoric and imagery in Western Christendom, the new racial turn of anti-Semitism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the familiar and novel forms it has taken in the United States, up to and including the present day  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1810 Mystical Elements of 20Thc Jewish Philosophy (3 Credits)  
Typically offered occasionally  
Examination of kabbalistic and/or Hasidic elements reflected in the thought of modern Jewish existentialists and postmodern philosophers. Thinkers discussed include Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Joseph Soloveitchik, Jacques Derrida, and Emmanuel Levinas.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 1948 Topics in Israeli Studies (4 Credits)  
Typically offered occasionally  
The course presents a macro-sociological, historical, comparative and critical approach to selected areas of life in Israeli society. It aims to problematize the stock answers to and stimulate discussion on the questions whether Israel is small, unique, deeply divided, multicultural, militaristic, colonial, secular, democratic, and Western.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2020 Topics in Ancient Judaism (3 Credits)  
Drawing on new evidence from the Dead Sea Scrolls as well as recent research in Classics on the Hellenistic Near East, this seminar will explore what we know of Jewish literature and cultural history in the period between the conquests of Alexander the Great and the Maccabean Revolt.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 2107 Northwest Semitic Inscriptions (3 Credits)  
Typically offered occasionally  
During the early first millennium BCE, we find increasing quantities of written finds in the greater Levant, in varieties of ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Phoenician, the "Northwest Semitic" languages. This seminar addresses basic skills for recognizing script types and development and for reconstructing the shape of each language in this period, when the texts are only partly vocalized, at best. The semester concludes with selected readings that have larger historical and cultural interest.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2118 Israel & America Since 1948 (4 Credits)  
Typically offered occasionally  
The main focus of this course will be on the history of diplomatic relations between the United States and Israel and the emergence of the "special relationship" and "strategic alliance." This course will also examine Israeli-American relations at other levels, including the role of Israel in the American Jewish Community and American Jewish philanthropy's relationship with Israeli politics.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2120 The History of Ancient Israel in Its Land (3 Credits)  
This is a research seminar, not an overview. Each meeting addresses some item or set of primary evidence, which together represent a cross-section of important content and questions for the study of ancient Israel in its land. Evidence may be written or otherwise material-cultural, as often as possible from excavation, and the Bible only makes an appearance at moments when it either frames a historical question of requires consideration on its own terms. Specific focus will vary with different versions of the course, concentrated mainly on the Bronze and Iron Ages.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2135 Introduction to Rabbinic Literature (3 Credits)  
Typically offered occasionally  
This course is intended to provide a general introduction to classic rabbinic literature, the documents compiled by the rabbis between 200-600CE, including the Mishna, Tosefta, Halakhic (Tannaic) Midrashim, Amoraic Midrashim, and the two Talmuds. It covers both the primary sources themselves and the main scholarly questions and debates concerning these compilations. Class time will be divided between the reading and analysis of the primary texts and the discussion of the secondary readings and the status questions. This class is intended for M.A. and Ph.D. students. All primary texts will be provided in both the original Hebrew/Aramaic and in translation. Ph.D. students will be expected to prepare the originals; M.A. students the translations.  
Grading: GSAS Graded  
Repeatable for additional credit: No
HBRJD-GA 2140 Rabbinic Texts (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Study of the interrelationships of the Mishnah, Tosefta, and Talmuds with one another and the midrashic corpus. Emphasizes the issues that arise from Rabbinic intertextuality from both literary and historical points of view.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 2210 Apocryphal Literature (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Selected Hebrew and Aramaic texts from the Apocrypha. Emphasis is on the biblical background and the place of this literature in the early history of Judaism.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2220 Topics: Readings in the Dead Sea Scrolls (3 Credits)
One of the most common phrases articulated about the Dead Sea Scrolls is that they have revolutionized our understanding of the development of the text and canon of the Hebrew Bible. The goal of this course is to explore these contributions through close readings of selected Dead Sea Scrolls manuscripts and modern scholarship.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 2230 Dead Sea Scrolls (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Selected texts are read and analyzed in order to reconstruct the Judaism of the Qumran sect and other groups of Second Temple period Jews. Students are trained in the use of Qumran manuscript sources and paleography.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2245 Texts from The Judean Desert (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Reading of documents from the Judean Desert, including letters of Bar-Kokhba and his officials and legal documents from the Judean desert caves. The texts will be analyzed from both philological and historical points of view.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2369 Topics in Babylonian Talmud (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course examines the major issues relating to the critical study of the Babylonian Talmud and surveys different critical methodologies. Topics include the stability of the text, the transmission process of amoraic material, technical terminology, and the editing of the Talmud. The different methodologies include form criticism, source criticism, redaction criticism and literary criticism.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 2370 Seminar: Geonic Lit (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Introduction to geonic halakhic (legal) literature, especially the main post-talmudic halakhic codes. Topics include: the stabilization of the Talmudic text, methods of geonic adjudication, anti-Karaite polemics, and the struggle between Babylonian and Palestinian geonim. Attention will also be given to the major works of geonic historiography, the Epistle of Rav Sherira Gaon and Seder Tannaim ve-Amoraim.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2371 Rdg in Babylonian Talmud (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Study of a selected chapter of the Babylonian Talmud, paying attention to textual, linguistic, and historical matters. Emphasis is on the reconstruction of the history of the traditions preserved in the Talmud.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 2375 Jerusalem Talmud (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Selected readings from the Jerusalem Talmud and its commentaries, emphasizing the literary and historical development of the text, its relation to the Babylonian Talmud and other rabbinic texts, methods of legal analysis, and the problems in establishing the correct text. Extensive reading and discussion of modern scholarship on the Jerusalem Talmud.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
HBRJD-GA 2443 Maimonides Mishneh Torah Jewish Law & Legal Theory (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course examines Moses Maimonides' monumental code of Jewish law, known as the Mishneh Torah, the only complete synthesis of Jewish tradition to date and a masterpiece of medieval Hebrew literature. We will investigate questions of composition and classification, law and philosophy, language and scope, vision and reception. The course will additionally expose students to the history of Mishneh Torah commentary and criticism and to a range of divergent approaches adopted by modern scholarship on the Maimonidean code. Ability to read the text in the original Hebrew is required.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2453 Topics in Literary Studies (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This seminar focuses on critical theory of multilingualism, translation, and world literature, engaging in a diverse range of scholarship, literary theory, and a selection of literary texts, juxtaposing early twentieth-century debates on Jewish languages and diaspora with political discussions on language, translation, and the nation-state in Israel/Palestine today.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 2455 The Medieval Church & The Jews (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Investigates the diverse impingements of the Church on medieval Jewish life; the evolution of Church thinking, doctrine, and popular impact; and the responses of medieval Jews to their circumstances.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2456 The Medieval Jewish Experience (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
 Begins by sketching the broad chronological outlines of the medieval Jewish experience; then focuses on a set of key challenges faced by medieval Jews and by the major lines of Jewish response to these challenges.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2457 Critical Theory and Ancient Judaism (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course introduces students to the ways that scholars of ancient Judaism employ critical theory. Students engage with the work of notable theorists and thereby gain knowledge in postmodern approaches and their application in Biblical and Jewish Studies. Particular attention is paid to literary studies, gender studies, and postcolonialism. The course examines how these theoretical approaches compare in their methods and results with historical-philological approaches to ancient texts and material culture.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2462 Gender and Judaism (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course explores various ways in which the issue of gender has informed the shaping of religious imagination in the course of Jewish history from the biblical period to the present.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2465 Core Readings in Medieval Jewish History (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
A survey of landmark modern treatments of medieval Jewish history, concentrating on Western Europe and the Jewish communities of Ashkenaz and Sefarad. In acquiring a grounding in the foundational texts of this field, students will gain a familiarity with the different disciplinary and explanatory approaches adopted by its historians. Exposure to disparate treatments of the available source materials will afford students an opportunity to reflect on their own choices of methodology and approach, as well as on the application of theory to historical narrative.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 2467 Medieval Mystical Hebrew Literature (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Examines the esoteric theosophy and mystical practices of the Rhineland Jewish Pietists of the 12th and 13th centuries, with particular attention to the place of the Pietists in the history of ancient and medieval Jewish mysticism. Examination of the esoteric theosophy and mystical practices of the Rhineland Jewish Pietists of the 12th and 13th centuries, with particular attention to the place of the Pietists in the history of ancient and medieval Jewish mysticism.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2468 Contemp Union & Ecstasy in Med Jewish Mysticism (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Exploration of two typologies of contemplative union and ecstasy in medieval Jewish mysticism: the Neoplatonic typology evident in the theosophic kabbalah of Isaac the Blind and his Geronese disciples, Ezra, Azriel, and Jacob ben Sheshet, and the Aristotelian typology of the ecstatic kabbalah of Abraham Abulafia and other members of his school, Shem Tov ibn Gaon, Isaac ben Samuel of Acre, and the anonymous author of Shaare Zedeq.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2469 Readings in Zohar (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Intensive study of selections from the classic text of medieval Spanish kabbalah, the Zohar. Attention to hermeneutical and exegetical methods employed by the author of the Zohar.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2472 Rdg in Lurianic Kabbalah (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Study of the main texts of Lurianic kabbalah through a close reading of the works of R. Isaac Luria and his two disciples, R. Hayyim Vital and R. Israel Saruq.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes
HBRJD-GA 2520  Mother Tongue: Theories of Language and Maternity (4 Credits)
How does the maternal figure in language? Is “mother” a contained otherness that operates within the symbolic order? Is it a biological fiction that perpetuates nationalist exclusions? Does it bear a generative capacity? Mother tongue, a metaphorical notion of the national imagination, is a deeply charged ethnocentric concept. At the same time, the range of affects and attachments that the mother tongue entails cannot be denied. This interdisciplinary seminar navigates between changing conceptualizations of mother tongue from a range of theoretical and cultural perspectives. Considering the maternal in language through the lens of psychoanalytic, feminist, and queer thinking, it asks whether mother tongue can be at once the product of ethnocentric ideologies and a form of resistance to cultural hegemonies. The course examines a diverse selection of critical theory alongside works of literature, cinema and art. Class discussions will trace the rise of the mother as a mark of a biological link between nation and language; explore the sexual politics of language; and focus on a set of accounts of diasporic and postcolonial linguistic experiences, in which the mother tongue appears to be fleeting and its “possession” is repeatedly questioned.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2623  History of Judaism in Late Antiquity (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Study of the history of Jewish thought, literature, law, and ritual in the formative years in which the classical tradition was coming to fruition in Talmudic literature. Emphasizes the development of the major ideas and institutions of Judaism in the Second Temple and Rabbinic periods and the factors, both internal and external, that contributed to it.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2642  Medieval Ashkenazic Jewry (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course explores the Jewish world of Ashkenaz, from its beginnings in the Rhineland in the middle ages through its eventual expansion throughout Western Europe, Central Europe, and Northern Italy, and eventually into Eastern Europe by the early modern period. Ashkenaz is among the most important centers of Jewish life in this period. It was the locus for important rabbinic scholarship, unique pietistic practices, and a vibrant popular culture that took place amidst complex relationships with the non-Jewish environment, ranging from friendly interactions and influence to intense violence and persecution. We will read primary texts from Ashkenazic Jewry and important historical research on this world to analyze its social, cultural, intellectual, political, religious, and material history. Doing so, special attention will be paid to the intersections between these fields and the different methods used by historians to extract various types of historical information from their sources.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2651  Jewish Bible, Text and Artifact: From Ancient to Modern Times (3 Credits)
The Bible as an object, whether in the form of scrolls or later in the codex, has served as a central object in Judaism, both from a religious and cultural point of view. This course aims to trace the history of the Hebrew Scriptures concentrating both on the development of the Hebrew text and the physical form.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2671  Judaism and the Arts (3 Credits)
Does the historic Jewish tradition, founded in part on its opposition to idolatry, have a place for the visual arts? Marc Chagall, icon of modern Jewish art, once declared that “Judaism struggled with ancient idolatry...so that it remained with no share in the treasures of graphic art.” This course takes a close look at the approaches to the visual arts in the Jewish tradition, from antiquity through modernity, reflecting a spectrum of positions and perspectives far more nuanced than Chagall’s statement would warrant. It also explores the rich and creative treasures of what historians identify as uniquely Jewish art. Our survey in this course encompasses synagogue and ceremonial art, manuscript illumination, micrography, and new developments by Jewish artists from the nineteenth century to the present.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
HBRJD-GA 2682 Jewish Historiography: The Modern Period (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Examination of major figures, works, and trends in the academic study of modern Jewish history in the 19th and 20th centuries.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2687 Mod Jewish Polit Mvmnts Var. of Jewish Nat’Lsm (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course attempts to follow and analyze the contribution of several major Jewish thinkers, who exerted a significant impact on the course of Jewish history or on Jewish and western thought in general. The focus is on varieties of Jewish nationalism and resistance to it, beginning in the late 19th century and continuing up through the middle of the 20th century.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2688 Memoirs & Diaries in Mod European Jewish History (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Readings of memoirs and diaries written by European Jewish women and men from the 18th century through the Holocaust. Students read memoirs with several issues in mind: (1) the history we can learn from them and how to use them critically, (2) the relationship between personal viewpoints and collective experiences, (3) the ways in which Jewish and European societies cultivated memory, (4) the question of why individuals wrote and how they framed and fashioned their lives for their readers, (5) how gender, class, and European context influenced memoirists, (6) how audience (or lack of an intended audience) influenced writers.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2710 Jewish Women in America and Europe: Historical Problems (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This class explores the experiences of Jewish women over the course of three centuries of Jewish communal existence in America. It will examine how Jewish women have had a history that makes their experiences unique when compared to Jewish women elsewhere, to other American women, and Jewish men. The course as such asserts – and questions the premise—that Jewish women in America had a distinctive history, worthy of analysis in its own terms. That history includes the role of Jewish women in building Jewish communal institutions in America, their participation in the immigration process, their impact upon their families, and the ways in which they engaged with the larger American public. It will examine a few individual lives through scholarly biographies. The course, which will fit under the rubric of social history, will balance the lived experiences of Jewish women in America with the expectations which limited or enabled them to take advantage of American opportunities. It makes no claim to studying the full sweep of that history but rather uses selected moments in it and examines the formative works of scholarship which have shaped the field. As such it will not proceed in a chronological but rather a topical arc.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2715 American Jewish Women’s History (4 Credits)
This class explores the experiences of Jewish women over the course of three centuries of Jewish communal existence in America. It will examine how Jewish women have had a history that makes their experiences unique when compared to Jewish women elsewhere, to other American women, and Jewish men. The course as such asserts – and questions the premise—that Jewish women in America had a distinctive history, worthy of analysis in its own terms. That history includes the role of Jewish women in building Jewish communal institutions in America, their participation in the immigration process, their impact upon their families, and the ways in which they engaged with the larger American public. It will examine a few individual lives through scholarly biographies. The course, which will fit under the rubric of social history, will balance the lived experiences of Jewish women in America with the expectations which limited or enabled them to take advantage of American opportunities. It makes no claim to studying the full sweep of that history but rather uses selected moments in it and examines the formative works of scholarship which have shaped the field. As such it will not proceed in a chronological but rather a topical arc.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2696 From War to Peace: Israel in the 1970s (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
The course is a research seminar, making extensive use of primary sources (diplomatic documents from American and Israeli archives, and memoir literature) as well as the recognized secondary research literature. The seminar will explore the issues of war and peace in the Middle East during the 1970s – from the aftermath of the 1967 war; the death of Nasser and the rise of Sadat; the Yom Kippur/October War of 1973; Camp David and the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty, the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the start of the talks on Palestinian autonomy. The focus will be on diplomatic history of the period and the transition from war to peace in relations between Israel and Egypt. Students will prepare their research papers using the large number of recently released documents.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 2690 Major Issues & Problems: (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course examines the image of Islam and Christianity, and of Muslims and Christians, in medieval Jewish literature and culture. We will cover a range of literary genres, including poetry and prose narrative, biblical and talmudic commentary, responsa and codes, philosophy and polemic, and historical documents. Our emphasis will be a close examination and discussion of the original sources and the history of their interpretation.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No
Since the end of the fifteenth century, Jews have been involved in an ongoing process of shifting their places of residence. They have moved from rural to urban and at times from urban to rural areas, from east to west, and from west to east. Jews have migrated extensively within the borders of single nation states and crossed many national and continental boundaries. They have relocated themselves in the modern period from Europe and the Moslem lands to places themselves throughout the Atlantic and Mediterranean worlds, occasionally moving in alongside older Jewish communities, more often planting Jewish outposts where none had existed before. Carrying out these migrations required weighting and negotiating a variety of factors involving the countries of departure and destination, the mechanisms by which migration could be accomplished, state policies of emigration and immigration, and the demands of the Jews' own particular cultural repertoire.
HBRJD-GA 3320 Jewish Representations of Christianity (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Exploration of the various ways that Christianity has been represented in Jewish sources from late antiquity through the Middle Ages, with particular interest on the complex interface of the two traditions and the polemical attempts to draw sharp lines distinguishing them.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3323 History of The Jews in Babylonia (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
History of the Jewish community in Mesopotamia from the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles through the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanian eras and up through the Islamic conquest. Draws on Jewish, Babylonian, Iranian, and Arabic sources and emphasizes the interplay between Jewish history and that of the surrounding cultures of ancient Iraq.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3324 Integrative Sem: The Bible in Jewish Culture (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Exploration of the diverse roles played by the Hebrew Bible in constructions of Jewish identity and in cultural productions by Jews through the centuries.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3328 Pluralism and Dissent in Judaism (3 Credits)
The Jewish tradition is marked by a high degree of internal diversity, while Jewish history is replete with cases of intra-communal division and sectarianism. This course offers a sustained inquiry into the tolerance or intolerance of dissent both in the pages of Jewish tradition and on the stage of Jewish history.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3345 Topics/Medieval Hebrew Historical Texts (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Intensive readings of primary source material in medieval Jewish history
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 33451 Judaism and Islam in the Middle Ages (3 Credits)
The medieval encounter between Judaism and Islam had a profound impact on the identity and development of both traditions. This course explores the religious dimensions of this encounter, rather than the broad cultural connections between Muslims and Jews in Islamicate society. On the one hand, the historical encounter with Arabian Jewry left a clear imprint in the Qur'an and early Islamic tradition. Out of this encounter, Judaism came to occupy an important place in Islamic legal and theological discourse. On the other hand, the rise of Islam both as political power and religious rival inaugurated a rich period of engagement that ranged from messianic anticipation and theological accommodation to legal dispute over the status of Islam and polemical discourse on the prophet and scripture of Islam.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3452 Topics in the Cultures and Histories of the Jews of Islam: (4 Credits)
This course is designed to introduce students to Judeo-Arabic, a religiolect that has been written and spoken in various forms by Jews throughout the Arabic-speaking world, which was the vast majority of the world's Jews during the Middle Ages. Judeo-Arabic can be examined through different disciplines such as philology, linguistics, history, philosophy, law, literature and more.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3450 Tpcs in Jewish Philosophy (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Analysis of major texts and issues in Jewish philosophy. Topic changes annually.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3502 Tpcs in Mod Hebrew Lit: (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Advanced seminar on specialized topics that change annually (e.g., major authors; critical and theoretical surveys).
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3506 Tpc in Heb Poetry: (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Advanced seminar on specialized topics that change annually (e.g., major poets; critical and theoretical issues).
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3507 Dir Study Ancient Near Eastern & Egyptian Stds (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Students taking this course work under the supervision of a faculty member to pursue independent research on a topic in the field of Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian Studies. The research would normally result in periodic oral or written critical reports on the resources found on the topic as well as a written term paper on the results of the research. The course may be taken for between 1 and 4 points.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3320 Jewish Representations of Christianity (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Exploration of the various ways that Christianity has been represented in Jewish sources from late antiquity through the Middle Ages, with particular interest on the complex interface of the two traditions and the polemical attempts to draw sharp lines distinguishing them.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3323 History of The Jews in Babylonia (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
History of the Jewish community in Mesopotamia from the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles through the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanian eras and up through the Islamic conquest. Draws on Jewish, Babylonian, Iranian, and Arabic sources and emphasizes the interplay between Jewish history and that of the surrounding cultures of ancient Iraq.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3324 Integrative Sem: The Bible in Jewish Culture (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Exploration of the diverse roles played by the Hebrew Bible in constructions of Jewish identity and in cultural productions by Jews through the centuries.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3328 Pluralism and Dissent in Judaism (3 Credits)
The Jewish tradition is marked by a high degree of internal diversity, while Jewish history is replete with cases of intra-communal division and sectarianism. This course offers a sustained inquiry into the tolerance or intolerance of dissent both in the pages of Jewish tradition and on the stage of Jewish history.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3345 Topics/Medieval Hebrew Historical Texts (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Intensive readings of primary source material in medieval Jewish history
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 33451 Judaism and Islam in the Middle Ages (3 Credits)
The medieval encounter between Judaism and Islam had a profound impact on the identity and development of both traditions. This course explores the religious dimensions of this encounter, rather than the broad cultural connections between Muslims and Jews in Islamicate society. On the one hand, the historical encounter with Arabian Jewry left a clear imprint in the Qur'an and early Islamic tradition. Out of this encounter, Judaism came to occupy an important place in Islamic legal and theological discourse. On the other hand, the rise of Islam both as political power and religious rival inaugurated a rich period of engagement that ranged from messianic anticipation and theological accommodation to legal dispute over the status of Islam and polemical discourse on the prophet and scripture of Islam.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 3452 Topics in the Cultures and Histories of the Jews of Islam: (4 Credits)
This course is designed to introduce students to Judeo-Arabic, a religiolect that has been written and spoken in various forms by Jews throughout the Arabic-speaking world, which was the vast majority of the world's Jews during the Middle Ages. Judeo-Arabic can be examined through different disciplines such as philology, linguistics, history, philosophy, law, literature and more.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3450 Tpcs in Jewish Philosophy (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Analysis of major texts and issues in Jewish philosophy. Topic changes annually.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3502 Tpcs in Mod Hebrew Lit: (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Advanced seminar on specialized topics that change annually (e.g., major authors; critical and theoretical surveys).
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3506 Tpc in Heb Poetry: (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Advanced seminar on specialized topics that change annually (e.g., major poets; critical and theoretical issues).
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3507 Dir Study Ancient Near Eastern & Egyptian Stds (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Students taking this course work under the supervision of a faculty member to pursue independent research on a topic in the field of Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian Studies. The research would normally result in periodic oral or written critical reports on the resources found on the topic as well as a written term paper on the results of the research. The course may be taken for between 1 and 4 points.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes
HBRJD-GA 3530  Tpcs in Holocaust Stdies  (3 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
In-depth study of a specific problem related to the history of the Jews under Nazi impact, with emphasis on training in research methods. Topics may include examination of the history of a specific Jewish community under Nazi rule, the evolution of Nazi Jewish policy, the Jewish councils, armed resistance, relations between Jews and non-Jews, and free-world Jewry and the Holocaust.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3535  Tpc/Est Euro Jewish Hist  (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
Exploration of a selected problem in the history of the Jews in Eastern Europe, emphasizing primarily, but not necessarily limited to, Russia and Poland.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3536  Tpcs West Europ Jew Hist  (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This course will analyze the history of Jews in Western Europe, focusing on three major sites of Jewish integration (usually France, Germany and Italy). This course will examine how Jews worked for and achieved citizenship in the 19th century, felt patriotism and loyalty to their nations during World War I, and later faced repression from Nazi Germany and its allies. Still Jewish experiences differed, depending on the country in which they lived. Students will examine government policies, Jewish reactions, and the behavior of perpetrators and bystanders.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3791  Independent Study  (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms
Independent Study with a professor in the department
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3792  Dir Study Jewish History  (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Independent Study of a topic of Jewish History
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3795  Dir Study in Hebrew Manuscripts  (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Independent study of Hebrew manuscripts, paleography, and codicology with a professor in the department
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3797  Directed Study in Jewish Thought  (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Independent study of a topic of Jewish philosophy and thought
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3801  Dissertation Research  (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Dissertation research with a faculty member
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3802  Dissertation Research  (1-4 Credits)
Typically offered Fall and Spring
Dissertation research with a faculty member
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: Yes

HBRJD-GA 3992  Sacr,Cult,& Gndr: Issac& Iphigen Contmp Sacr Narr  (4 Credits)
Typically offered occasionally
This seminar explores modern responses to the moral and gender implications of two different constructions of human sacrifice/martyrdom which western culture has inherited from antiquity: the Bible and Greek myth and drama. Factoring in the male-centeredness of the core sacrificial narrative of all 3 monotheistic traditions, and the female-centeredness of Greek sacrificial narratives, the seminar focuses on the continuities and discontinuities between the pre-modern precursors of contemporary sacrificial discourse, exploring the gendered constructions of old/new/inter- and post-Testamental rewritings of Isaac, Iphigenia, and Jephthah's daughter [with special emphasis on female “Abrahams” and “Isaacs”].
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 9216  Academic Yiddish I  (3 Credits)
Intensive study of the language of Yiddish academic discourse. Students study primary source material in their area of specialization and secondary critical material.
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No

HBRJD-GA 9791  Independent Study  (1-4 Credits)
Independent study with a faculty member
Grading: GSAS Graded
Repeatable for additional credit: No