For Undergraduate Students

NEJS 6a: Jewish History, Ancient to Modern
Eugene Sheppard (MWTh 10-10:50)
Surveys ideas, institutions, practices and events central to critical approaches to the Jewish past and present. Dynamic processes of cross-fertilization, and contestation between Jews and their surrounding societies will be looked at, as well as tradition and change, continuity and rupture. No background in the subject matter is required.

NEJS 10a: Biblical Hebrew Grammar and Texts
Jacqueline Vanytnub (MWTh 11-11:50)
Prerequisite: HBRW 20b or the equivalent as determined by placement examination.
A review of biblical Hebrew grammar followed by a survey of the major genres of the Hebrew Bible (e.g., Torah, history, prophecy, psalms, wisdom). Texts are read in Hebrew; the course is taught in English. Emphasis on literary and grammatical aspects of the texts.

NEJS 25a: Introduction to Talmud
Reuven Kimelman (TF 9-30-10-50)
Prerequisite: A 30-level Hebrew course or the equivalent is recommended.
An introduction to Talmudic scholarship, on the subject of judicial procedure and capital punishment. Attention is paid to modes of argument, literary form, and development of the Talmudic text. No previous study of Talmud is presupposed.

NEJS 37a: The Destruction of European Jewry
Laura Jockusch (TTh 2-3:20)
Why did the Jews become the subject of genocidal hatred? A systematic examination of the anti-Jewish genocide planned and executed by Nazi Germany and the Jewish and general responses to it.

For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

IMES 104a: Islam: Civilization and Institutions
Carl Sharif El-Tobgui (MWTh 12-12:50)
Provides a disciplined study of Islamic civilization from its origins to the modern period. Approaches the study from a humanities perspective. Topics covered will include the Qur'an, tradition, law, theology, politics, Islam and other religions, modern developments, and women in Islam.

NEJS 114b: Ritual in Biblical Narrative
David Wright (TF 11-12:20)
Prerequisite: HBRW 22a or b, NEJS 10a, or permission of the instructor.
A study of narratives in the Hebrew Bible that feature ritual motifs, with attention to ritual theory, literary, and historical-critical analysis.

NEJS 116a: Ancient Near Eastern Religion and Mythology
Tzvi Abusch (MW 2-3:20)
An introduction to the religion, mythology, and thought of the ancient Near East.

NEJS 127a: Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism
Reuven Kimelman (TF 11-12:20)
A survey course of the Second Temple and rabbinic periods focusing on the Bible, the Apocrypha, the Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the writing of Josephus and Philo, the Mishnah, Talmud, and Midrash.

NEJS 128a: Introduction to Christianity
Bernadette Brooten (MWTh 1-1:50)

NEJS 134b: Yiddish Culture in the Modern World
Ellen Kellman (MWTh 12-12:50)
An examination of the rise of modern Yiddish secular culture in Eastern Europe and North America with a particular focus on the literature it produced. Music, criticism, journalism, drama, film, and painting are also studied.

NEJS 140a: Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages
Jonathan Decter (TF 9-30-10-50)
Surveys Jewish political, social and intellectual history in the domains of Islam and Christianity from the rise of Islam (622) to the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain & Portugal (1492 & 1497).

NEJS 148a: Inside Nazi Germany: Social and Political History of the Third Reich
Laura Jockusch (TTh 3:30-4:50)
This course provides an overview on the social and political history of Nazi Germany (1933-1945) covering the most significant topics pertaining to the ideological basis, political structure and functioning, and the political and social mechanisms by which millions of Germans perpetrated war and genocide.

NEJS 155b: Jewish Law and Ethics
Yehudah Mirsky (MW 2-3:20)
Traces the history of Jewish law from the Bible to the present. Jewish law is indispensable for understanding Jewish life, past, present and future, and is a rich source of reflection on law, ethics and religion.

NEJS 159a: Modern Jewish Philosophy
Eugene Sheppard (MW 2-3:20)
Surveys the contours of modern Jewish philosophy by engaging some of its most important themes and voices. Competing Jewish inflections of and responses to rationalism, romanticism, idealism, existentialism, and nihilism.

NEJS 171a: History Lessons: Teaching the Jewish Experience
Jonathan Krasner (Th 2-4:50)
Using American Jewish History as a case study, this course examines why we teach history, what history means within a Jewish context, what we can learn from how history has been taught, and how history might be taught at various age levels and in different contexts.

NEJS 182a: Jewish Life in Film and Fiction
Sylva Barack Fishman (M 2-4:50)
Film and fiction are windows through which we can view transformations in American Jewish life. This course concentrates on cinematic and literary depictions of religious, socioeconomic, and cultural change over the past half-century.

NEJS 184a: Cultural and Historical Jewish Museum Studies
Ellen Smith (T 2-4:50)
Using readings, case studies, field trips, and class discussions, this course gives students introductory theoretical, historical, bibliographic, and hands-on skills for interpreting and producing exhibitions, museums, and historic sites in America, Europe, and Israel.

NEJS 191b: The World to Come: Jewish Messianism from Antiquity to Zionism
Yehuda Mirsky (MW 3:30-4:50)
Messianism, the conviction that the world will one day, slowly or suddenly, be a better, perfect place has been an inspiration, temptation and both, throughout Jewish history, and the history of Western religion. We will explore Messianism's origins, complicated history and the fascinating role it has played in modernity, especially in the history of Zionism and the politics of the State of Israel. We will see how an ancient idea can, for good or ill, yield radical politics today.
For Graduate Students

NEJS 200a: Elementary Akkadian
Staff (Adjunct) (TF 12:30-1:50)
Introduction to Akkadian grammar and lexicon and cuneiform script. This course is for beginning students of Akkadian.

NEJS 201a Akkadian Literary Texts I
Tzvi Abusch (TTh 5-6:20)
Prerequisite: NEJS 200b or the equivalent.

NEJS 206a: Advanced Northwest Semitics
David Wright (TF 9:30-10:50)
Continued reading of various Northwest Semitic texts with attention to historical grammar and content. May be repeated for credit.

NEJS 218a: Contesting Gender and Sexuality, Making Early Christianity
Bernadette Brooten/Karen King (W 5-7:50)
Investigation of how early Christians (1st-4th C.) contested and reshaped attitudes toward the family and sexuality, redefined ethnicity, and negotiated imperial power, while also appropriating many of the values and assumptions of a highly stratified slave society.

NEJS 231a: Graduate Proseminar in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
Jon Levisohn (W 5-7:50)
Required Proseminar for all first semester NEJS graduate students. Explores theoretical and critical texts of the humanities and social sciences and their connection to diverse fields within Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

NEJS 236a: Seminar on Jewish and Israeli Historiography
David Ellenson (W 2-4:50)
Introduces students to the emergence of history as an academic discipline in the nineteenth century and to provide some acquaintance with the classics of historical scholarship. It will also examine the emergence of Jewish historiography and analyze critically the works of the major Jewish historians. In addition, it will assess the contributions of the “new” historians to historical understanding and see how far their insights can aid in the study of key problems in Jewish history.

NEJS 236b: Jews of the Russian Empire
ChaeRan Freeze (TF 11-12:20)
A discussion of Jewish life in the Polish lands, and the Jews under tsarist rule and Imperial rule, the confrontation of traditional Jewish community with modernity, the haskalah movement, the Jewish family, popular culture, anti-Jewish violence, the rise of new political and cultural movements, and emigration.

For course prerequisites & limits, please consult the 2016-2017 Brandeis University Bulletin:
www.brandeis.edu/registrar/bulletin/provisional/

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NEJS FACULTY:
Tzvi Abusch – Languages and cultures of ancient Mesopotamia
Guy Antebi – Hebrew language
Bernadette Brooten – Christian studies
Jonathan Decter – Medieval Judaism; Sephardic Jewry
Chair, NEJS
Carl Sharif El-Tobgui – Arabic & Islamic Studies
Director of Arabic Language Program
Sharon Feiman-Nemser – Jewish education
Sylvia Barack Fishman – Contemporary Jewry and American Jewish sociology and literature
ChaeRan Freeze – East European history
Director of Graduate Studies
Sarah Hascal – Hebrew language
Laura Jockusch – Modern Jewish history/Holocaust studies
David Karjala – Arabic language
Ellen Kellman – Yiddish language and literature
Reuven Kimelman – Talmud, Midrash & Liturgy
Jonathan Krasner – Jewish education
Jon Levisohn – Jewish education
Director, Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education
Yehudah Mirsky – Israel studies
Ari Ofengenden – Hebrew language
Director, Hebrew Language & Literature
Sharon Rivo – Jewish film
Executive Director, National Center for Jewish Film
Jonathan D. Sarna – American Jewish history
Chair, Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program
Eugene Sheppard – Modern Jewish history and thought
Esther Shorr – Hebrew language
Ellen Smith – Museum, visual & material culture
Director, Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program
Ilana Szobel – Modern Hebrew literature
Ilan Troen – Israeli studies
Jacqueline Vayntrub – Hebrew Bible
David Wright – Languages and literatures of the Ancient Near East

Visiting & Adjunct Faculty
David Ellenson, Interim Director, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies
Fall 2016: Arabic Language and Literature Program

ARBC 10a (1): Beginning Arabic I
Karjala/Staff (MWF 10:10-11:50, TF 9:30-10:50)
Six class hours per week.
A first course in literary Arabic, covering essentials of grammar, reading, pronunciation, translation, and composition. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a is required to take ARBC 20b.

ARBC 10a (2): Beginning Arabic I
Karjala/Staff (MWF 11:10-12:50, TF 11:00-12:20)
Six class hours per week.
A first course in literary Arabic, covering essentials of grammar, reading, pronunciation, translation, and composition. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a is required to take ARBC 20b.

ARBC 30a: Intermediate Arabic I
David Karjala (MWF 1:10-2:50, TF 12:30-1:50)
Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 20B or the equivalent. Six class hours per week.
Continuation of ARBC 10a and 20b. Study of more advanced grammatical and syntactical forms, reading, speaking, composition and translation. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 30a is required to take any higher-level course.

ARBC 103a: Lower Advanced Arabic
Carl El-Tobgui (MTWTH 10:10-11:50)
Prerequisite: ARBC 40b or the equivalent. Four class-hours per week.
Designed to help the student attain advanced proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding. The syllabus includes selections from modern texts representing a variety of styles and genres, advanced composition, and sustained development of oral-aural proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 103a is required to take ARBC 103b.

ARBC 106a: Advanced Arabic I: Contemporary Arabic Literature
Carl El-Tobgui (MTWTH 9:40-11:30)
Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 103b or the equivalent. Four class hours per week.
Develops advanced reading competence through a variety of modern literary texts focusing on contemporary Arab society, culture, and intellectual life. Continued solidification of advanced grammar and style with application through frequent writing assignments, both analytical and creative. Class conducted entirely in Arabic. Usually offered every year.

Fall 2016: Hebrew Language and Literature Program

HBRW 10a (1): Beginning Hebrew
Guy Antebi (MWF 9:40-11:20, TF 9:30-10:50)
Six class hours per week and one additional lab hour per week.
For students with no previous knowledge and those with a minimal background. Intensive training in the basics of Hebrew grammar, listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Several sections will be offered. Usually offered every semester.

HBRW 10a (2): Beginning Hebrew
Esther Shorr (MWF 11:10-12:50, TF 11:00-12:20)
Six class hours per week and one additional lab hour per week.
For students with no previous knowledge and those with a minimal background. Intensive training in the basics of Hebrew grammar, listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Several sections will be offered. Usually offered every semester.

HBRW 10a (2): Beginning Hebrew - Honors
Sarah Hascal (MWTh 1:10-2:50, TF 12:30-1:50)
Prerequisite: Hebrew placement exam. Only one 10-level Hebrew course may be taken for credit. Six class hours and one additional lab hour per week.
A beginner course for those students with some exposure to Hebrew. Builds upon the initial exposure, continuing to teach the basics of grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and writing. Usually offered every year.

HBRW 20a (1): Intermediate Hebrew
Esther Shorr (MWF 12:20-1:00, TF 12:30-1:50)
Prerequisite: HBRW 10a or the equivalent as determined by placement examination. Only one 20-level Hebrew course may be taken for credit. Four class hours and one lab hour per week.
Continuation of HBRW 10a, employing the same methods. Intensive training in Hebrew grammar, listening, comprehension, reading, and writing. Several sections offered every semester.

HBRW 20a (2): Intermediate Hebrew
Esther Shorr (MWThF 10:10-11:50)
Prerequisite: HBRW 10a or the equivalent as determined by placement examination. Only one 20-level Hebrew course may be taken for credit. Four class hours and one lab hour per week.
Continuation of HBRW 10a, employing the same methods. Intensive training in Hebrew grammar, listening, comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Several sections offered every semester.

HBRW 34a (1): Intermediate Hebrew II
Guy Antebi (MWThF 11:10-12:50)
Prerequisite: Any 20-level Hebrew course or the equivalent as determined by placement examination. Four class hours and one lab hour per week.
A continuation of HBRW 20b. An intermediate- to mid-level course that helps students strengthen their skills at this level. Contemporary cultural aspects will be stressed and a variety of materials will be used. Usually offered every semester.

HBRW 34a (2): Intermediate Hebrew II
Guy Antebi (MWTh 12:12-1:50, F 12:30-1:20)
Prerequisite: Any 20-level Hebrew course or the equivalent as determined by placement examination. Four class hours and one lab hour per week.
A continuation of HBRW 20b. An intermediate- to mid-level course that helps students strengthen their skills at this level. Contemporary cultural aspects will be stressed and a variety of materials will be used. Usually offered every semester.

HBRW 35a: Intermediate Hebrew II: Conversation and Writing
New Contract (MTWTh 10:10-11:50)
Prerequisite: HBRW 20b or the equivalent as determined by placement examination. This course is recommended for students who have not previously studied Hebrew at Brandeis and have been placed at this level. Four class hours and one lab hour per week.
An intermediate-level course designed to improve the linguistic and writing skills of students who have an extensive background in the language but lack the academic skills to fulfill the language requirements or to pursue a higher level of Hebrew or Judaic studies. Usually offered every year in the fall.

HBRW 41a: Advanced Intermediate Hebrew: Intensive Conversation
Ari Ofengenden (MW 2:30-3:20, F 12:30-1:20)
Prerequisite: Any 30-level Hebrew course or the equivalent. Students may take this course and HBRW 44b for credit. Four class hours per week.
For students who have acquired an intermediate knowledge of Hebrew and who wish to develop a greater fluency in conversation. This course does not satisfy the language requirement for the NEJS major or the major in Hebrew. Usually offered every year in the fall.

HBRW 123a: Creative Reading and Writing in Hebrew
Sarah Hascal (TTh 2:30-3:20, F 1:30-2:20)
Four class hours per week.
An intermediate- to mid/high-level course, which focuses on modern Hebrew prose and poetry stressing major trends. Students are expected to acquire better fluency in reading, writing, and conversation. Usually offered every year.
HBRW 162a: Hebrew Translation Practice and Theory
Ari Ofengenden (MW 3:30-4:50)
Focuses on the practice and theory of Hebrew to English translation. Students will translate and edit authentic materials (literary texts, television series, film, internet sites, speeches and newspapers.) We will also use short texts on the theory and practice of translation in order to reflect on our own translation practices. Usually offered every year.

HBRW 164b: Israeli Theater
Sarah Hascal (T 6:30-9:20)
Prerequisite: Five semesters of Hebrew or permission of the instructor. Four class hours and two lab hours per week. An advanced course that enhances advanced language skills through reading and analysis of plays. The student's creativity is developed through participation in acting and creative writing lab. In reading plays, students can also participate in Hebrew acting lab. Usually offered every second year in the fall.

YDSH 10a: Beginning Yiddish
Ellen Kellman (MTWTh 11-11:50)
The first of a four-semester sequence, this course introduces basic Yiddish grammar. Students also develop reading, writing, and conversational skills. Yiddish songs, poetry, and folklore are incorporated throughout. Usually offered every year.

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Fall 2016: Hebrew Placement Information

Hebrew 10:
No exam necessary. Please place yourself in the appropriate section according to these criteria:
If you have no knowledge of Hebrew, or if you have partial knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet and know 10 to 20 words you are considered a beginner and should register for Hebrew 10.
If you are familiar with the Hebrew alphabet and know 30-50 words, or you have some minor background in Hebrew, you are considered an advanced beginner and should register for Hebrew 19 (Honors).

Hebrew 20, 29 (Honors), and Hebrew 30
If you think your level is above Hebrew 10, please download* and print the Placement Exam or take it online and return it to the Hebrew Department completed, handwritten in ink, along with the questionnaire. Please email scanned copy of your Placement Exam (or fax) at least a week before Pre-Enrollment or Registration starts. The department will notify you of the result via email. Please register for the assigned section.

Hebrew 40 and above
If your placement exam indicated that your level in Hebrew is 40 or above you are a candidate for exemption from the university language requirement. Please note that exemption can only be given based on an exemption test (written and oral). Please contact the Hebrew Program upon arrival at Brandeis to arrange for the exemption exam. The Hebrew Department will notify you and suggest to you a variety of upper level courses which you may enjoy in either level 40 or level 100. Please send the questionnaire and your completed Placement Exam to:

Hebrew Program
Brandeis University
415 South St., MS 038
Waltham, MA 02453
Fax 781-736-2415

*http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/newstudent/testing.html#hebrtest