NEJS 104a: Comparative Semitic Languages
David Wright (TF 11-12:20)
An introduction to and description of the Semitic languages, the internal relationships within this linguistic family, and the distinctive grammatical and lexical features of the individual languages.

NEJS 110b: Readings in the Hebrew Bible—Ecclesiastes
Bronson Brown-deVost (MW 2-3:20)
Prerequisites: NEJS 10a or 40-level HBRW course or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit.
Close reading of the Hebrew text, paying careful attention to grammar, lexicon and syntax. Will also explore some of the earliest reactions to the book and thus gain a better sense of the tensions reflected in Israelite wisdom traditions.

NEJS 123b: Midrashic Literature: Sifre Deuteronomy
Reuven Kimelman (TF 11-12:20)
Prerequisite: A 40-level HBRW course or the equivalent.
Focus on the midrashic understanding of the Shema and the Poem Ha-Azinu, of Deuteronomy 32. Acquire facility in the reading of Midrash and access to Rabbinc thought.

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

NEJS 133a: Art, Artifacts, and History: The Material Culture of Modern Jews
Ellen Smith (TTh 5-6:20)
An interpretive, bibliographic, and hands-on study of the material (non-textual) culture of American and European Jews since 1600. Taught in a comparative cultural context. Analyzes how objects, architecture, visual images, bodies, museums, and memorials can help us understand and interpret social, cultural, and religious history.

NEJS 137a: The Destruction of European Jewry
Jeremy Eichler (TF 12:30-1:50)
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.

NEJS 140b: Early Modern Jewish History
ChaeRan Freeze (TF 9:30-10:50)
Examines Jewish history and culture in early modern Europe: mass conversions on the Iberian peninsula, migrations, reconversions back to Judaism, the printing revolution, the Reformation and Counter Reformation, ghettos, gender, family, everyday life, material culture, communal structure, rabbinical culture, mysticism, magic, science, messianic movements, Hasidism, mercantilism, and early modern challenges to Judaism.

NEJS 141b: Human Rights: Law, Politics, and Theology
Yehudah Mirsky (MW 3:30-4:50)
How did human rights work arise in recent decades, and why only then? Is it a new sort of religion? What critical thinking will help this vast work of advocacy, international law, democratization and humanitarianism alleviate human suffering?

NEJS 144a: Jews in the World of Islam
Jonathan Decter (TF 11-12:20)
Examines social and cultural history of Jewish communities in the Islamic world. Special emphasis is placed on the pre-modern Jewish communities.

NEJS 145a: History of the State of Israel
Ilan Troen (MW 3:30-4:50)
Examines the development of the State of Israel from its foundation to the present time. Israel's politics, society, and culture will be thematically analyzed.

NEJS 154a: World Without God: Theories of Secularization
Eugene Sheppard (MW 2-3:20)
This advanced undergraduate course surveys various debates concerning the historical process and philosophical-political significance of secularization, most especially the secularization of political norms and political theology. Concentrates on the history of European thought from the 17th century to the 20th century, with special reference to the encounter between Judaism and Christianity and modes of modern rationalist criticism.

NEJS 154b: Israel: Dilemmas of Identity
Yehudah Minsky (MW 2-3:20)
Explores the relations between pluralism, religious resurgence, secularism and democracy in our time through readings in history, literature, philosophy, sociology, theology and law. Focuses on one fascinating, contentious and deeply consequential place: The State of Israel.

NEJS 156a: Judaism Confronts America
Jonathan Sarna (TTh 2-3:20)
Examines, through a close reading of selected primary sources, central issues and tensions in American Jewish life, paying attention to their historical background and to issues of Jewish law.

NEJS 170b: Inside Jewish Education
Sharon Feiman-Nemser (W 9-11:50)
Combines autobiography, classroom videotapes, curriculum investigation and fieldwork to explore the purposes, practices and effects of contemporary Jewish education in its many forms and venues.

NEJS 173b: American Jewish Writers in the Twentieth Century
Sylvia Fishman (TTh 3:30-4:50)
American Jewish fiction in the twentieth century presents a panorama of Jewish life from immigration through contemporary times. Short stories, novels, and memoirs illuminate how changing educational and occupational opportunities, transformations in family life, shifting relationships between the genders, and conflict between Jewish and American value systems have played themselves out in lives of Jewish Americans.

NEJS 174a: Minorities and Others in Israeli Literature and Culture
Ilana Szobel (TTh 3:30-4:50)
Taught in Hebrew.
An exploration of poetics and identity in modern Hebrew literature. By offering a feminist and psychoanalytic reading of various Hebrew texts, this seminar explores questions of personal and national identity, otherness, visibility, and marginality in the Israeli context.

NEJS 180b: Israeli Literature and Film in Translation
Ilana Szobel (TTh 2-3:20)
Taught in English.
Looking at both central, established and edgy, new stories, poems and films, course examines various aspects of the way Israelis talk to each other and the world, and presents a multilayered—often conflicting—picture of Israeli culture through different voices and mediums.

NEJS 181b: Film and the Holocaust
Sharon Rivo (T 2-4:50)
Examines the medium of film, propaganda, documentary, and narrative fiction relevant to the history of the Holocaust. Uses film to shape, justify, document, interpret, and imagine the Holocaust. Beginning with the films produced by the Third Reich, the course includes films produced immediately after the events, as well as contemporary feature films. The focus will be how the film as a medium, works to (re)present meaning(s).

NEJS 185a: Conflict and Consensus in Israeli Society: Topics in Israeli Social History
Ilan Troen (MW 5-6:20)
Not recommended for first year students.
Focuses on key topics in the shaping of the Israeli experience, including Zionist colonization; absorption of immigrants; shaping Jewish identity, personal and national, in a secular sense; and homeland/Diaspora relations. Comparative perspectives are employed.

NEJS 186a: Introduction to the Qur’an
Suheil Laher (TR 2-3:20)
Traces the history of the Qur’an as text, its exegesis, and its role in inter-religious polemics, law, theology, and politics. Examines the role of Qur’an in Islamic teachings and its global impact.
NEJS 198a: Islam and the West
Carl El-Tobgui (M/WTh 10-10:50)
Explores the major political, socio-economic, and cultural changes in the Middle East from the rise of Islam to present times with emphasis on Islam’s encounter with The West. Focuses on common roots and mutual influences and analysis of (mis)perceptions as historically constructed cultural categories and of their legacy in the modern world.

NEJS 202b: Akkadian Mythological/Religious Texts II
Bronson Brown-deVost (MW 3:30-4:50)
Prerequisite: NEJS 202a or the equivalent.

NEJS 211b: The History of Israelite Religions
David Wright (TF 9:30-10:50)
Examines recent scholarly reconstructions of the development and nature of popular and elite-sanctioned religions in ancient Israel in view of textual and archaeological evidence.

NEJS 235b: Philosophy of Jewish Education
Jon Levisohn (Th 9-11:50)
What should Jewish education be? What are its legitimate goals? What are the competing visions of an educated Jew, and how do these influence educational practice? How is Jewish education similar to and different from other kinds of religious education?

NEJS 263b: Colloquium in American Jewish History
Jonathan Sarna (T 9-11:50)
Examines major themes in the historiography of American Jewry. Readings span a broad range of themes, chronological eras, and historical approaches, including Colonial America, waves of immigration, developments in the diverse wings of Judaism, changes in Jewish educational strategies, and the impact of the Holocaust and Holocaust studies on American Judaism.

HRNS 231b: The American Jewish Community in Historical Perspective
Jonathan Sarna (T 9-11:50)
Uses history to shed light on the issues and challenges facing the contemporary American Jewish community. This course asks how the community assumed its current shape, and uses a series of historical case studies to examine past crises and the lessons that might be learned from them.

For course prerequisites & limits, please consult the 2015-2016 Brandeis University Bulletin:
www.brandeis.edu/registrar/bulletin/provisional/
### Spring 2016: Arabic Language and Literature Program

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui, Director  
Department of Near Eastern & Judaic Studies  
Office: Lown 206  Phone: 781-736-2071

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days/Time</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ARBC 20b (1): Beginning Arabic II  
Karjala/Azoni  
(MWTh 10-10:50, TF 9:30-10:50) | Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a or the equivalent. Six class hours per week.  
Continuation of ARBC 10a. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 20b is required to take a 30-level ARBC course. |       |     |                                                   |         |                                                                                                                                            |
| ARBC 20b (2): Beginning Arabic II  
Karjala/Azoni  
(MWTh 11-11:50, TF 11:00-12:20) | Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a or the equivalent. Six class hours per week.  
Continuation of ARBC 10a. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 20b is required to take a 30-level ARBC course. |       |     |                                                   |         |                                                                                                                                            |
| ARBC 40b: Intermediate Arabic II  
David Karjala  
(MWTh 1-1:50, TF 12:30-1:50) | Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 30a or the equivalent. Six class hours per week.  
Continuation of ARBC 30a. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 40b is required to take ARBC 103a. |       |     |                                                   |         |                                                                                                                                            |
| ARBC 103b: Middle Advanced Arabic: Contemporary Arab Media  
Mostafa Hussein  
(MTWH 10-10:50) | Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 103a or the equivalent. Four class hours per week.  
Continuation of ARBC 103a. Intensive honing primarily of oral-aural skills and vocabulary building with concentration on the spoken media of the contemporary Arab world. Review and reinforcement of major grammatical topics as needed. |       |     |                                                   |         |                                                                                                                                            |
| ARBC 106b: Advanced Arabic II: Classical Arabic & Islamic Literature  
Carl El-Tobgui  
(MTWH 1-1:50) | Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 106a or the equivalent. Four class hours per week.  
Continuation of ARBC 106a. Develops advanced competence in reading and understanding classical texts, including a systematic introduction to some of the grammatical features typical of this genre. Readings include a variety of materials – including poetry – related to classical Arabic and Islamic literature, religion, history, and culture. Class conducted entirely in Arabic. |       |     |                                                   |         |                                                                                                                                            |