**NEJS 104a: Comparative Semitic Languages**
David Wright  
(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 2:30-4:50)  
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 125b: Midrashic Literature: Sifre Deuteronomy**
Reuven Kimelman  
(MW 1:50-3:20)  
Prerequisite: A 40-level Hebrew course or the equivalent. Focus on the midrashic understanding of the Shema and the Poem Ha-Azini, of Deuteronomy 32. Acquire facility in the reading of Midrash and access to Rabbinic thought.

**NEJS 133a: Art, Artifacts, and History: The Material Culture of Modern Jews**
Ellen Smith  
(TTh 3:20-4:50)  
An interpretive, bibliographic, and hands-on study of the material (non-textual) culture of American and European Jews since 1500 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 145b: Israel: Dilemmas of Identity**
Yehudah Mirsky  
(MW 2:30-4:20)  
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 146a: Judaism Confronts America**
Jonathan Sarna  
(TTh 2:30-4:50)  
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 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 195a: Muhammad: The History of a Prophet
Adjunct
(TR 3:30-4:50)
Studies the life of Muhammad based upon the earliest biographical accounts and the academic analyses in both Islamic and non-Islamic sources, accompanied by an examination of his legacy in different aspects of Islam, such as Shi’ism and Sufism.

NEJS 198a: Islam and the West
Carl El-Tobgui
(MWTh 10-10:50)
Examines major themes in the historiography of American Jewry.

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.

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NEJS Faculty:
Tzvi Abusch – Languages and cultures of ancient Mesopotamia
Guy Antebi – Hebrew language
Bernadette Brotton – Christian studies
Jonathan Decter – Sephardic studies; 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
David Karjala – Arabic language
Ellen Kelman – Yiddish language and literature
Reuven Kimelman – Talmud, Midrash & Liturgy
Jonathan Krasner – Jewish education
Jon Levisohn – Jewish education
Kanan Makiya – Middle Eastern studies
Yehudah Mirsky – Israel studies
Ari Ofengenden – Hebrew language
Director, Hebrew Language & Literature
Bonit Porath – Hebrew language
Sharon Rovo – Jewish film
Jonathan D. Sarna – American Jewish history
Eugene Sheppard – Modern Jewish history and thought
Esther Shorr – Hebrew language
Ellen Smith – Homestay Jewish Professional Leadership
Ilana Szobel – Modern Hebrew literature; Undergrad Advising Head
Ilan Troen – Israel studies
David Wright – Languages and literatures of the Ancient Near East

Visiting & Adjunct Faculty
Rasha Azoni – Arabic Language
Allison Blecker – Arabic literature
Aliza Brosh – Hebrew language
Bronson Brown-deVost – The Bible and its interpretation
Jeremy Eichler – Holocaust studies
David Ellenson – Interim Director, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies
Mostafa Hussein – Arabic Language
Suheil Laher – Islamic studies

NEJS 156a: Modern Questions, Jewish Answers: Modern Jewish Responsa Literature
David Ellenson
(W 6:30-9:20)
The genre of Jewish literature known as Responsa has long been central to Jewish Law. This course will focus on a large spectrum of response with significant attention being given to ones written by Israeli rabbis on a host of contemporary issues.

NEJS 194a: Modern Arabic Literature: Reading Identity, Politics, and Society
Allison Blecker
(TR 5-6:20)
Introduces modern Arabic literature through the study of texts in translation. Surveys a range of novels, short stories, autobiographies, poems, plays, and films with a focus on the second half of the 20th century.

AMST 150a: The History of Childhood and Youth in America
Jonathan Krasner
(TF 12:30-1:50)
Examines cultural ideas and policies about childhood and youth as well as child-rearing and parenting strategies, child-saving, socialization, delinquency, children’s literature, television, and other media for children and youth.

COMPL 100a: Introduction to Global Literature
Ari Ofengenden
(TR 3:30-4:50)

HIST 214b: Ethnicity and Religion in the USSR
ChaeRan Freeze/Gregory Freeze
(TB 3:30-4:50)
Examines the ethno-confessional dimension of Soviet history. Explores questions of nationalism, policies of indigenization, creation of ethnic identities, religious wars, Russification, and the fate of religion.

HOID NEW: Crime and Punishment
Eugene Sheppard/David Sherman
(Th 2-3:2)
### 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 Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARBC 20b (1): Beginning Arabic II</td>
<td>Karjala/Azoni</td>
<td>(MWF Th 10-10:50, TF 9:30-10:50)</td>
<td>A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a or the equivalent. Six class hours per week.</td>
<td>Continuation of ARBC 10a. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 20b is required to take a 30-level ARBC course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARBC 20b (2): Beginning Arabic II</td>
<td>Karjala/Azoni</td>
<td>(MWF Th 10-10:50, TF 11-12:20)</td>
<td>A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a or the equivalent. Six class hours per week.</td>
<td>Continuation of ARBC 10a. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 20b is required to take a 30-level ARBC course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARBC 40b: Intermediate Arabic I</td>
<td>David Karjala</td>
<td>(MWF Th 1-1:50, TF 12:30-1:50)</td>
<td>A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 30a or the equivalent. Six class hours per week.</td>
<td>Continuation of ARBC 30a. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 40b is required to take ARBC 103a.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARBC 103b: Middle Advanced Arabic: Contemporary Arab Media</td>
<td>Mostafa Hussein</td>
<td>(MT WTh 10-10:50)</td>
<td>A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 103a or the equivalent. Four class hours per week.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARBC 106b: Advanced Arabic II: Classical Arabic &amp; Islamic Literature</td>
<td>Carl El-Tobgui</td>
<td>(MT WTh 1-1:50)</td>
<td>A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 106a or the equivalent. Four class hours per week.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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