

Brand New NEJS Courses this Semester!

NEJS 177b: Judeo Arabic Literature

Jonathan Decter (TTh 2-3:30)
Survey of Judeo-Arabic literature including literary, epistolary, exegetic, theological, and philosophical genres.

NEJS 189b: Memory Wars: Collective Memory, Political Myths and History

Michael Feige (TTh 3:30-5:00)
Examines the question of understanding, interpreting and using the past as an issue of growing interest in the world today. This course will discuss theories and cases regarding the presence of the past in contemporary society, culture and politics, with special concentration on Israel and the Middle East. Special one-time offering spring 2012.

NEJS 195a: Muhammad: The History of a Prophet

Joseph Lombard (MW 2-3:30)
A study of the life of Muhammad based upon the earliest biographical accounts and the academic analyses in both Islamic and not-Islamic sources, accompanied by an examination of his legacy in different aspects of Islam, such as Shi'ism and Sufism.

For course prerequisites & limits, please consult the 2011-2012 Brandeis University Bulletin

IMES 105a: War and Revolution in the Middle East

Kanan Makiya (TF 9:30-11)
Considers the impact of war and revolution in the shaping of the modern Middle East starting with the Arab-Israeli war of 1967. Focuses on the violent turning points that have affected millions of lives. (X-listed w/NEJS)

NEJS 101b: Old Babylonian Akkadian Texts

Tzvi Abusch (MW 2-3:30)
Prerequisite: NEJS 101a or the equivalent
Review of grammar and reading of old Babylonian historical inscriptions, laws, letters, and literary texts.

NEJS 104a: Comparative Semitic Languages

David Wright (MWTh 12-1)
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 113a: The Bible in Aramaic

David Wright (MWTh 1-2)
Prerequisite: HBRW 122a or b, NEJS 10a, or permission of the instructor.
A study of the language and text of the Targumim, Qumran Aramaic Paraphrases, and the Syriac Peshitta.

NEJS 126b: Agadic Literature: The Ethics of the Fathers

Reuven Kimelman (TF 9:30-11)
A study of the Mishnah Avot and its classical commentaries. Focuses primarily on literary and historical questions.

NEJS 135a: The Modern Jewish Experience

Eugene Sheppard (MW 2-3:30)
Themes include Enlightenment, Hasidism, emancipation, Jewish identity in the modern world (acculturation and assimilation), development of dominant nationalism in Judaism, Zionism, European Jewry between the world wars, Holocaust, the creation of the State of Israel, and contemporary Jewish life in America, Israel, and Europe

NEJS 140a: Under Crescent and Cross: Jews in the Middle Ages

Jonathan Decter (TTh 3:30-5)
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 (1492) and Portugal (1497). Topics include the legal status of Jews, Jewish communal organization, persecution and response, inter-religious polemics, conversion, the origins of anti-Judaism, and trends in Jewish law, philosophy, literature, and mysticism.

NEJS 141a: Russian Jews in the Twentieth Century

ChaeRan Freeze (TF 9:30-11)
Examines Russian Jewish history from 1917 to the present. Focuses on the tsarist legacy, Russian Revolution, the creation of a new socialist society, development of Yiddish culture, the "Great Turn" under Stalin, Holocaust, post war Judaism, anti-Semitism, emigration, and current events.

NEJS 162a: American Judaism

Jonathan Sarna (TTh 2-3:30)
American Judaism from the earliest settlement to the present, with particular emphasis on the various streams of American Judaism, Judaism's place in American religion and comparisons to Judaism in other countries.

NEJS 171a: Modern Jewish Literatures: Text, Image and Context

Ellen Kellman (MWTh 1-2)
Introduces important works of modern Jewish literature and film. Taking a comparative approach, it addresses major themes in contemporary Jewish culture, interrogates the "Jewishness" of the works and considers issues of language, poetics, and culture significant to Jewish identity.

NEJS 173b: American Jewish Writers in the Twentieth Century

Sylvia Fishman (T 5-8)
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 174b: Line of Resistance: Israeli Women Writers on War and Peace

Ilana Szobel (MW 2-3:30)
Prerequisite: HBRW 141a, 143a, 144a, 146a, or permission of the instructor. Course is taught in Hebrew.
An exploration of nationalism and gender in Modern Hebrew literature. By discussing various Hebrew texts and Israeli works of art and film, this course explores women's relationship to Zionism, war, peace, the state, politics, and processes of cultural production

NEJS 177a: The Holocaust in Israeli and Jewish Literature

Ilana Szobel (MW 3:30-5)
A broad survey of Holocaust writings in Modern Jewish literature. Examines the psychological, social, moral, and aesthetic challenges involved in representing the Holocaust in Israeli, American, and European context through literary texts, theoretical research, works of art, and film. Taught in English.

NEJS 181a: Jews on Screen: Cohen's Fire Sale to the Coen Brothers

Sharon Rivo (T 2-5, Th 5-6)
Survey course focusing on moving images of Jews and Jewish life in fiction and factual films. Includes early Russian and American silent, home movies of European Jews, Yiddish feature films, Israeli cinema, independent films, and Hollywood classics.

NEJS 186a: Introduction to the Qur'an

Joseph Lombard (MWTh 11-12)
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 the Qur'an in modern Islamic movements.

NEJS 197b: Political Cultures of the Middle East

Kanan Makiya (M 2-5)
Explores the way in which people make assumptions about power, authority, and justice. Focuses on Israel, Turkey, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq, explaining the nature of political power in these states.

NEJS 202b: Akkadian Mythological /ReligiousTexts II

Tzvi Abusch (MW 3:30-5)

Prerequisite: NEJS 202a or the equivalent.

NEJS 235b: Philosophy of Jewish Education

Jon Levisohn (Th 8:30-11:30)

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?

YDSH 20b: Continuing Yiddish

Ellen Kellman (MTWTh 11-12)

Prerequisite: YDSH 10a or permission of the instructor.

Continues the study of grammar begun in YDSH 10a. Greater emphasis on writing and speaking skills; increases vocabulary and reading skills needed to approach more complex texts. Yiddish songs, films, and literature

YDSH 40b: Advanced Intermediate Yiddish

Ellen Kellman (MTWTh 10-11)

Prerequisite: YDSH 30a or permission of the instructor.

The fourth in a four-semester sequence, this course is a continuation of YDSH 30a. Students discuss assigned texts in Yiddish. Written assignments emphasize the development of fluency and grammatical accuracy

OTHER COURSES TAUGHT BY NEJS FACULTY

WMGS 5a: Women and Gender in Culture and Society

ChaeRan Freeze (TF 11-12:30)

This interdisciplinary course introduces central concepts and topics in the field of women's and gender studies. Explores the position of women in diverse settings and the impact of gender as a social, cultural, and intellectual category in the United States and around the globe.

HUM 10a: The Western Canon – Understanding Evil and Human Destiny

Reuven Kimelman (TF 11--12:30)

Designed to introduce students to some of the Western classics that deal with the impact of evil on human destiny. Suffering, justice, and death are studied in their relationship with God, the world, and history.

NEJS FACULTY:

Sylvia Barack Fishman – **Chair**, Contemporary Jewry and American Jewish sociology and literature

Tzvi Abusch – Languages and cultures of ancient Mesopotamia

Guy Antebi – Hebrew language

Marc Brettler–The Bible and its interpretation

Bernadette Brooten – Christian studies

Jonathan Decter – Sephardic studies (Graduate Advisor)

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui, **Director** of Arabic Language Program

Sharon Feiman-Nemser – Jewish education

ChaeRan Freeze – East European history

Sarah Hascal – Hebrew language

David Karjala – Arabic Language

Ellen Kellman – Yiddish language and literature

Reuven Kimelman – Talmud, Midrash & Liturgy

Jon Levisohn – Jewish education

Joseph Lumbard – (**Chair, IMES**) Classical Islam

Kanan Makiya –Middle Eastern studies

Antony Polonsky– E. European Jewish history& Holocaust studies

Bonit Porath – Hebrew language

Vardit Ringvald – **Director** of Hebrew Language Program

Sharon Rivo – Jewish film

Jonathan D. Sarna – American Jewish history

Eugene Sheppard – Modern Jewish history and thought

Esther Shorr – Hebrew language

Ellen Smith – Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership

Ilana Szobel – Modern Hebrew literature

(Undergraduate Advisor)

Ilan Troen – **Director**, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies

David Wright –Languages and literatures of the Ancient Near East

Visit our website at:

www.brandeis.edu/departments/nejs



N

E

J

S

Spring 2012 COURSE OFFERINGS DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN AND JUDAIC STUDIES

Brandeis University

MS 054, P.O.Box 9110

Waltham, MA. 02454-9110

Fax:(781) 736-2070

Phone: (781) 736-2950

Joanne Arnish

Department Administrator

(jarnish@brandeis.edu)

Jean Mannion

Department Coordinator

(mannion@brandeis.edu)

Spring 2012: Arabic Language and Literature Program

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui, Director

Department of Near Eastern & Judaic Studies

Lown 206

Phone: 781-736-2071

ARBC 20b (1): Continuing Literary Arabic

David Karjala

(MWTh10-11, TF 9:30-11)

Prerequisite: ARBC 10a or the equivalent.

A second course in literary Arabic, covering more grammar, reading, pronunciation, translation, and composition.

ARBC 20b (2): Continuing Literary Arabic

David Karjala

(MWTh 11:00-12:00, TF 11-12:30)

Prerequisite: ARBC 10a or the equivalent.

A second course in literary Arabic, covering more grammar, reading, pronunciation, translation, and composition.

ARBC 40b Advanced Intermediate Literary Arabic

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui

(MTWThF 12-1)

Prerequisite: ARBC 30A or the equivalent.

Additional readings in related classical and modern syntactical forms. Drills in pronunciation and composition.

ARBC 103b: Advanced Literary Arabic II

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui

(MTWTh 1-2)

Prerequisite: ARBC 103a or the equivalent.

Additional readings in related classical and modern syntactical forms. Drills in pronunciation and composition.