

For Course Prerequisites & Limits, please consult the 2009-2010 Brandeis University Bulletin

NEW!

IMES 105a: War and Revolution in the Middle East (TF 9-10:30)
Kanan Makiya
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.

NEJS 9a: The World of the Ancient Near East (MWTh 10-11)
David Wright
An introduction to the peoples, history, religions, institutions, and culture of ancient Mesopotamia, Syria, Israel, Anatolia, and Egypt from prehistory to 330 BCE.

NEJS 75a: Yiddish Literature and the Modern Jewish Revolution: from Dybbuk to Yentl (MWTh 11-12)
Ellen Kellman
Introduces students to Yiddish fiction, poetry, and drama created in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Eastern Europe and the Americas.

NEJS 101b: Intermediate Akkadian (MW 3:30 - 5)
Tzvi Abusch
Review of grammar and reading of old Babylonian historical inscriptions, laws, letters, and literary texts.

NEJS 102a: Elementary Hittite (T 1:30-4:30)
David Wright
An introduction to the Hittite language, mainly through readings in Hittite royal annals, treaties, rituals, laws, and myths.

NEJS 111a: The Hebrew Bible (MWTh 11-12)
Marc Brettler
A survey of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). Biblical books will be examined from various perspectives and compared to other ancient Near Eastern compositions. No knowledge of Hebrew is presumed.

NEJS 121b: Biblical Poetry: Love and Death (MW 2-3:30)
Marc Brettler
A close reading of biblical poetic texts, with a consideration of what makes these texts poetic. Topics will change from year to year and the course may be repeated for credit.

NEJS 125b: Midrashic Literature: Sifre Deuteronomy (TF10:30- 12)
Reuven Kimeiman
A close reading and analysis of the midrashic method of the Sifre Deuteronomy.

NEJS 127b: The Jewish Liturgy (TF12- 1:30)
Reuven Kimeiman
A study of the literature, theology, and history of the daily and Sabbath liturgy. Emphasis placed on interplay between literary structure and ideational content, along with discussion of the philosophical issues involved in prayer.

NEJS 130a: The New Testament: a Historical Introduction (MWTh 1-2)
Bernadette Brooten
A study of the main parts of the New Testament, with emphasis on the contents of the books and the historical development of early Christianity.

NEJS 137a The Destruction of European Jewry (MWTh 10 – 11)
Antony Polonsky
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 142a Modern History of East European Jewry (MWTh 12-1)
Antony Polonsky
A comprehensive survey of the history (economic, sociopolitical, and religious) of the Jewish communities in Eastern Europe from the middle of the eighteenth century until World War II, with emphasis placed on the Jews of Poland and Russia.

NEJS 145a: History of the State of Israel (MW 3:30 - 5)
Ilan Troen
Examines the development of the State of Israel from its foundation to the present time. Politics, society, and culture will be thematically analyzed.

NEJS 148b: Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Jews and Christians (MW 5-6:30)
Bernadette Brooten
Introduction to the classical Jewish and Christian sources on same-sex love and to a variety of current interpretations of them, to the evidence for same-sex love among Jews and Christians through the centuries, and to current religious and public policy debates about same-sex love.

NEW!

NEJS 154a: World Without God: Theories of Secularization (TF 12-1:30)
Eugene Sheppard
Surveys debates concerning the historical process and philosophical-political significance of secularization. Concentrates on history of European thought from 17th to 20th centuries, including encounter between Judaism and Christianity and modes of modern rationalist criticism.

NEJS 166a: Carnal Israel: Exploring Jewish Sexuality from Talmudic Times to the Present (TF 9-10:30)
Chaeeran Freeze
Explores the construction of Jewish sexuality from Talmudic times to the present. Themes include rabbinic views of sex, niddah, illicit relations, masculinity, medieval erotic poetry, Ashkenazi and Sephardic sexual practices, and sexual symbolism in mystic literature; the discourse of sex, race, and nationalism in Europe; debates about masculinity, sexual orientation, and stereotypes in America and Israel.

NEJS 167a: East European Jewish Immigration to the U.S. (TF 1:30-3)
Ellen Smith
An historical and cultural survey of the East European Jewish immigration to the U.S. (1881-1924 and to the present).

NEJS 172a: Women in American Jewish Literature (T 1:30 – 4:30)
Sylvia Fishman
Examines portrayals of women in American Jewish literature from a hybrid viewpoint. Explores changing American Jewish mores and values and the changing role of women as revealed by portrayals of women in American Jewish fiction.

NEW!

NEJS 173a: Trauma and Violence in Israeli Literature & Film (TF 12-1:30)
Ilana Szobel
An exploration of trauma and violence in Israeli literature, film, and art. The course focuses on man-made disasters, war and terrorism, sexual and family violence, and murder and suicide, and examines their relation to nationalism, Zionism, gender, and sexual identity. Taught in Hebrew

NEW!

NEJS 178b: Masculinity and Femininity in Israeli Film, Literature and Culture (TF 10:30-12 and T 6:30-8)
Ilana Szobel
Focuses on Israeli film, literature, and culture, exploring how film and literature represent and establish masculinity and femininity. Examines the ways in which film and literature reflect the politics, religions, conflicts, and ideologies of Israeli society.

NEJS 181a: Jews on Screen

Sharon Rivo (T 4:30-7:30, 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, Hollywood Classics, and more.

NEW!

NEJS 186b: Quran: History, Commentary and Hermeneutics (MW 2-3:30)
Joseph Lumbard
Examines the historical development and collection of the Quran, and the emergence of the different schools of Quranic commentary within various branches of Islam and the central themes upon which they focus. Emphasis is placed upon the guiding principles of Quranic commentary and the way in which they give rise to a hermeneutical tradition that is particular to Islam.

NEJS 190a: Describing Cruelty

Kanan Makiya
 (T 1:30-4:30)
 Grapples with the difficult subject of cruelty. Focus is on political or public cruelty in the non-Western world. The method is comparative and involves critical examination of the intellectual, visual, and literary works that engage in the phenomenon.

NEJS 202b: Akkadian Mythological/Religious Texts II

Tzvi Abusch (TBA)
 Prereq: NEJS 202a or permission of instructor.

NEW!**NEJS 211b: History of Israelite Religions**

David Wright (MW 12-1:30)
 A seminar examining recent scholarly reconstructions of the development and nature of popular and elite-sanctioned religions in ancient Israel in view of textual and archaeological evidence.

NEW!**NEJS 282a: Graduate Seminar in Modern Jewish Literature: Culture, Place, and Gender**

Ellen Kellman (MW 3:30-5)
 Introduces works of modern Jewish literature, with an interdisciplinary, comparative approach. Incorporating literary theory, cultural history, and film, will explore major themes in 20th century Jewish literature, "embracing modernity," "utopia/dystopia," "exile and immigration," "Zionism," and "the holocaust."

YDSH 20b: Continuing Yiddish

Ellen Kellman (MWTh 1-2, Th 2-3)
 Continues the study of grammar begun in YDSH 10a. Greater emphasis on writing and speaking skills; increase vocabulary and reading skills needed to approach more complex texts. Yiddish songs, films, and literature.

OTHER COURSES TAUGHT BY NEJS FACULTY**WMGS 5a: Women and Gender in Culture and Society**

ChaeRan Freeze (TF 12-1:30)
 Introduces central concepts and topics in the field of women's and gender studies. Explores the position of women in diverse settings and in the impact of gender as a social, cultural, and intellectual category in the U.S. and around the globe.

CROSS-LISTED COURSES**ANTH 176b: Mythic Tel Aviv**

Maoz Azaryahu (MWTh 1-2)

BISC 2B: Genes, Culture, History: A Case History

Lawrence Wang (TTh 5-6:30)

FA 153a: Israeli Art

Gannit Ankori (TF 12-1:30)

WMGS 140a: Diversity of Muslim Women's Experience

Shavarni, Mifra (TF 12-1:30)

NEJS FACULTY:

Sylvia Fishman – Chair, Contemporary Jewry and American Jewish sociology and literature
 Tzvi Abusch – Languages and cultures of ancient Mesopotamia

Ahmad Ali-Jallad – Arabic language

Guy Antebi – Hebrew language

Marc Brettler – The Bible and its interpretation

Bernadette Brooten – Christian studies

Aliza Brosh – Hebrew language

Jonathan Decter – Sephardic studies

Carl Sharif EL-Tobgui, Director of Arabic Language Program

Sharon Feiman-Nemser – Jewish education

ChaeRan Freeze – East European history

Sarah Hascal – Hebrew language

Ellen Kellman – Yiddish

Reuven Kimelman – Talmud, Midrash & Liturgy

Jon Lewisohn – Jewish education

Avigdor Levy – Middle Eastern studies

Joseph Lumbard – (Chair, IMES) Classical Islam

Kanan Makiya – Middle Eastern studies

Antony Polonsky – E. European Jewish history & Holocaust studies

Bonit Porath – Hebrew language

Benjamin Ravid – Medieval and early modern Jewish history

Jehuda Reinharz – Modern Jewish history

Vardit Ringvald – Director of Hebrew Language Program

Jonathan D. Sarna – American Jewish history

Sherif Shabaka – Arabic language

Eugene Sheppard – Modern Jewish history and thought

Esther Shorr – Hebrew language

Ilana Szobel – Modern Hebrew literature

Ilan Troen – Israel studies

David Wright – Languages and literatures of the ancient Near East



NEJS

Spring 2010
 COURSE OFFERINGS

DEPARTMENT OF
 NEAR EASTERN
 AND JUDAIC STUDIES

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Spring 2010 Arabic Language and Literature Program

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui, Director

Department of Near Eastern & Judaic Studies
ASAC 330 Phone: 781-736-2071

ARBC 20b (1): Continuing Literary Arabic

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui (MWTh 10-11)

Sherif Shabaka (TF 9-10:30)

Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a or the equivalent.

Continuation of ARBC 10a. Six class-hours per week.

ARBC 20B (2): Continuing Literary Arabic

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui (MWTh 11-12)

Ahmad Al-Jallad (TF 10:30-12)

Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a or the equivalent.

Continuation of ARBC 10a. Six class-hours per week.

ARBC 40b: Advanced Intermediate Literary Arabic

Ahmad Al-Jallad (MWThF 12-1)

Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 30a or the equivalent.

Continuation of ARBC 30a. Four class-hours per week.

ARBC 103b: Advanced Literary Arabic

Carl Sharif El-Tobgui (MWTh 1-2)

Prerequisite: ARBC 103a or the equivalent. Three class-hours per week.

Continuation of ARBC 103a.

ARBC 106b: Fourth Level Advanced Arabic II

Sherif Shabaka (MWTh 1-2)

Prerequisite: ARBC 106a or permission of the instructor. Three class-hours per week.

Continuation of ARBC 106a.