

### Why Hebrew Language and Literature at Brandeis?

Brandeis offers students the unique opportunity to study Hebrew language and literature in the largest program of its kind outside of Israel. Situated within the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and offering a range of forty courses, our program allows students to acquire an advanced level of proficiency and a strong background in Hebrew language and literature. Courses are taught by faculty whose fields of specialization include modern Hebrew language and culture, Israeli and Jewish literature, as well as biblical studies, and postbiblical and Talmudic literature.

### Curriculum Overview

Students have the option of completing a major or a minor in Hebrew language and literature. The minor requires five courses, while the major requires seven in addition to three prerequisite language courses.

#### Core courses include:

- Advanced language courses in modern Hebrew
- Foundational course in Judaic Studies
- Modern Hebrew literature and culture
- The revival of modern Hebrew
- Biblical and rabbinic Hebrew
- Senior essay or senior thesis

Students may choose from a wide range of skill-based courses—those focused on advanced conversation, writing, reading, and grammar in both modern and classical Hebrew—and content-based courses—such as those that address Israeli cinema, Jerusalem, the portrait of the Israeli woman, Israeli drama, and literature.

Additionally, students may consider majors and minors in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, and Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, as well as the Yiddish and East European Jewish culture minor.

#### Integrative Senior Seminar

Students who have advanced skills in Hebrew and Arabic can participate in a bilingual seminar, *Societies in Conflict*. This seminar is cotaught by Hebrew and Arabic teachers and its goal is to study the Israeli-Arab conflict by examining original documents in both languages.

## Opportunities beyond the Classroom

Students who wish to pursue a career as a Hebrew language teacher have the opportunity to participate in a graduate seminar in which they will learn about the foundations for the teaching and learning of Hebrew in America, as well as practice their teaching skills under the supervision of the head of the language program.

Students interested in creative work are welcome to participate in our Israeli drama group and be part of our annual performance, which is written and directed by students under the supervision of a faculty member. Additionally, students interested in film can be directed in creative script writing in Hebrew, and those with an advanced proficiency in Hebrew are welcome to serve as (paid) peer tutors for students taking basic language courses.

## Centers and Institutes

A large number of centers and institutes that relate to Hebrew are housed at Brandeis, and offer many opportunities for students. These include the Tauber Center for the Study of European Jewry; the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education; Hornstein: The Jewish Professional Leadership Program; the Crown Center for Middle East Studies; and the National Center for Jewish Film.

## Career and Education Opportunities

Majoring in Hebrew opens up all the career opportunities afforded by a liberal arts education: advertising, entertainment, work in the State Department and other governmental agencies, journalism, law, business, and medicine. In addition, it can prepare students for more specialized careers, including Jewish education, Hebrew language teaching, the rabbinate and ministry, and graduate school.

## Faculty

Following is a list of Hebrew department faculty members:

- **Lutf Al-Kebisi**  
Arabic language
- **Samah Al-Salami**  
Arabic language
- **Guy Antebi**
- **Bracha Azoulay**
- **Aliza Brosh**
- **Sara Hascal**
- **Bonit Porath**
- **Vardit Ringvald, director, Hebrew and Arabic languages**
- **Esther Shorr**