



# Brandeis University

Fall 2014 and Spring 2015

## Course Recommendations from Departments and Programs

Office of Academic Services  
Office of the University Registrar  
Summer 2014

# Contents

## **Unique classroom opportunities for first-year students**

First Year Seminars	4
JustBooks	4
The First-Year Experience: Spirit, Mind, and Body (PE 44a)	4
University Writing Seminar (UWS)	5

## **Course recommendations are listed alphabetically by subject**

African and Afro-American Studies	6
American Studies	7
Anthropology	8-9
Biochemistry	10
Biology	11-12
Business	13
Chemistry	14-15
Classical Studies	16
Creative Writing	17
Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation	18
Economics	19
Education Studies	20-21
English	22-24
Environmental Studies	25-26
Fine Arts	27-28
Film, Television, and Interactive Media	29
French and Francophone Studies	30-31
Health: Science, Society and Policy	32-33
Hebrew	34
Hispanic Studies	35-37
History	38
History of Ideas	39
International and Global Studies	40
Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies	41
Italian Studies	42-43
Language and Linguistics	44-45
Legal Studies	46
Medieval and Renaissance Studies	47
Music	48-50
Near Eastern and Judaic Studies	51-53
Neuroscience	54-55
Philosophy	56
Physics	57-58
Politics	59-60

Psychology	61
Religious Studies	62
Russian Studies	63
South Asian Studies	64
Theater Arts	65-66
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	67

The courses listed in this guide are currently scheduled to be offered either in fall 2014 or spring 2015. Students should review the Schedule of Classes, available through this link <http://registrar-prod.unet.brandeis.edu/registrar/schedule/classes/2014/Fall/100/UGRD> for up to date course offerings, including block assignment, class times, and course descriptions. Please note that the spring 2015 schedule will be available beginning June 9, 2014.

Instructions on how to use the Schedule of Classes is available here <https://www.brandeis.edu/sage/help/index.html>. Click on Registration Information and refer to pages 3-5.

Welcome to Brandeis University!

The following information was compiled by academic departments and programs to give new students an introduction to their areas of study and offer recommendations for courses which are most appropriate for students to take in their first year. This will be helpful as you plan your course selections.

Courses are listed by department or program and may be offered in the fall or the spring semester. The complete list of course offerings in each term is available on the schedule of classes page: <http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/registration/schedule.html>.

In addition to those courses, the University offers unique classroom opportunities for first-year students.

### **First Year Seminars (FYS)**

One of the best things about a Brandeis education is the opportunity students have throughout their studies for interactive, intellectual engagement with faculty in small classes. First-year students who are enrolling in large introductory lecture courses in such fields as chemistry, economics, and psychology, and all others interested in experiencing a seminar environment, are strongly encouraged to enroll in an optional First Year Seminar (FYS). The seminar format offers a small, intimate setting in which the student becomes an active partner in dialogue, both with the professor and with other students.

In an FYS you will get to know and learn from your classmates through discussions about topics that are of interest to you all, and will be taught by a professor who truly enjoys both teaching and getting to know first year students. You are likely to develop many connections that will last throughout your four years at Brandeis and beyond. First Year Seminars (FYS) are one of the most intellectually satisfying opportunities available to you!

### **JustBooks**

At Brandeis, social justice is more than an extracurricular option; it informs all our fields of study. A special set of humanities seminars are offered each semester which allow first-year students to explore issues of justice in the context of a specific topic under the guidance of a professor who is expert in his or her field.

Like all first-year seminars, JustBooks seminars foster a climate of deep and lively discussion and provide the opportunity for you to work intensively on the skills you'll most need for success at Brandeis. As you grapple with complex ideas and challenging ethical questions, you will have the benefit of a small-group setting for honing your abilities at critical thinking, close reading, analytical writing, and oral argument.

**The First-Year Experience: Spirit, Mind, and Body (PE 44a)** Offered each semester, students develop and utilize their interpersonal skills through experiential and community engaged learning. They are exposed to core values including: citizenship, integrity, respect, civility, lifelong learning and embracing diversity. Topics covered in the course include: values clarification, health and safety, time and stress management, skills for academic success including approaching faculty. This course is only open to first-year students.

### **University Writing Seminar (UWS)**

UWS is a required course for graduation. The seminar focuses on strategies and techniques of college-level argument taught through the exploration of a subject. Course readings of 400–500 pages typically include books and articles as well as excerpts of longer works collected in source packets. In three papers of increasing complexity (twenty-five pages total), students learn to frame analytical questions, make original claims, structure complex ideas, integrate sources of various kinds, and revise for greater cogency and clarity. Each course assigns a close reading essay (a textual analysis of a text), a lens essay (looking at a text through a theoretical argument), and a research-based argument. Students prepare for each of the four major essays through short pre-draft assignments as well as drafts that the instructor comments on in writing and discusses with the student in individual conferences. Students examine their own writing in draft workshops and in small groups. The course also teaches the basic skills of research, from using the library to appropriate citation of sources.

# African and Afro-American Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/afroamerstudies](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/afroamerstudies)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Faith Smith 781-736-2094 email: [fsmith@brandeis.edu](mailto:fsmith@brandeis.edu)

African and Afro-American Studies (AAAS) is a unique opportunity to explore the histories and experiences of Africans and African descended people and their impact on the world. Using multiple disciplines and strategies we offer courses that consider culture, class, gender, race, work and citizenship.

## **AAAS 5A — Introduction to African and Afro-American Studies**

An interdisciplinary introduction to major topics in African and Afro-American studies. Provides fundamental insights into Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas through approaches and techniques of social science and the humanities. Usually offered every year.

## **AAAS 79b — Afro-American Literature of the Twentieth Century**

An introduction to the essential themes, aesthetic concerns, and textual strategies that characterize Afro-American writing of this century. Examines those influences that have shaped the poetry, fiction, and prose nonfiction of representative writers. Usually offered every second year.

## **AAAS 114B — Race, Ethnicity, and Electoral Politics in the United States**

Explores the role that racial and ethnic politics play in American political campaigns and elections. Readings provide historical, theoretical, and empirical overviews of racial and ethnic politics in four contexts: political parties, presidential elections, congressional campaigns, and state legislative contests. Usually offered every year.

## **AAAS 117A — Communications and Social Change in Developing Nations**

Examines the role of communications and information systems within and between developed and underdeveloped nations. Addresses the larger perspective of global communications. Usually offered every third year.

## **AAAS 156A — The Civil Rights Movement**

Explores the civil rights movement through primary readings and films. Includes an assessment of the consequences of the movement and the ongoing controversies over the best ways to achieve equality for black Americans. Usually offered every second year.

## **AAAS 165A — Performance and the Politics of Black Authenticity**

Introduces students to black performance theory. Foregrounds the micro-politics through which black racialized subjects are shaped in the realm of culture. This course asks what is black authenticity? How is it evoked through performance? How is black performance political? Usually offered every second year.

# American Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/american-studies](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/american-studies)

Course of Study: Major

Undergraduate Advising Head: Stephen J. Whitfield 781-736-3035 email: [swhitfie@brandeis.edu](mailto:swhitfie@brandeis.edu)

American Studies takes an interdisciplinary approach to the culture, society, politics, institutions, identities, thoughts, values, and behavior of Americans, including the critical issues that confront the United States domestically and internationally. Using materials central to social and intellectual history— film, literature, culture, music, art and architecture, oral history— the major is designed to provide students with an educated awareness of the way the United States, viewed as a civilization, frames the lives, aspirations, and self-perceptions of its citizens.

## **AMST 35A — Hollywood and American Culture**

This is an interdisciplinary course in Hollywood cinema and American culture that aims to do justice to both arenas. Students will learn the terms of filmic grammar, the meanings of visual style, and the contexts of Hollywood cinema from *The Birth of a Nation* (1915) to last weekend's top box office grosser. They will also master the major economic, social, and political realities that make up the American experience of the dominant medium of our time, the moving image, as purveyed by Hollywood. Usually offered every second year.

## **AMST 124B — American Love and Marriage**

Ideas and behavior relating to love and marriage are used as lenses to view broader social patterns such as family organization, generational conflict, and the creation of professional and national identity. Usually offered every second year.

## **AMST 163B — The Sixties: Continuity and Change in American Culture**

Analyzes alleged changes in the character structure, social usages, governing myths and ideas, artistic sensibility, and major institutions of America during the 1960s. What were the principal causes and occasions for the change? Usually offered every second year.

## **AMST 185B — The Culture of the Cold War**

Addresses American political culture from the end of World War II until the revival of liberal movements and radical criticism. Focuses on the specter of totalitarianism, the "end of ideology," McCarthyism, the crisis of civil liberties, and the strains on the pluralistic consensus in an era of anti-Communism. Usually offered every second year.

# Anthropology

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/anthro](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/anthro)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Ellen Schattschneider 781-736-2218 email: [eschatt@brandeis.edu](mailto:eschatt@brandeis.edu)

Anthropology explores the dynamics and diversity of humankind. It asks a most difficult and most important question: What does it mean to be human? The discipline ranges from the study of culture and social relations, to human biology and evolution, to economics and politics, to religion and world views, to languages and the connections between language and social dynamics, to visual cultures and architecture, to medicine and disease, and to what we can learn about past societies through the study of material culture, including paintings, earthenware vessels, religious figurines, discarded stone tools, bone fragments, and the foundations of ancient homes. Due to its focus on human society and culture, anthropology provides a solid background for students preparing for a broad range of professions including medicine, law, public health, public policy, social work, museum studies, and business, as well as a career in anthropology itself.

## **ANTH 20B — Feast and Famine: Food and Social Relations**

Food brings together our physical bodies and our capacity for making culture; this has made it a central topic for writers, artists, historians, anthropologists, and others. Examines ways of eating (and not eating) that mediate, express, and exemplify relations among people. Usually offered every second year.

## **ANTH 26A — Communication and Media**

An exploration of human communication and mass media from a cross-cultural perspective. Examines communication codes based on language and visual signs. The global impact of revolutions in media technology, including theories of cultural imperialism and indigenous uses of media is discussed. Usually offered every second year.

## **ANTH 115B — Borderlands: Space, Place, and Landscape**

Studies human behavior framed by and creating the spaces and landscapes in which we live. This seminar examines archaeological and ethnographic understandings of the relationships between culture, space, and landscapes with a particular focus on the political and social dynamics of borderlands. Usually offered every second year.

## **ANTH 130B — Visuality and Culture**

Explores the nature of the visual image in sociocultural theory and in ethnographic representation. Topics include the history of ethnographic film, development of indigenous arts, visuality in popular culture and mass consumption, and film in postcolonial representation. Usually offered every second year.

**ANTH 151B — Nature, Culture, Power: Anthropology of the Environment**

Examines the relationships among human and natural worlds. Topics include: the cultural production of 'wildness', the politics of conservation, indigeneity and the environment, colonialism and natural resource extraction. Ethnographies based on research in the United States, Africa and Asia will enable students to explore how anthropology offers insight into the pressing environmental issues of today. Usually offered every second year.

**ANTH 160B — Dirt, Disgust, and Contagion: The Anthropology of Pollution**

Explores the anthropological concepts of dirt and pollution. What makes things repulsive to us and why? We examine the culturally-specific significance of bodily boundaries, fluids, and smells with particular emphasis on the intersections between gender, race, hygiene, and morality. Usually offered every second year.

**ANTH 166B — Queer Anthropology: Sexualities and Genders in Cross-Cultural Perspective**

Explores ethnographic approaches to the study of sexuality and gender in diverse cultural contexts, such as the US, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Mexico. Examines how sexuality intersects with other cultural forms, including gender, race, ethnicity, labor, religion, colonialism and globalization. Explores also how the discipline of anthropology has been shaped by engagements with questions of sexuality and the field of queer studies. Usually offered every second year.

# Biochemistry

[www.bio.brandeis.edu/undergrad/biochem/index.html](http://www.bio.brandeis.edu/undergrad/biochem/index.html)

Course of Study: Major

Undergraduate Advising Head: Daniel Oprian 781-736-2322 email: [oprian@brandeis.edu](mailto:oprian@brandeis.edu)

The biochemistry major is designed to equip students with a broad understanding of the chemical and molecular events involved in biological processes. The biochemistry major provides a fundamental training for careers in biomedical research, medicine, biotechnology, and related fields.

During the first year, students usually take one year of general chemistry (CHEM 11a,b with corresponding lab CHEM 18a,b or honors chemistry CHEM 15a,b with corresponding lab CHEM 19a,b). In addition, students are encouraged to take introductory physics (PHYS 11a,b or the honors version PHYS 15a,b) and the accompanying lab, PHYS 19a,b, along with math at the appropriate level.

First year students considering the biochemistry major should note that many of the required science courses are dependent on prerequisites. Therefore, students should familiarize themselves with the biochemistry major requirements and plan their program of courses carefully. The undergraduate advising head can provide advice if students have questions or concerns.

# Biology

www.bio.brandeis.edu

Course of Study: Major

Undergraduate Advising Head: Rachel Woodruff 781-736-3189 email: woodruff@brandeis.edu

Core required courses for the major for both the BA and BS degree include the introductory series BIOL14a (Genetics and Genomics), BIOL15b (Cells and Organisms) and BIOL16a (Evolution and Biodiversity). These courses have no corequisites or prerequisites and can be taken as early as the freshman year. The Biology major is designed to be flexible for students, since they can take the introductory BIOL14a/15b/16a sequence in any order. The advantage of taking Biol14a before Biol16a is that most Biology electives require one or both of Biol14a and Biol15a as prerequisites. Students who wish to begin the biology labs (Biol18a/b) in the fall of their second year should take Biol15b in the spring of their first year. Students could then begin to take electives during the sophomore year.

## **BIOL 14A — Genetics and Genomics**

Studies fundamentals of genetics, genomics, molecular biology and biological problem-solving. Topics include heredity, meiosis, molecular basis of phenotypic variations in individuals and populations, as well as an introduction to the tools and techniques used by past and current researchers in genetics and genomics. Usually offered every year.

## **BIOL 15B — Cells and Organisms**

Introduces contemporary biology with an emphasis on cells, organs, and organ systems. Topics include the forms and functions of macromolecules, organelles, and cells, the integration of cells into tissues, and the physiology of fundamental life processes. The course is intended to prepare students to understand the biology of everyday life, and to provide a strong foundation for those who continue to study the life sciences. Usually offered every year.

## **BIOL 16A — Evolution and Biodiversity**

"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution," Dobzhansky said famously. Evolution is the unifying theory of biology because it explains both the unity and diversity of life. This course examines processes and patterns of evolution, including the sources and fate of variation, natural selection and genetic drift, the species concept and the origin of species, species interactions and the evolution of sociality, biogeography, and the history and diversity of life on Earth. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 11A — General Chemistry I**

The corresponding lab is CHEM 18a.

Covers a wide array of topics, embracing aspects of descriptive, as well as quantitative, chemistry. No prior study of chemistry is assumed, as the course begins by looking at the atomic foundation of matter, the elements, and the organization of the periodic table, working its way up to studying how atoms are bonded together to form larger units of matter. Students who complete this course will have an understanding of the three major phases of matter—solids, liquids, and gases—and how they behave, as well as a knowledge of the major types of chemical reactions and how to represent them. A strong focus is put on learning methods of creative problem-solving—using the material as a way to develop creative approaches to solving unfamiliar problems—a skill that carries students far beyond the confines of the classroom. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 15A — Honors General Chemistry I**

The corresponding laboratory is CHEM 19a.

An advanced version of general chemistry for students with good preparation in math and chemistry in high school. Topics include chemical stoichiometry, chemical bonding from a classical and quantum mechanical perspective, gases, thermochemistry, solutions, states of matter atomic structure and periodic properties. Real world examples are used to demonstrate the concepts. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 11B — General Chemistry II**

The corresponding lab is CHEM 18b.

Picks up where Chemistry 11a left off, advancing students' understanding of bonding models and molecular structure and exploring the basics of coordination chemistry. Three major quantitative topics are covered in the second half of General Chemistry—chemical equilibrium (including acid-base chemistry, solubility, and complex-ion formation), chemical kinetics, and thermodynamics. Other topics explored are electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 15B — Honors General Chemistry II**

The corresponding laboratory is CHEM 19b.

A continuation of CHEM 15a. Topics include an introduction to thermodynamics, chemical equilibria, including acid-base and solubility equilibria, electrochemistry, chemical kinetics, nuclear chemistry, coordination chemistry and special topics. Usually offered every year.

# Business

[www.brandeis.edu/global/academic/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/global/academic/index.html)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Faculty Advisor: Grace Zimmerman 781-736-4842 email: [gzimmerm@brandeis.edu](mailto:gzimmerm@brandeis.edu)

Administered and staffed by the International Business School and the College of Arts and Sciences, our undergraduate programs in Business teach a way of thinking that cuts across disciplines and is rooted in practice. Undergraduates are offered an array of business courses covering all the primary business disciplines, supported by a large number of liberal arts courses. A combination of these courses can be pursued to fulfill either a major or minor in Business. The program is designed to complement nicely with any other Brandeis concentration. Indeed, leveraging the strength of a Brandeis liberal arts education is a cornerstone of the undergraduate Business program.

Students should begin with BUS 1b in the fall or spring unless they expect to take a statistics course in ECON, MATH, or PSYC. Econ 2a or Econ 10a are a prerequisite to most business courses.

## **BUS 1B — Quantitative Methods in Business**

Introduction to statistical thinking and fundamental analytical methods to students with little or no prior statistics training. Surveys basic statistical methods used to enable critical analysis of data to inform business decisions, accomplished through the use of Excel, PowerPoint and Word. Usually offered every year.

## **ECON 2A — A Survey of Economics**

Intended for students who are not Economics majors or minors.

Introduces economic analysis with policy applications. The economist's approach to social analysis is systematically elaborated. Usually offered every semester.

## **ECON 10A — Introduction to Microeconomics**

Intended for Economics majors and minors.

Introduces the field of microeconomics, which is the study of how individuals and firms make decisions and how these decisions interact. Usually offered every semester.

# Chemistry

[www.chem.brandeis.edu](http://www.chem.brandeis.edu)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Bruce Foxman 781-736-2532 email: [foxman1@brandeis.edu](mailto:foxman1@brandeis.edu)

Chemistry focuses on how atoms of just a few dozen types combine to form countless molecules, and how these molecules interact with each other to form the materials we encounter in our everyday lives. Chemistry is therefore called "the central science," the material realization of principles of physics, and a foundation of the life sciences.

General chemistry is the required first course in the chemistry, biology, biochemistry, and neuroscience majors. It is also required of pre-medical, pre-dental, and pre-veterinary students, so most first year students with these academic and/or professional interests enroll in this introductory course.

We offer introductory chemistry for two levels of preparation: **General Chemistry (CHEM 11a with corresponding lab CHEM 18a) and Honors Chemistry (CHEM 15a with corresponding lab CHEM 19a)**. At each level, the lecture and lab courses are separate and require separate registrations.

For detailed placement information, refer to [www.brandeis.edu/registrar/newstudent/testing.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/newstudent/testing.html). The placement article discusses the differences between CHEM 11/18 and CHEM 15/19, as well as the possibility of advanced placement into Organic Chemistry (CHEM 25a with corresponding lab CHEM 29a). Students must register for both lecture and lab.

Students with AP (4 or 5), UK A-level or IB Chemistry credit **may also consider taking Organic Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory courses (CHEM 25a and CHEM 29a)**. Organic chemistry focuses on the structure and reactivity of carbon-based molecules, and has direct implications in a variety of fields including biology and biochemistry. These courses are required for most science-related undergraduate programs as well as application to many graduate programs. Taking organic chemistry in the first year allows more time in subsequent years to take advanced courses and carry out research. Students considering this option are encouraged to consult with Professors Snider ([snider@brandeis.edu](mailto:snider@brandeis.edu)) or Foxman ([foxman1@brandeis.edu](mailto:foxman1@brandeis.edu)). **Note: students electing to take AP credit for first-year chemistry must begin their chemistry career at Brandeis University with CHEM 25a.**

Please note that chemistry lab sections have limited enrollment and that care must be taken to avoid conflicts between labs and other courses.

## **CHEM 11A — General Chemistry I**

The corresponding lab is CHEM 18a.

Covers a wide array of topics, embracing aspects of descriptive, as well as quantitative, chemistry. No prior study of chemistry is assumed, as the course begins by looking at the atomic foundation of matter, the elements, and the organization of the periodic table, working its way up to studying how atoms are bonded together to form larger units of matter. Students who complete this course will have an understanding of the three major phases of matter—solids, liquids, and gases—and how they behave, as well as a knowledge of the major types of chemical reactions and how to represent them. A strong focus is put on learning methods of creative problem-solving—using the material as a way to

develop creative approaches to solving unfamiliar problems—a skill that carries students far beyond the confines of the classroom. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 15A — Honors General Chemistry I**

The corresponding laboratory is CHEM 19a.

An advanced version of general chemistry for students with good preparation in math and chemistry in high school. Topics include chemical stoichiometry, chemical bonding from a classical and quantum mechanical perspective, gases, thermochemistry, solutions, states of matter atomic structure and periodic properties. Real world examples are used to demonstrate the concepts. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 11B — General Chemistry II**

The corresponding lab is CHEM 18b.

Picks up where Chemistry 11a left off, advancing students' understanding of bonding models and molecular structure and exploring the basics of coordination chemistry. Three major quantitative topics are covered in the second half of General Chemistry—chemical equilibrium (including acid-base chemistry, solubility, and complex-ion formation), chemical kinetics, and thermodynamics. Other topics explored are electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 15B — Honors General Chemistry II**

The corresponding laboratory is CHEM 19b.

A continuation of CHEM 15a. Topics include an introduction to thermodynamics, chemical equilibria, including acid-base and solubility equilibria, electrochemistry, chemical kinetics, nuclear chemistry, coordination chemistry and special topics. Usually offered every year.

*Courses for students not majoring in a science:*

### **CHSC 3B — Solving Environmental Challenges: The Role of Chemistry**

Provides a basic understanding of the chemistry of natural environmental cycles, and how these cycles are adversely affected by society. Student teams develop case studies on "hot topics" such as mercury, brominated flame retardants, MBTE, perchlorate, dioxin, and others. Usually offered every second year.

### **CHSC 4B — Understanding the Chemistry of Sustainability**

An exploration of the role of green chemistry, nanotechnology, bioengineering, innovative design, and greater reliance on renewable resources in achieving environmental sustainability. Topics include sustainable energy, recognized green sector industries, green chemicals, environmentally preferable products, and sustainable manufacturing. Usually offered every second year.

# Classical Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/classics](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/classics)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Cheryl Walker 781-736-2190 email: [cwalker@brandeis.edu](mailto:cwalker@brandeis.edu)

The Department of Classical Studies offers courses in the languages, literatures, histories, art, and archaeology of Ancient Greece and Rome. A major in Classical Studies affords students the opportunity to learn about two classical civilizations that had a major impact on the cultures of the western world.

The requirements for the major are designed to be flexible, giving students the ability to plan their program around a particular interest—for example, history, literature, language, or art and archaeology.

The Latin placement exam is available to download from the Registrar's website:

[www.brandeis.edu/registrar/newstudent/testing.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/newstudent/testing.html).

## **GRK 10A — Beginning Ancient Greek**

The basics of ancient Greek language and an initiation into the artistic, religious, social, political, and psychological dynamics of ancient Greece. After taking its sequel, GRK 20b, students can read Homer or Plato in the original. Students must earn a C- or higher in GRK 10a in order to enroll in a 20-level Greek course. Usually offered every year.

## **LAT 10A — Beginning Latin**

An introduction to Latin grammar, based on Latin authors. Usually offered every year.

# Creative Writing

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/english/undergraduate/majors/cwmajor.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/english/undergraduate/majors/cwmajor.html)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Director of Creative Writing (Poetry): Olga Broumas 781-736-2157 email: [broumas@brandeis.edu](mailto:broumas@brandeis.edu)

Associate Director of Creative Writing (Fiction): Stephen McCauley 781-736-8213 email: [smccau@brandeis.edu](mailto:smccau@brandeis.edu)

## **ENG 1A — Introduction to Literary Studies**

This course is designed to introduce students to basic skills and concepts needed for the study of Anglophone literature and culture. These include skills in close reading; identification and differentiation of major literary styles and periods; knowledge of basic critical terms; definition of genres. Usually offered every semester.

## **ENG 10B — Poetry: A Basic Course**

Designed as a first course for all persons interested in the subject. It is intended to be basic without being elementary. The subject matter will consist of poems of short and middle length in English from the earliest period to the present. Usually offered every fourth year.

## **ENG 11A — Close Reading: Theory and Practice**

Examines the theory, practice, technique, and method of close literary reading, with scrupulous attention to a variety of literary texts to ask not only what but also how they mean, and what justifies our thinking that they mean these things. Usually offered every third year.

## **ENG 19A — Introduction to Creative Writing**

Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing, preferably four to seven pages.

A workshop for beginning writers. Practice and discussion of short literary and oral forms: lyric, poetry, the short story, tales, curses, spells. Usually offered every year.

## **ENG 79A — Directed Writing: Beginning Screenplay**

Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing of no more than five pages.

Fundamentals of screenwriting: structure, plot, conflict, character, and dialogue. Students read screenwriting theory, scripts, analyze files, and produce an outline and the first act of an original screenplay. Usually offered every third year.

## **ENG 79b — Writing Workshop: From Memory to Craft**

Students will be selected after the submission of a sample of writing of no more than five pages.

This combination workshop and contemporary literature course explores the process by which prose that engages with place moves from simple accounting into art. Texts include work by writers such as Christine Byl, James Galvin, Rebecca Solnit, Craig Childs, and Zadie Smith. Usually offered every second year.

# Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation

[www.brandeis.edu/registrar/bulletin/provisional/courses/subjects/1475.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/bulletin/provisional/courses/subjects/1475.html)

Course of Study: Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Jennifer Cleary 781-736-3377 email: [jacleary@brandeis.edu](mailto:jacleary@brandeis.edu)

The interdepartmental minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation offers students the opportunity to explore theory and practice at the center of arts and culture, peace and justice, and creativity. A minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation is designed for students in the arts who want to connect their creative talents to their concerns for social change, and for students in the humanities and social sciences to explore music, theater, literature and visual arts as resources for justice and peace.

Students in the minor are required to take an introductory course, *Introduction to Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation* (CAST 150b), offered next in spring 2015. All minors will choose from a list of elective courses, one each from the Creative Arts, the Humanities and Social Sciences. To complete the minor, students are required to complete a capstone experience.

## **CAST 150b – Introduction to Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation**

How can music, theater, poetry, literature, and visual arts contribute to community development, coexistence, and nonviolent social change? In the aftermath of violence, how can artists help communities reconcile? Students explore these questions through interviews, case studies, and projects. Usually offered every year.

# Economics

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Scott Redenius 781-736-2237 email: [redenius@brandeis.edu](mailto:redenius@brandeis.edu)

Economics is the social science that studies the roles of prices, markets, institutions, technology, and government policies in determining patterns of human behavior and economic activity, including production, employment, economic growth, living standards, and the distribution of income in modern economies. Students are drawn to the subject by several distinct aspects of the field: its rigorous quantitative methods, its relationship to the business sector, and its numerous applications to controversial issues of public policy such as the environment, health care, taxation, regulation of financial markets, and international trade.

Students are exempt from ECON 10a if they have AP credit for micro or transfer credit for a one-semester Introduction to Microeconomics course or an Introduction to Economics course that covers both micro and macro. Students who have had only Introduction to Macroeconomics or have AP credit for macro should take ECON 10a and will receive credit for ECON 20a.

Calculus is a requirement for the major and a pre-requisite for the intermediate theory courses (ECON 80a, 82b, and 83a). Students interested in becoming Economics majors who have not taken calculus should register for MATH 10a. Students who have had calculus and received at least a 4 on the AP Mathematics AB test or at least a 3 on the AP Mathematics BC test satisfy the calculus requirement. Students who have had calculus but do not otherwise satisfy the requirement can take the department calculus exam given at the beginning of each semester. Students must satisfy the calculus requirement before enrolling in the intermediate theory courses and will be automatically removed from these courses if at any point it is determined that the pre-requisite has not been satisfied.

Transfer students planning an Economics major should contact Professor Redenius as soon as possible to apply transfer credits to the major and discuss appropriate courses to take during their first semester at Brandeis.

## **ECON 10A — Introduction to Microeconomics**

Intended for Economics majors and minors.

Introduces the field of microeconomics, which is the study of how individuals and firms make decisions and how these decisions interact. Usually offered every semester.

## **ECON 20A — Introduction to Macroeconomics**

Introduces the field of macroeconomics. Macroeconomics is the study of the overall or aggregate economic performance of national economies. Usually offered every semester.

## **ECON 28B — The Global Economy**

Applies the basic tools and models of economic analysis to a wide range of topics in micro-, macro-, and international economics. Usually offered every semester.

## **MATH 10A — Techniques of Calculus (a)**

Introduction to differential (and some integral) calculus of one variable, with emphasis on techniques and applications. Usually offered every semester in multiple sections.

# Education Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/education](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/education)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Director: Marya Levenson 781-736-2001 email: [mlevenso@brandeis.edu](mailto:mlevenso@brandeis.edu)

The education studies major is designed for students interested in the social, historical, and cultural contexts of education and the role of education in shaping policy, practice, learning, and identity. This major encourages students to think critically about such questions as: How do various political, economic, historical, psychological, and social forces shape education and public expectations for school? What does school teach us about society? How do K-12 schooling and higher education shape individual and communal identities and life opportunities? How can we better understand and guide learning in and out of school? What kinds of learning, schools, and teachers do young people need and deserve? The education studies major requires that students successfully complete nine courses, including ED155b, one other core course, and, in the senior year, ED165a, the capstone research course.

The teacher education minor provides preparation for teaching in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools. Minors who successfully complete the Brandeis teacher education program and pass the required Massachusetts teaching tests will earn an initial teaching license. More than forty states are part of the Interstate Compact which recognizes this license. Students who wish to teach should consider their choice of major with care and are urged to consult with an education program faculty advisor early in their Brandeis career. Students who wish to teach at the elementary level will ultimately need to demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of all subject areas that are at the foundation of the elementary school curriculum. Those who wish to teach at the secondary level should major in the discipline they intend to teach.

The education studies minor is designed for students interested in education policy, research, and history. The minor's interdisciplinary approach will enable students to examine the impact of political, historical, psychological, economic and social forces that shape education and public expectations for schools.

## **ED 100A — Exploring Teaching (Elementary and Preschool)**

Examines the relationship of teaching and learning, the purposes of elementary schooling, and the knowledge requirements for elementary and preschool teaching. Through readings, analysis of videotapes, and guided observations, students investigate classroom culture, student thinking, and curriculum standards. Usually offered every fall semester.

*Courses for all students interested in education:*

## **ECON 2A — A Survey of Economics**

Introduces economic analysis with policy applications. The economist's approach to social analysis is systematically elaborated. Usually offered every semester.

**MATH 5A — Precalculus Mathematics**

Brief review of algebra followed by the study of functions. Emphasis on exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. The course's goal is to prepare students for MATH 10a. The decision to take this course should be guided by the results of the mathematics placement exam. Usually offered every semester in multiple sections.

*Courses for students interested in elementary or secondary student teaching:*

**PSYC 10A — Introduction to Psychology**

Formerly offered as PSYC 1a.

A survey of contemporary psychology. Topics include brain and behavior, perception, memory, learning, cognitive processes, plasticity, intelligence, child and adult development, personality, social behavior, and the relationship between normal and abnormal behavior. Usually offered every semester.

# English

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/english](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/english)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: David Sherman 781-736-2130 email: [davidsherman@brandeis.edu](mailto:davidsherman@brandeis.edu)

## **ENG 1A — Introduction to Literary Studies**

This course is designed to introduce students to basic skills and concepts needed for the study of Anglophone literature and culture. These include skills in close reading; identification and differentiation of major literary styles and periods; knowledge of basic critical terms; definition of genres. Usually offered every semester.

## **ENG 10B — Poetry: A Basic Course**

Designed as a first course for all persons interested in the subject. It is intended to be basic without being elementary. The subject matter will consist of poems of short and middle length in English from the earliest period to the present. Usually offered every fourth year.

## **ENG 11A — Close Reading: Theory and Practice**

Examines the theory, practice, technique, and method of close literary reading, with scrupulous attention to a variety of literary texts to ask not only what but also how they mean, and what justifies our thinking that they mean these things. Usually offered every third year.

## **ENG 18A — Irish Literature, from the Peasantry to the Pogues**

Explores Irish poetry, fiction, drama, and film in English. Begins with the tradition's roots among subjugated peasants and Anglo-Irish aristocracy and ends in the modern post-colonial state. Authors include Swift, Yeats, Wilde, Bowen, Joyce, O'Brien, and Heaney. Usually offered every third year.

## **ENG 20A — Bollywood: Popular Film, Genre, and Society**

An introduction to popular Hindi cinema through a survey of the most important Bollywood films from the 1950s until today. Topics include melodrama, song and dance, love and sex, stardom, nationalism, religion, diasporic migration, and globalization. Usually offered every third year.

## **ENG 33A — Shakespeare**

A survey of Shakespeare as a dramatist. From nine to twelve plays will be read, representing all periods of Shakespeare's dramatic career. Usually offered every year.

## **ENG 40A — Coming of Age in Literature**

What makes growing up such a compelling theme, even for adult readers? This seminar introduces students to several novels which feature characters who come of age. Authors include, Dickens, Salinger, Dangarembga, Diaz, and others. Usually offered every third year.

### **ENG 46A — Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers**

How did American women writers engage with the social, political, and economic changes of the nineteenth century? Focuses on gendered rhetorics of industrialization, imperialism, immigration, and abolition, as well as concepts of national identity. Examines how these writers related themselves to literary movements of the period. Usually offered every third year.

### **ENG 46B — American Gothic Romantic Fiction**

American Gothic and romantic fiction from Charles Brockden Brown to Cormac McCarthy. Texts by Brown, Cooper, Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Faulkner, O'Connor, Warren, and McCarthy. Usually offered every third year.

### **ENG 48B — Literature and Happiness**

Considers studies of happiness in economics, philosophy, psychology, neuroscience and history in relation to the American Novel. We analyze six novels to question how literary representations of happiness reflect and complicate ideas about happiness in other disciplines. Usually offered every third year.

### **ENG 50A — Love Poetry from Sappho to Neruda**

This course explores the relationship between love and poetry. Starts with the ancient Greek poet Sappho and proceeds through the centuries, reading lyrics by Catullus, Ovid, Propertius, Petrarch, Dante, Shakespeare, Donne, Rossetti, and others. Usually offered every third year.

### **ENG 58A — Literature and Medicine**

How has literature grappled with illness, healing, and the patient-doctor encounter? How can poetry and storytelling communicate with experience of bodily pain--and how does the body seek to communicate its suffering without language? We examine literary responses to the body's biological vulnerabilities, and seek to contextualize the vulnerable body within the cultural and political fields that shape medical knowledge and practice. Readings in fiction, poetry, essay, and drama will suggest the art, or craftsmanship, involved in the healing sciences, as well as the diagnostic nature of literary criticism. Reading for new approaches, generated by the literary imagination, to controversial issues in medical ethics. Usually offered every third year.

### **ENG 60B — The Films of Disney**

Surveys Disney narratives from early shorts to recent features. Includes discussion of studio style, concept of the child viewer, social impact, and responses to changing world technologies. Usually offered every third year.

### **ENG 64B — From Libertinism to Sensibility: Pleasure and the Theater, 1660-1800**

Investigates the exchange between performance texts and contemporaneous discussions of class, nationality, and political party. Emphasizes the emergence of modern gender and sexual roles and the impact of the first professional women actors. Usually offered every second year.

**ENG 68B — The International Legacy of Anne Frank**

Explores how The Diary of Anne Frank has been represented in different media over time. Students participate in an international digital learning environment with students from Amsterdam. Includes short lectures, discussions, team projects, diary-writing, archival research and web tours. Usually offered every second year.

**FYS 50B — JustBooks: Trash**

What can we do with trash and garbage? What have we done to living beings in their name? Examines films, novels, poems, installations, essays, and critical theory to examine the matrix of possibility and reuse, its physical and biological dimensions, and its metaphoric reaches. Students will produce discussion questions, short papers, and a major project that will include artwork, poetry, fiction, short film, problem-solving and an analytical essay. Offered as part of the JustBooks program.

# Environmental Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/environmental/](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/environmental/)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Laura Goldin 781-736-3075, email: [goldin@brandeis.edu](mailto:goldin@brandeis.edu)

The environmental studies program equips students to address the profound challenges facing our global environment. It combines the academic excellence and rigor of Brandeis coursework, faculty, and teaching across the disciplines of the natural and social sciences, with considerable hands-on, experiential learning opportunities. The program also features two immersive, experiential semester-long Justice Programs, the Environmental Field Semester and the Environmental Health and Justice Semester.

Environmental Studies also offers credit-bearing, individually tailored internships to students in an extensive network of government, public interest, and industry related jobs in the Boston area and beyond, working alongside environmental professionals in the field. Our study abroad partners also offer a range of experiences for students around the globe. Environmental Studies students learn research, report-writing, oral communication, mapping, website development and problem-solving skills that prepare them for their later work and studies — whether or not they pursue a career in an environmental field.

## **ENVS 2A — Fundamentals of Environmental Challenges**

Provides a broad interdisciplinary introduction to environmental studies. Examines several key environmental challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, sustainable agriculture, and pollutants through an array of lenses from the natural and social sciences. Usually offered every year.

## **AMST 30B — American Environmental History**

Provides an overview of the relationship between nature and culture in North America. Covers Native Americans, the European invasion, the development of a market system of resource extraction and consumption, the impact of industrialization, and environmentalist responses. Current environmental issues are placed in historical context. Usually offered every second year.

## **BIOL 16A — Evolution and Biodiversity**

"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution," Dobzhansky said famously. Evolution is the unifying theory of biology because it explains both the unity and diversity of life. This course examines processes and patterns of evolution, including the sources and fate of variation, natural selection and genetic drift, the species concept and the origin of species, species interactions and the evolution of sociality, biogeography, and the history and diversity of life on Earth. Usually offered every year.

**FYS 43B — JustBooks: Visions of the American Environment, Images to Action**

Explores the role of the natural environment in the North American vision through the lens of books and selected readings, films and art. We focus on the 1800's to present as we consider how these works reflect our relationship with the environment over time and shape our treatment of natural resources as we address daunting environmental challenges. As we examine a series of broad environmental themes and issues, including environmental justice concerns and the meaning of "place" and "home" in the American vision, our field trips and hands-on work with local groups help bring our studies to life and meaning. Offered as part of the JustBooks program.

## Fine Arts

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/fine\\_arts](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/fine_arts)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Peter Kalb (Art History) 781-736-2772 email: [pkalb@brandeis.edu](mailto:pkalb@brandeis.edu)

Susan Lichtman (Studio Art) 781-736-2667, email: [lichtman@brandeis.edu](mailto:lichtman@brandeis.edu)

### **FA 30A — History of Art I: From Antiquity to the Middle Ages**

A survey of major styles in architecture, sculpture, and painting from prehistoric times to the Gothic cathedral. Usually offered every year.

### **FA 30B — History of Art II: From the Renaissance to the Modern Age**

A study of the major styles in architecture, painting, and sculpture of the West from the Renaissance to the early twentieth century. Usually offered every year.

### **FA 33B Islamic Art and Architecture**

Introduces architecture and arts of the Islamic lands from seventh-century Levant to post-modernism in Iran, India, and the Gulf states. Provides an overview of major themes and regional variations, and their socio-political and historical context. Usually offered every third year.

### **FA 34A — History of Asian Art**

A selective survey of the art of the three major Asian areas: India, China, and Japan. Usually offered every year.

### **FA 46B — High and Late Renaissance in Italy**

Examines the major works of art produced in Italy in the sixteenth century. It focuses on the principal centers of Florence, Rome, and Venice. The foremost artists of the age, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Titian, receive in-depth coverage. The course also considers the social institutions, ecclesiastical, courtly and civic, that furnished the patronage opportunities and promoted the ideas that occasioned, even demanded, new artistic forms of grace and harmony, energy and torsion. Usually offered every year.

### **FA 57A Paris/New York: Revolutions of Modernism**

A chronological survey of painting and sculpture from the French Revolution to the emergence of Pop Art and Minimalism. Principal periods: Manet and the impressionists, Picasso and Cubism, Matisse, expressionism, Dada and Surrealism, abstract expressionism and Pop avant-garde in America. Usually offered every second year.

### **FA 61A — History of Photography**

The history of photography from its invention in 1839 to the present, with an emphasis on developments in America. Photography is studied as a documentary and an artistic medium. Topics include Alfred Stieglitz and the photo-secession, Depression-era documentary, Robert Frank and street photography, and postmodern photography. Usually offered every second year.

**FA 62A — Art since 1945**

Survey of developments in painting and sculpture since World War II. Consideration of major trends of the period, including abstract expressionism, pop art, minimalism, color field painting, and realism. Usually offered every second year.

**FA 69B Inventing Tradition: Women as Artists, Women as Art**

Provides an art-historical overview and a feminist critique of gender and representation followed by select case studies of the art and life of women artists. Examples include non-Western art. Usually offered every second year.

**FA 70B The Art of China**

A survey of Chinese art from antiquity to the Ch'ing dynasty. Usually offered every second year.

**FA 77B — Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Art**

This course is a selective survey of the outstanding figures and movements that have made significant contributions to the history of Latin American art. Special focus will be on Mexican, Argentinean, Brazilian, Venezuelan and Cuban artists. Usually offered every third year.

**FA 80A — Modern Architecture**

Explores major architectural developments from the 19th and to the 21st century. While tracing European and American movements, links are made to the architectural implications of Western ambitions worldwide and the role architecture played in the politics of colonialism. Usually offered every second year.

**FA 175A — Moving Images: Israeli Video Art in Context**

Studies Israeli video artists who have become world renowned for their innovative contributions to the genre. In this course, we will view, analyze, and interpret Israeli video art, tracing its historical and 'genealogical' trajectory, thematic foci, formal concerns, iconographical sources and the diverse regional, political, and art historical contexts within which it is being produced and exhibited. Usually offered every second year.

# Film, Television, and Interactive Media

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/film\\_studies](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/film_studies)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Chair: Alice Kelikian 781-736-2276 email: [kelikian@brandeis.edu](mailto:kelikian@brandeis.edu)

Gain insight into motion picture media through a major or minor in film studies. This curriculum provides students with knowledge about the dominant medium of our age— the moving image. Students develop an informed background in motion picture history, cinematic style, and a critical appreciation of the cultural meanings of film. The minor in film studies complements a range of disciplines including American studies, English, history, politics, sociology, fine arts, theater arts, and German, Russian, Asian languages and literature.

## **FILM 100A — Introduction to the Moving Image**

An interdisciplinary course surveying the history of moving image media from 1895 to the present, from the earliest silent cinema to the age of the 500-channel cable television. Open to all undergraduates as an elective, it is the introductory course for the major and minor in film, television and interactive media. Usually offered every year.

# French and Francophone Studies

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Martine Voiret 781-736-3216 email: voiret@brandeis.edu

As Michel de Montaigne wrote, "Learning to speak, read, write, and think in a new language teaches us to knock off our rough corners by rubbing our minds against other people's." The French and Francophone Studies program puts Montaigne's advice to use by allowing students to study the development of French and Francophone culture throughout the world.

The French and Francophone Studies curriculum is designed to teach students to express themselves clearly and effectively in written and oral French, as well as to acquaint them with the historical depth and geographical breadth of literary and cultural expression in French.

## *Placement Guidelines*

- **Students who have never studied French before or who have studied French for less than one semester** should state how much French they have studied and which section of FREN 10 they prefer in an email to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) who will send them a consent code.
- **Students who have studied French but not at Brandeis OR students who scored below 620 on the French SAT II exam, below 3 on the French AP exam, below 5 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels exam, or who took the IB Standard Levels exam** should email Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) for on-line access to the French placement test (valid for one year). After completion of the test and the questionnaire that follows, Professor Harder will provide a consent code for a specific section of the appropriate language course.
- **Students who scored 3 on the French AP exam**, are **not** required to take the placement test; however they must email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) in order to receive a consent code for FREN 32a.
- **Students who scored 620–710 on the French SAT II exam, 4 on the French AP exam, or 5 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels exam should** email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) to receive a consent code for FREN 105a.
- **Students who scored 720 or above on the French SAT II exam, 5 on the French AP exam, 6 or higher on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels exam** should email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) to receive a consent code for FREN 106b.

## *Language sequence*

### **FREN 10A — Beginning French**

Intensive training in the basics of French grammar, listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing within the context of French and Francophone cultures. Usually offered every semester.

**FREN 20B — Continuing French**

Continued work in French grammar, listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing within the context of French and Francophone cultures. Usually offered every semester.

**FREN 32A — Intermediate French: Conversation**

Focuses on improving the speaking ability of students who wish to develop greater fluency in conversation while discussing contemporary French and Francophone issues. Students continue to improve their skills in listening, comprehension, reading, and writing. Usually offered every semester.

**FREN 104B — Advanced Language Skills through Culture**

For students who would like to continue studying French beyond the foreign language requirement. Topics will vary, but all investigate aspects of French and Francophone cultures through written texts, film, and other media. Usually offered every semester. Usually offered every semester.

**FREN 105A — France Today: French Conversation**

For students who want to improve their speaking skills while learning about and discussing socio-cultural issues that distinguish the French view of the world from that of Americans. Students also continue their work on reading, listening and writing. Usually offered every semester.

**FREN 106B — The Art of Composition**

A crucial course for students that helps develop greater competence in examining texts in order to write and speak in a more sophisticated manner. Focuses on composing summaries and descriptions, constructing arguments, and analyzing different types of writing to produce thoughtful compositions and textual analyses. Usually offered every semester.

# Health: Science, Society and Policy

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/hssp/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/hssp/index.html)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Sarah Curi email: [scuri@brandeis.edu](mailto:scuri@brandeis.edu)

Learn the disciplines that contribute to society's understanding of human health and disease through the Health: Science, Society, and Policy (HSSP) program. This program helps students recognize the biological underpinnings of health, illness, and disability, as well as their social, political, legal, and economic dimensions.

HSSP introduces students to the political, economic, legal, public health, and organizational dimensions of health care systems in the United States and throughout the world. Students enhance their knowledge with a "hands on" experience in either an internship (in a health care delivery, public health, or advocacy organization), a laboratory (studying the biological basis of health, behavior, or disease), or a field-based research project (investigating aspects of health or illness in a social context).

## **HS 104B — American Health Care**

Examines and critically analyzes the United States health care system, emphasizing the major trends and issues that have led to the current sense of "crisis." In addition to providing a historical perspective, this course will establish a context for analyzing the current, varied approaches to health care reform. Usually offered every year.

## **HSSP 114B — Racial/Ethnic and Gender Inequalities in Health and Health Care**

An examination of the epidemiological patterns of health status by race/ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status. Addresses current theories and critiques explaining disparities in health status, access, quality, and conceptual models, frameworks, and interventions for eliminating inequalities. Usually offered every year.

## **HSSP 112B — Perspectives on Child Health and Well-Being**

Introduces students to health principles as they apply to child health and well-being. It includes a review of the health and development of infants, children and youth and explores the determinants of the health and well-being of children and families, including the physical environment, social conditions, health behavior and public policies. Selected topics such as childhood disability, special health care needs, infant mortality, school readiness, adolescent pregnancy, disparities by race, ethnicity and neighborhood, their distribution across the population and the policies and programs to address them. Usually offered every year.

## **HSSP 118B — Viewing Health Policy Through the Lens of Literature**

Enriches students' understanding of health policy through the lens of literature—fiction, memoir, poetry, and drama. Studying American literature will enhance their understanding of health policy

issues by harnessing the power of authors' imaginations, insights and compelling stories. Students will also read related research or health policy articles. Usually offered every second year.

### **HSSP 128A — Disability Policy**

Surveys U.S. disability policy and addresses the core domains of education, employment, income transfers, poverty, and health. This course explores these components from the vantage point of adequacy, efficiency and equality in eligibility, provisions, financing and administration. Usually offered every year.

### **BIOL 14A — Genetics and Genomics**

Studies fundamentals of genetics, genomics, molecular biology and biological problem-solving. Topics include heredity, meiosis, molecular basis of phenotypic variations in individuals and populations, as well as an introduction to the tools and techniques used by past and current researchers in genetics and genomics. Usually offered every year.

### **BIOL 15B — Cells and Organisms**

Introduces contemporary biology with an emphasis on cells, organs, and organ systems. Topics include the forms and functions of macromolecules, organelles, and cells, the integration of cells into tissues, and the physiology of fundamental life processes. The course is intended to prepare students to understand the biology of everyday life, and to provide a strong foundation for those who continue to study the life sciences. Usually offered every year.

### **BIOL 16A — Evolution and Biodiversity**

"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution," Dobzhansky said famously. Evolution is the unifying theory of biology because it explains both the unity and diversity of life. This course examines processes and patterns of evolution, including the sources and fate of variation, natural selection and genetic drift, the species concept and the origin of species, species interactions and the evolution of sociality, biogeography, and the history and diversity of life on Earth. Usually offered every year.

### **SOC 191A — Health, Community, and Society**

An exploration into interrelationships among society, health, and disease, emphasizing the social causes and experience of illness. Usually offered every year.

# Hebrew

www.brandeis.edu/departments/hebrew  
781-736-2794 email: hebrew@brandeis.edu

The Hebrew program offers a variety of thirty courses per academic year including skill based courses such as, conversation, reading, writing and grammar, as well as content based courses dealing with issues related to the Israeli culture such as Israeli cinema, Israeli literature, theater and drama, media and news, a course about Jerusalem and Israeli women. In addition we offer courses related to the theories and methodology of the teaching and learning of Hebrew. Students who come with no background in Hebrew by the end of their fourth year at Brandeis will be able to gain advanced level abilities in the language.

Courses are taught by experienced faculty whose fields of specialization include: Modern Hebrew literature and culture, Hebrew language, Biblical studies, post-Biblical and Talmudic literature.

Entering first year students are required to take the Hebrew Placement Test if they plan to enroll in any Hebrew course. Those who wish to be tested on their oral abilities need to contact the administrator at hebrew@brandeis.edu.

## **HBRW 10A — Beginning Hebrew**

For students with no previous knowledge and those with a minimal background. Intensive training in the basics of Hebrew grammar, listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Several sections will be offered. Usually offered every semester.

## **HBRW 19A — Beginning Hebrew: Honors**

A beginner course for those students with some exposure to Hebrew. Builds upon the initial exposure, continuing to teach the basics of grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and writing. Usually offered every year.

## **HBRW 20B — Intermediate Hebrew**

Continuation of HBRW 10a, employing the same methods. Intensive training in Hebrew grammar, listening, comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Several sections offered every semester.

## **HBRW 29B — Intermediate Hebrew I: Honors**

This course is designed for honor students who wish to excel in the language. Students are admitted upon recommendation of the director of the Hebrew language program. Usually offered every year in the spring.

# Hispanic Studies

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: James Mandrell (fall 2014) 781-736-3203 email: mandrell@brandeis.edu

Fernando Rosenberg (spring 2015) 781-736-3209 email: ferosen@brandeis.edu.

Hispanic Studies at Brandeis is the Spanish language, and much more. It is Spanish because students improve their language skills in all the courses that they take. And language is the matter of politics, advertisement, media, social communication. Students engage in the analysis of cultural artifacts and movements as they learn more about language and their own place in the world. Study abroad for a semester or a year may play an important part in students' academic careers and personal growth.

Students are prepared to pursue careers in a wide range of fields where effective communication and critical intercultural thinking are essential, including those in which they will have contact with Spanish speakers and/or Hispanic cultures, in this country or globally.

## *Placement Guidelines*

- **Students who have never studied Spanish before or who have studied Spanish for less than one semester** should state how much Spanish they have studied and which section of HISP 10 they prefer in an email to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) who will send them a consent code.
- **Students who have studied Spanish but not at Brandeis OR students who scored below 620 on the Spanish SAT II exam, below 3 on the Spanish AP exam, below 5 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels exam, or who took the IB Standard Levels exam** should email Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) for on-line access to the Spanish placement test (valid for one year). After completion of the test and the questionnaire that follows, Professor Harder will provide a consent code for a specific section of the appropriate language course.
- **Students who scored 3 on the Spanish AP exam**, are **not** required to take the placement test; however they must email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) in order to receive a consent code for HISP 32a or HISP 34a.
- **Students who scored 620–710 on the Spanish SAT II exam, 4 on the Spanish AP exam, or 5 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels exam** should email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) to receive a consent code for HISP 105a.
- **Students who scored 720 or above on the Spanish SAT II exam, 5 on the Spanish AP exam, 6 or higher on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels exam** should email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) to receive a consent code for HISP 106b.
- **Heritage speakers** (students who spoke Spanish growing up) should describe their language background in an email to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) who will give them additional information.

*Courses taught in English*

**HISP 196A — Topics in Latina/o Literature and Culture**

Topic for fall 2014: Latin@ Fictions of Detection

Offers students the opportunity for in-depth study of a particular aspect of the diverse literary and cultural production of U.S. latinas and latinos. Topics will vary from year to year but may include autobiography, detective fiction, or historical fiction. Usually offered every third year.

*Language sequence*

**HISP 10A — Beginning Spanish**

A systematic presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Hispanic culture, with focus on all five language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and sociocultural awareness. Usually offered every year.

**HISP 20B — Continuing Spanish**

Continuing presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Hispanic culture with focus on all five language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and sociocultural awareness. Usually offered every semester.

**HISP 32A — Intermediate Spanish: Conversation**

This course focuses on the development of oral expression and conversational skills in the context of continuing development of linguistic competence in Spanish. Usually offered every year.

**HISP 34A — Intermediate Spanish: Topics in Hispanic Culture**

Topics from Hispanic cultures are the context for continuing development of linguistic competence in Spanish. Usually offered every year.

**HISP 105A — Spanish Conversation and Grammar**

Students learn to communicate effectively in Spanish through class discussions, oral and written exercises, presentations, literary and cultural readings, film, and explorations of the mass media. Emphasis on improvement of oral and written fluency, and acquisition of vocabulary and grammar structures. Usually offered every semester.

**HISP 105A — Special Topic: Spanish for Medical Professions**

This course is designed to provide students with practice in spoken Spanish using meaningful and applicable medical terminology. Special attention will be given to relevant cultural differences, and the class will discuss how cultural notions may influence Spanish-speaking patients' healthcare behaviors and doctor/patient communication. The course will supply a review of simple and complex grammatical structures upon which students can build throughout their professional careers. Students will be exposed to intense conversational practice and use Spanish in a variety of interactive class activities such as interviews, dialogues, debates, discussions, and presentations.

**HISP 106B — Spanish Composition, Grammar, and Stylistics**

Focuses on written communication and the improvement of writing skills, from developing ideas to outlining and editing. Literary selections will introduce the students to the principles of literary analysis and serve as topics for class discussion and writing. Usually offered every semester.

**HISP 108A — Spanish for Heritage Speakers**

Designed specifically for students who grew up speaking Spanish and who would like to enhance existing language skills while developing higher levels of academic proficiency. Assignments are geared toward developing skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking about U.S. Latino/as and the Spanish-speaking world. Students may use this course to fulfill the foreign language requirement. Usually offered every year.

# History

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/history](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/history)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Gregory Freeze 781-736-2766 email: [freeze@brandeis.edu](mailto:freeze@brandeis.edu)

## **HIST 10A — Not Even Past: History for the Global Citizen**

Applies historical thinking to a wide range of past and present human concerns. Each of its four concentric units of analysis centers on an issue of contemporary importance: "The Self," "The Life," "The Community," and "The World." Usually offered every year.

## **HIST 50B — American Transformations: Perspectives on United States History, Origins to the Present**

Investigates U.S. history in a wider world, from its origins to the present, starting with the premise that American History itself is a construct of modern empire. Only by investigating the roots of power and resistance can we understand the forces that deeply influence our world as we live it today. Usually offered every second year.

## **HIST 56B — World History to 1960**

An introductory survey of world history, from the dawn of "civilization" to c.1960. Topics include the establishment and rivalry of political communities, the development of material life, and the historical formation of cultural identities. Usually offered every second year.

## **HIST 80A — Introduction to East Asian Civilization**

A selective introduction to the development of forms of thought, social and political institutions, and distinctive cultural contributions of China and Japan from early times to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Usually offered every year.

## **HIST 80B — East Asia: Nineteenth Century to the Present (China and Japan)**

The civilization of East Asia at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the impact of the West, the contrasting responses of China and Japan to the confrontation, and the development and nature of their present societies. Usually offered every year.

# History of Ideas

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/historyofideas](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/historyofideas)

Course of Study: Minor

Program Director: David Engerman 781-736-2281 email: [engerman@brandeis.edu](mailto:engerman@brandeis.edu)

To understand the significance of our beliefs and commitments, we need to trace their sources and their history. The History of Ideas program proposes to provide students with the historical background of the issues and the values that have shaped their interests. It is intended to provide students with the skills, the knowledge, the guidance, and the freedom to construct a focused and rigorous course of study—one that explores the historical transformation of a set of ideas and institutions across several traditional disciplines.

## **HOID 100A — Introduction to Critical Theory**

How should we understand the cultural contradictions of modern society? This course will explore the evolution of Critical Theory as developed by the early Frankfurt School, with a specific focus on the works of Adorno, Benjamin, Horkheimer, and Marcuse. Special one-time offering, fall 2014.

## **POL 10A — Introduction to Political Theory**

Examination of classical political texts and modern writings for insights on central problems of political discourse, such as power and authority, human nature, freedom, obligation, justice, and the organization of the state. Usually offered every year.

# International and Global Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/igs](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/igs)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Chandler Rosenberger 781-736-2219 email: [crosen@brandeis.edu](mailto:crosen@brandeis.edu)

Understand the complex processes of globalization that affect politics, economics, culture, society, the environment, and many other facets of our lives. International and Global Studies (IGS) students take four core courses and then two classes from each of three areas: Global Media, Culture, and the Arts; Global Governance, Conflict, and Responsibility and Global Economy, Health, and Environment.

## **IGS 10A — Introduction to International and Global Studies**

"Globalization" touches us more every day. Introduces the challenges of globalization to national and international governance, economic success, individual and group identities, cultural diversity, the environment, and inequalities within and between nations, regions of the globe, gender, and race. Usually offered every year.

## **ANTH 1A — Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies**

Examines the ways human beings construct their lives in a variety of societies. Includes the study of the concept of culture, kinship, and social organization, political economy, gender and sexuality, religion and ritual, symbols and language, social inequalities and social change, and globalization. Consideration of anthropological research methods and approaches to cross-cultural analysis. Usually offered every semester.

## **ECON 2A — A Survey of Economics**

Intended for students who are not Economics majors or minors.

Introduces economic analysis with policy applications. The economist's approach to social analysis is systematically elaborated. Usually offered every semester.

## **POL 15A — Introduction to International Relations**

General introduction to international politics, emphasizing the essential characteristics of the international system as a basis for understanding the foreign policy of individual countries. Analysis of causes of war, conditions of peace, patterns of influence, the nature of the world's political economy, global environmental issues, human rights, and prospects for international organizations. Open to first-year students. Usually offered every semester.

# Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/imes/](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/imes/)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

781-736-2950 email: [nejs@brandeis.edu](mailto:nejs@brandeis.edu)

The Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Program is an interdisciplinary curriculum organized and taught by faculty in the Departments of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (NEJS), Politics, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, and African Studies. Designed to provide a strong foundation in Middle Eastern studies with a specialized knowledge of Islam, the program provides unique opportunities to examine current geopolitical events and develop a deep understanding of religion, culture, and society in the Arab World, Turkey, Iran, and Israel. With a solid training in language, history, political theory and praxis, and the ideals and practices of Islam, the major is especially appropriate for students wishing to pursue graduate work in the fields of Middle Eastern Studies and Islamic Studies, and provides a solid foundation for students who wish to pursue careers dealing directly or indirectly with the Middle East.

## **IMES 105A — War and Revolution in the Middle East**

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 changed the lives of millions of people.

## **NEJS 177A — The Holocaust in Israeli and Jewish Literature**

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. Usually offered every third year.

## **NEJS 188B — Islam and Religious Diversity**

Examines the myriad ways in which Muslims from varying disciplines and different times have understood the religious other. Drawing upon this historical background, this course also analyzes contemporary approaches to the question of the religious other in Islam. Usually offered every second year.

# Italian Studies

Course of Study: Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Paola Servino 781-736-3226 email: [servino@brandeis.edu](mailto:servino@brandeis.edu)

Brandeis offers students the opportunity to focus on the cultural heritage of Italy from the inception of the Italian language to the present day. The study of Italy's language and creative achievements enables students to explore this culture in depth in preparation for study abroad, graduate work, or related opportunities in the workplace.

Italian studies offers a minor and an independent major (through an Independent Interdisciplinary Major or IIM) for those who wish to extend their study of Italian beyond language and culture to areas of Italian literature, history, film, art history, and music. The study of Italian within a variety of cultural contexts enables students to deepen their understanding of a national heritage beyond the boundaries of a single time frame, region, gender, genre, or academic discipline.

Students in the program work closely with an adviser to develop an individualized plan of study that balances the exploration of a broad range of topics with a focus on a single discipline or cultural period.

## *Placement Guidelines*

- **Students who have never studied Italian before or who have studied Italian for less than one semester** should state how much Italian they have studied and which section of ITAL 10 they prefer in an email to Professor Harder ([harder@brandeis.edu](mailto:harder@brandeis.edu)) who will send them a consent code.
- **Students who have studied Italian but not at Brandeis OR students who scored below 620 on the Italian SAT II exam, below 3 on the Italian AP exam, below 5 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels exam, or who took the IB Standard Levels exam** should email Professor Harder ([harder@brandeis.edu](mailto:harder@brandeis.edu)) for on-line access to the Italian placement test (valid for one year). After completion of the test and the questionnaire that follows, Professor Harder will provide a consent code for a specific section of the appropriate language course.
- **Students who scored 3 on the Italian AP exam**, are **not** required to take the placement test; however they must email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder ([harder@brandeis.edu](mailto:harder@brandeis.edu)) in order to receive a consent code for ITAL 30a.
- **Students who scored 620–710 on the Italian SAT II exam, 4 on the Italian AP exam, or 5 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels Exam** are **not** required to take the placement test; however they must email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder ([harder@brandeis.edu](mailto:harder@brandeis.edu)) in order to receive a consent code for ITAL 105a (spring 2014).
- **Students who scored 720 or above on the Italian SAT II exam, 5 on the Italian AP exam, or 6 or higher on the International Baccalaureate Higher Levels Exam** are **not** required to take the placement test; however they must email their standardized exam score to Professor Harder ([harder@brandeis.edu](mailto:harder@brandeis.edu)) in order to receive a consent code for ITAL 106a.

## *Language sequence*

### **ITAL 10A — Beginning Italian**

Offers an interactive and very lively approach to the learning of Italian. A systematic presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Italian culture, with focus on all five language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and socio-cultural awareness. Usually offered every fall.

### **ITAL 20B — Continuing Italian**

Continuing dynamic presentation of basic grammar and vocabulary within the context of Italian culture and practice of the five language skills. Special attention to reading and writing skills, as well as guided conversation. Usually offered every spring.

### **ITAL 30A — Intermediate Italian**

Focuses on the development of fluency in the language. Spoken and written Italian will be improved through the study and the discussion of the most characteristic aspects of contemporary Italian culture. Through reading and discussion of short stories, newspaper and journal articles and selected text as well as through the viewing of movie and video clips, the course promotes critical and analytical skills. Typical themes include social conflicts, Italian family, and education systems. Usually offered every fall.

### **ITAL 105A — Italian Conversation and Composition**

Provides students with an opportunity to develop their oral and written proficiency in Italian, while familiarizing themselves with different facets of contemporary Italian culture and society. Readings will be supplemented by films, videos and music. The course focuses on the expansion of vocabulary and the improvement of analytical, interpretive and presentational skills. Usually offered every year.

### **ITAL 106A — Advanced Readings in Italian**

Close study and analysis of representative Italian texts (prose, poetry, drama) and culture. Each year, emphasis will be given to a specific theme, for example, works by Italian women writers. Reading and listening activities followed by in-class discussions and presentations are designed to enhance the student's reading skills. Usually offered every year.

# Language and Linguistics

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/linguistics](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/linguistics)

Courses of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Lotus Goldberg 781-736-3265 email: [imgold@brandeis.edu](mailto:imgold@brandeis.edu)

Language and Linguistics is an interdisciplinary program, both a major and a minor that studies the nature and structure of human languages.

The program concentrates on the core sub-fields of linguistics, examining linguistic structure in terms of sound systems (phonetics and phonology), word-building (morphology), sentence-building (syntax), and language meaning (semantics and pragmatics).

The program emphasizes the approach of generative grammar, which attempts to place this knowledge in a psychological and biological framework. Along with careers in academic linguistics itself, the study of linguistics provides a solid background for careers in such diverse fields as computational linguistics, natural language processing, artificial intelligence, speech and language pathology/communication science disorders, language teaching, cognitive neuroscience, behavioral neurology, and law.

Courses in the Computational Linguistics MA program are also open to language and linguistics undergraduates, and help prepare students for advanced academic or industry work in the domain of computational linguistics.

The most primary recommendation for incoming students interested in linguistics is to take Introduction to Linguistics (LING 100a) in the fall, if at all possible. The course can be taken in later years if it doesn't fit a student's first year schedule, but the course introduces the core concepts of the field---and is a prerequisite for many other linguistics courses.

*Courses that may be taken without prior study of linguistics:*

## **LING 100A — Introduction to Linguistics**

A general introduction to linguistic theory and the principles of linguistic analysis. Students will construct detailed analyses of data from English and other languages in the areas of syntax, semantics, phonetics, and phonology and examine their implications for a theory of language as it is encoded in the human mind. Usually offered every year.

## **LING 120B — Syntactic Theory**

An introduction to the process of syntactic analysis, to generative syntactic theory, and to many major syntactic phenomena of English and other languages, including the clausal architecture, the lexicon, and various types of syntactic movement. Usually offered every year.

**LING 160B — Mathematical Methods in Linguistics**

An introduction to fundamental mathematical concepts needed for advanced work in linguistics and computational linguistics. Topics include: set theory, theory of relations, fundamentals of logic, formal systems, lambda calculus, formal language theory, theory of automata, basics of probability and statistics, game theory, and decision theory. Usually offered every year.

*Courses requiring some prior study of linguistics:*

**LING 110A — Phonological Theory**

An introduction to generative phonology, the theory of natural language sound systems. Includes discussion of articulatory phonetics, distinctive feature theory, the concept of a "natural class," morphology and the nature of morphophonemics, and universal properties of the rules that relate morphophonemic and phonetic representations. Usually offered every second year.

**LING 125B — Linguistic Typology**

Focuses on linguistic typology, in which the languages of the world are classified in terms of their common grammatical features rather than by genetic relationships. Includes study of language universals: traits and implicational relationships which hold in (nearly) every language. Usually offered every second year.

**LING 130A — Formal Semantics: Truth, Meaning, and Language**

Explores the semantic structure of language in terms of the current linguistic theory of model-theoretic semantics. Topics include the nature of word meanings, categorization, compositionality, and plurals and mass terms. Usually offered every year.

**LING 197A — Language Acquisition and Development**

What makes the formidable task of language acquisition possible? Covers theories of language acquisition, basing conclusions on recent research in the development of syntax, semantics, and phonology. The overall goal is to arrive at a coherent picture of the language learning process.

# Legal Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/legal\\_studies](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/legal_studies)

Course of Study: Minor

Director: Richard Gaskins 781-736-3025 email: [gaskins@brandeis.edu](mailto:gaskins@brandeis.edu)

Legal Studies is a flexible program that includes law-related courses drawn from many different departments in addition to its own courses and seminars on a wide range of legal topics. Individual courses are open to students from all fields, including the sciences and medicine, as well as humanities, social sciences, and creative arts. Students can minor, but not major, in Legal Studies by completing the program requirements of five courses and a research-based internship or an approved law-related thesis.

## **LGLS 10A — Introduction to Law**

Surveys the nature, process, and institutions of law: the reasoning of lawyers and judges, the interplay of cases and policies, the impact of history and culture, and the ideals of justice and responsibility in a global context. Usually offered every fall.

# Medieval and Renaissance Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/merl/](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/merl/)

Course of Study: Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Jonathan Decter email: [decter@brandeis.edu](mailto:decter@brandeis.edu)

The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program provides students with a broad introduction to the development of Western civilization from the end of antiquity to the 17th century. It is founded on the principle that an interdisciplinary perspective is the most profitable way to gain an understanding of the formation of early modern Europe.

In order to develop a multifaceted picture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, all students select one of two core courses in history, and they are encouraged to explore a variety of disciplinary perspectives provided by various national literatures, fine arts and philosophy. The exact balance of these approaches depends on a student's interest. The program offers a useful complement to many concentrations, and it is a good foundation for graduate study in a variety of fields.

## **FA 46B — High and Late Renaissance in Italy**

Examines the major works of art produced in Italy in the sixteenth century. It focuses on the principal centers of Florence, Rome, and Venice. The foremost artists of the age, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Titian, receive in-depth coverage. The course also considers the social institutions, ecclesiastical, courtly and civic, that furnished the patronage opportunities and promoted the ideas that occasioned, even demanded, new artistic forms of grace and harmony, energy and torsion. Usually offered every year.

## **FA 143A — The Art of Medieval England**

A survey of art and architecture from the end of the Roman Empire to the Renaissance. Particular concern for the synthesis of native and foreign cultures and their artistic styles, resulting from the barbarian invasions, the Norman conquest, and political rivalry with France. Usually offered every fourth year.

## **HIST 110B — The Civilization of the High and Late Middle Ages**

Survey of European history from 1000 to 1450. Topics include the Crusades, the birth of towns, the creation of kingdoms, the papacy, the peasantry, the universities, the Black Death, and the Hundred Years' War. Usually offered every second year.

## **NEJS 194B — Sufi Teachings**

An examination of the teaching and practices of the Sufi tradition. Explores the foundations of Sufism, its relation to other aspects of Islam, the development of Sufi teachings in both poetry and prose, and the manner in which Sufism is practiced in lands as diverse as Egypt, Turkey, Iran, India, Malaysia, and Europe. Usually offered every second year.

# Music

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/music](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/music)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: (May – Aug) Cheryl Nalbach 781-736-3310 email:

[cnalbach@brandeis.edu](mailto:cnalbach@brandeis.edu)

(Sept. – April) Sarah Mead 781-736-2935 email: [mead@brandeis.edu](mailto:mead@brandeis.edu)

The Music Department believes in uniting music making with intellectual inquiry by giving students the opportunity to experience music as both scholarship and a process of creation and performance.

The curriculum and repertoire explore the connection between the art of the past and the present by seeking new interpretive meanings to classical works; creating and experiencing new music inspired by the visionaries who preceded us; exploring western and non-western musical traditions; and understanding music as a cultural phenomenon.

## **MUS 1A — Exploring Western Music**

A general introduction to the materials and forms of music, and a study of western musical literature. Training in analytical listening, based on selected listening assignments. Open to non-majors who are assumed to have little or no previous knowledge of music. Usually offered every second year.

## **MUS 3B — Introduction to World Musics**

What are we listening to? Applies engaged listening skills and critical analysis for a deeper appreciation of (non-Western) music as a cultural expression. Focuses on particular traditions as well as social context, impact of globalization, cultural production, cultural rights, etc. Usually offered every year.

## **MUS 5A — The Beginner's Toolbox: Fundamentals of Music Notation and Performance**

For the general student with no musical background. Two hours a week will be devoted to the notation of music, including scales, intervals, keys, triads, rhythm, and meter. The third hour will be devoted to sight-singing and dictation. Reading knowledge of music is not required; a placement exam will be given on the first day of instruction. Usually offered every year.

## **MUS 52A — The World of Opera: Music and Drama**

Surveys the history of opera from its emergence around 1600 to the present day. In addition to tracing musical changes, the social, cultural, and intellectual trends that influenced (and were shaped by) these changes are also considered. Usually offered every second year.

### **MUS 87A — Music and Dance from Ghana**

Instruments will be supplied by instructor.

Students in this course will study and perform a repertory of traditional music and dance of a variety of ethnic traditions from Ghana, West Africa. The drum ensemble includes bells, rattles and drums. The vocal music features call-and-response singing in local languages. The dances have choreographic formations as well as opportunity for individual expression. Drumming and dancing are closely intertwined; work will culminate in a final performance. Usually offered every year.

### **MUS 87B — Music and Dance from Ghana**

Continuation of MUS 87a.

Usually offered every year.

### **MUS 101A — Theory and Musicianship I: Part 1**

Admission by placement exam to be given in class on the first day of instruction. Corequisite: MUS 102a.

A first course for students who already read music, but wish to develop a deeper involvement. Students investigate how music "works" by composing exercises based on examples of tonal music and literature that students are practicing for performance. Focuses on elementary harmony and voice-leading, counterpoint, analysis, and model composition. In the required one-hour lab (MUS 102a), students practice sight-singing and dictation, skills essential to music literacy. Usually offered every year.

### **MUS 101B — Theory and Musicianship I: Part 2**

Corequisite: MUS 102b.

The second semester introduces broad concepts of theory and begins the process of learning to write and analyze music. By the end of the year, students will gain experience in counterpoint, harmony, and formal analysis, and will compose in a simple form. Throughout the year, the relationship of repertoire and theory is stressed. The required ear-training and keyboard lab meets separately. Usually offered every year.

### **MUS 102A — Theory and Musicianship Lab I: Part 1**

Corequisite: MUS 101a.

Designed to help students develop essential music literary skills. Beginning sight-singing, simple melodic and harmonic dictation, and rhythmic studies. Materials drawn from the corequisite lecture course. Keyboard harmony. Usually offered every year.

## **MUS 102B — Theory and Musicianship Lab I: Part 2**

Corequisite: MUS 101b.

See MUS 102a for course description. Usually offered every year.

### *Music Performance Courses*

There is a long tradition and a strong emphasis on performance in the music department. First-year students, especially potential majors, are encouraged to enroll in Private Lessons: Instrumentalists (MUS 111a and b) or Private Lessons: Voice (112a and b). Placement auditions for teacher assignments are held at the beginning of the semester. The department also extends a warm invitation to all students to register for participation in the performing ensembles: Early Music Ensemble (MUS 80), Chamber Choir (MUS 81), University Chorus (MUS 82), Jazz Ensemble (MUS 83), Orchestra (MUS 84), Wind Ensemble (MUS 85), Improv Collective (MUS 86), Music and Dance from Ghana (MUS 87), and Chamber Music (MUS 116).

# Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/nejs](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/nejs)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Ilana Szobel 781-736-5230 email: [szobel@brandeis.edu](mailto:szobel@brandeis.edu)

The Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (NEJS) is home to a strong and diverse international faculty whose members research the Bible and ancient Near East, the modern Middle East, Jewish civilization from its beginnings through historical and contemporary times, Israel studies, Rabbinic Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Our classes are taught on many levels, in disciplines including textual and literary studies, history, social sciences, intellectual history and philosophy, religion and the arts.

## **NEJS 5A — Foundational Course in Judaic Studies**

A survey of the Jewish experience and thought, focusing on the varieties of historical Judaism, including its classical forms, its medieval patterns and transformations, and its modern options. Usually offered every year.

## **NEJS 133A — Art, Artifacts, and History: The Material Culture of Modern Jews**

An interpretive, bibliographic, and hands-on study of the material (nontextual) 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. Usually offered every second year.

## **NEJS 135A — The Modern Jewish Experience**

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. Usually offered every year.

## **NEJS 145A — History of the State of Israel**

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. Usually offered every year.

## **NEJS 153A — Between Ecstasy and Community: Hasidism in Jewish Thought and History**

Explores Hasidism, from the 18th century until today, as one of the dynamic forces in Jewish life, mixing radicalism and reaction, theology, storytelling and music, thick community and wild individualism, deep conformity and spiritual abandon. Usually offered every third year.

**NEJS 155A — Maimonides: A Jewish Thinker in the Islamic World**

A study of the life, world, and thought of Moses Maimonides, the most significant Jewish intellectual of the Islamic world. This course traces his intellectual output in philosophy and Judaism, from its beginning in Islamic Spain to the mature works produced in Morocco and Egypt, in the context of the Arabic-Islamic milieu. Half of the course is dedicated to studying his Guide of the Perplexed, a Judeo-Arabic work that engages the demands of revealed religion and philosophical rationalism. Usually offered every third year.

**NEJS 158B — Yiddish Literature in the Modern Jewish Revolution**

Introduces students to Yiddish fiction, poetry, and drama created in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Eastern Europe and the Americas. Readings include a sampling of works by classic Yiddish writers, but focus primarily on fiction, poetry, and drama by writers of succeeding generations. Usually offered every second year.

**NEJS 159B — Modern Jewish Philosophy**

Surveys the contours of modern Jewish philosophy by engaging some of its most important themes and voices. Competing Jewish inflections of and responses to rationalism, romanticism, idealism, existentialism, and nihilism. This provides the conceptual road signs of the course as we traverse the winding byways of Jewish philosophy from Baruch Spinoza to Emanuel Levinas. Usually offered every second year.

**NEJS 176B — Jewish Graphic Novels**

Examines the complex genre of the Jewish graphic novel. Explores how Jews have used graphic narratives to grapple with issues of acculturation, trauma, and identity. A historical survey accompanies readings of contemporary works by American, Israeli and European authors. Usually offered every second year

**NEJS 177A — The Holocaust in Israeli and Jewish Literature**

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. Usually offered every third year.

**NEJS 181B — Film and the Holocaust**

Examines the medium of film, propaganda, documentary, and narrative fiction relevant to the history of the Holocaust. The use of 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 medium, as a medium, works to (re)present meaning(s). Usually offered every second year.

**ARBC 10A — Beginning Arabic I**

A first course in literary Arabic, covering essentials of grammar, reading, pronunciation, translation, and composition. A grade of C- or higher in ARBC 10a is required to take ARBC 20b. Usually offered every year.

**FYS 53A — Between Conflict and Cooperation: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain**

An examination of social and intellectual interaction among the three religious communities of medieval Spain, focusing on literature, philosophy, and religion (including mysticism). Will study how the interaction of the three faiths helped produce a unique culture.

**YDSH 10A — Beginning Yiddish**

The first of a four-semester sequence, this course introduces basic Yiddish grammar. Students also develop reading, writing, and conversational skills. Yiddish songs, poetry, and folklore are incorporated throughout. Usually offered every year.

# Neuroscience

www.bio.brandeis.edu

Course of Study: Major

Undergraduate Advising Head: Paul Miller 781-736-2890 email: pmiller@brandeis.edu

Neuroscience is an interdisciplinary study of the neural mechanisms involved in the control of human and animal behavior. It combines a strong foundation in basic science with more specialized courses in neurobiology and psychology. The course requirements overlap with those recommended for admissions to medical school and graduate programs in biology, neuroscience, and neuropsychology. Therefore, the major is especially appropriate for students wishing to pursue graduate school in medicine, neurobiology, cognitive neuroscience, or neuro-modeling.

## **BIOL 14A — Genetics and Genomics**

Studies fundamentals of genetics, genomics, molecular biology and biological problem-solving. Topics include heredity, meiosis, molecular basis of phenotypic variations in individuals and populations, as well as an introduction to the tools and techniques used by past and current researchers in genetics and genomics. Usually offered every year.

## **BIOL 15B — Cells and Organisms**

Introduces contemporary biology with an emphasis on cells, organs, and organ systems. Topics include the forms and functions of macromolecules, organelles, and cells, the integration of cells into tissues, and the physiology of fundamental life processes. The course is intended to prepare students to understand the biology of everyday life, and to provide a strong foundation for those who continue to study the life sciences. Usually offered every year.

## **CHEM 11A — General Chemistry I**

The corresponding lab is CHEM 18a.

Covers a wide array of topics, embracing aspects of descriptive, as well as quantitative, chemistry. No prior study of chemistry is assumed, as the course begins by looking at the atomic foundation of matter, the elements, and the organization of the periodic table, working its way up to studying how atoms are bonded together to form larger units of matter. Students who complete this course will have an understanding of the three major phases of matter—solids, liquids, and gases—and how they behave, as well as a knowledge of the major types of chemical reactions and how to represent them. A strong focus is put on learning methods of creative problem-solving—using the material as a way to develop creative approaches to solving unfamiliar problems—a skill that carries students far beyond the confines of the classroom. Usually offered every year.

## **CHEM 15A — Honors General Chemistry I**

The corresponding laboratory is CHEM 19a.

An advanced version of general chemistry for students with good preparation in math and chemistry in high school. Topics include chemical stoichiometry, chemical bonding from a classical and quantum mechanical perspective, gases, thermochemistry, solutions, states of matter atomic structure and

periodic properties. Real world examples are used to demonstrate the concepts. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 11B — General Chemistry II**

The corresponding lab is CHEM 18b.

Picks up where Chemistry 11a left off, advancing students' understanding of bonding models and molecular structure and exploring the basics of coordination chemistry. Three major quantitative topics are covered in the second half of General Chemistry—chemical equilibrium (including acid-base chemistry, solubility, and complex-ion formation), chemical kinetics, and thermodynamics. Other topics explored are electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Usually offered every year.

### **CHEM 15B — Honors General Chemistry II**

The corresponding laboratory is CHEM 19b.

A continuation of CHEM 15a. Topics include an introduction to thermodynamics, chemical equilibria, including acid-base and solubility equilibria, electrochemistry, chemical kinetics, nuclear chemistry, coordination chemistry and special topics. Usually offered every year.

### **MATH 10A — Techniques of Calculus (a)**

Introduction to differential (and some integral) calculus of one variable, with emphasis on techniques and applications. Usually offered every semester.

### **NBIO 45A — The Cognitive and Neurobiological Basis of Memory**

How does the brain store and recall memories? We will review studies that have elucidated the molecular, cellular, and network mechanisms involved. This provides insights to deficits in memory, such as Alzheimer's disease, and into strategies for improving memory. Usually offered every third year.

### **NPSY 11B — Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience**

Data and theories regarding current conceptions of brain-behavior relationships. Begins with an introduction to neural systems as classically defined (sensory, association, motor, autonomic), and moves on to examination of the biological underpinnings of various behaviors, from those relating to basic drives (reproduction, feeding) to those with a cognitive flavor. Throughout, the accent is on interactions between organisms and environment (learning). Usually offered every year.

### **PSYC 10A — Introduction to Psychology**

Formerly offered as PSYC 1a.

A survey of contemporary psychology. Topics include brain and behavior, perception, memory, learning, cognitive processes, plasticity, intelligence, child and adult development, personality, social behavior, and the relationship between normal and abnormal behavior. Usually offered every semester.

# Philosophy

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/philosophy](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/philosophy)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Eli Hirsch 781-736-2785 email: [hirsch@brandeis.edu](mailto:hirsch@brandeis.edu)

In the course of our daily lives we take the ideas of time, language, knowledge, and our own identity for granted. Philosophy seeks to push the understanding of the ideas that are fundamental to all the other disciplines taught at Brandeis University— the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts.

## **PHIL 1A — Introduction to Philosophy**

A general course presenting the problems of philosophy, especially in the areas of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and social and political philosophy. Texts include works of selected philosophers of various historical periods from antiquity to the present. Usually offered every semester.

## **PHIL 6A — Introduction to Symbolic Logic**

Symbolic logic provides concepts and formal techniques that elucidate deductive reasoning. Topics include truth functions and quantifiers, validity, and formal systems. Usually offered every year.

## **PHIL 17A — Introduction to Ethics**

Explores the basic concepts and theories of ethical philosophy. What makes a life good? What are our moral obligations to other people? Applications of ethical philosophy to various concrete questions will be considered. Usually offered every semester.

## **PHIL 21A — Environmental Ethics**

Explores the ethical dimensions of human relationships to the natural world. Looks at environmental ethical theories such as deep ecology and eco-feminism and discusses the ethics of specific environmental issues such as wilderness preservation and climate change. Usually offered every second year.

## **PHIL 22B — Philosophy of Law**

Examines the nature of criminal responsibility, causation in the law, negligence and liability, omission and the duty to rescue, and the nature and limits of law. Also, is the law more or less like chess or poker, cooking recipes, or the Ten Commandments? Usually offered every year.

## **PHIL 23B — Biomedical Ethics**

An examination of ethical issues that arise in a biomedical context, such as the issues of abortion, euthanasia, eugenics, lying to patients, and the right to health care. The relevance of ethical theory to such issues will be considered. Usually offered every second year.

# Physics

[www.physics.brandeis.edu](http://www.physics.brandeis.edu)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: David Roberts email: [roberts@brandeis.edu](mailto:roberts@brandeis.edu)

Students majoring in physics go on to graduate studies in physics, electrical engineering, and medicine, or seek entry level industrial/technical employment. For students considering majoring in physics, it is important to meet with the physics department undergraduate advisor as soon as you arrive in the fall to discuss the choice of your first classes.

If you received score(s) on either AP Physics test that entitle you to credit toward graduation and credit toward the physics major (see the AP chart in the University Bulletin), you are eligible to enroll in the fall semester in PHYS 20a. Note that PHYS 11a, 15a and PHYS 20a all meet at the same time, so if you find that your initial choice was wrong, it is easy to change classes. However, we advise even students with excellent preparation in physics and mathematics to take PHYS 15a and 15b, as the AP courses do not cover the material in sufficient depth, and have no laboratory component. You should consult with UAH Professor Roberts if you are contemplating going straight into PHYS 20a.

## **PHYS 10A — Introduction to Physical Laws and Phenomena I**

Usually taken with PHYS 18a.

An introduction to Newtonian mechanics, kinetic theory, and thermodynamics. Usually offered every year.

## **PHYS 11A — Introductory Physics I**

Usually taken with PHYS 19a.

An introduction to Newtonian mechanics with applications to several topics.

## **PHYS 15A — Advanced Introductory Physics I**

Usually taken with PHYS 19a.

An advanced version of PHYS 11a for students with advanced preparation in physics and mathematics. An introduction to Newtonian mechanics with special applications to several topics.

**PHYS 19A — Physics Laboratory I**

Laboratory course designed to accompany PHYS 11a and 15a. Introductory statistics and data analysis including use of microcomputers and basic experiments in mechanics. One afternoon or evening of laboratory per week. One one-and-a-half-hour lecture per week. Usually offered every year.

Physics Laboratory I (PHYS 19a) Laboratory course designed to accompany PHYS 11a and 15a. Introductory statistics and data analysis including use of microcomputers and basic experiments in mechanics. One afternoon or evening of laboratory per week. One one-and-a-half-hour lecture per week.

**PHYS 20A — Modern Physics I**

A survey of phenomena, ideas, and mathematics underlying modern physics-special relativity, waves and oscillations, and foundations of wave mechanics

# Politics

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/politics](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/politics)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Jill Greenlee 781-736-2760, email: [greenlee@brandeis.edu](mailto:greenlee@brandeis.edu)

Interested in a career in governmental and nongovernmental public service, policy analysis, journalism, law, and business, or in post-graduate work in political science? The politics department familiarizes students with the ways others have engaged important issues, from the classical philosophers whose works shape the Western political tradition, to the modern political theorists and practitioners who shape the politics of these issues.

There is consistency with the Brandeis emphasis on critical reading, thinking, and writing skills in all of our undergraduate courses. In our seminars we seek to develop our students' abilities to articulate reasoned arguments in support of their views before an audience of their peers.

## **POL 10A — Introduction to Political Theory**

Examination of classical political texts and modern writings for insights on central problems of political discourse, such as power and authority, human nature, freedom, obligation, justice, and the organization of the state. Usually offered every year.

## **POL 11B — Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Introduces key concepts and questions in comparative politics and seeks to provide students with a grounding in the basic tools of comparative analysis. It applies and evaluates competing theoretical approaches (cultural, institutional, social-structural, and leadership-centered) to explain several important phenomena such as (1) democracy and democratization; (2) revolution; and (3) ethnicity and ethnic conflict. It also explores recent debates about the importance of civil society and political institutions in shaping political outcomes. Cases will be drawn from Africa, Asia, Western Europe, the Americas, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Usually offered every year.

## **POL 14B — Introduction to American Government**

Analysis of American political institutions: Congress, the presidency, Supreme Court, bureaucracy, political parties, pressure groups, and problems of governmental decision making in relation to specific areas of public policy. Usually offered every semester.

## **POL 15A — Introduction to International Relations**

General introduction to international politics, emphasizing the essential characteristics of the international system as a basis for understanding the foreign policy of individual countries. Analysis of causes of war, conditions of peace, patterns of influence, the nature of the world's political economy, global environmental issues, human rights, and prospects for international organizations. Open to first-year students. Usually offered every semester.

**POL 129A — East European Politics**

Politics and society in the post-Communist states of Eastern Europe, drawing general lessons about the relationships among social modernization, nationalism, and democratic transition. Usually offered every fourth year.

**POL 171B — National Intelligence: Theory, Practice, and Cinematic**

Examines the challenges of developing useful "intelligence" for policymaking, the nature of covert operations for intelligence, and how spy/espionage films shape popular understanding of intelligence and covert operations. Usually offered every year.

**POL 188B — Modern Political Thought**

Provides a survey of major works of modern political thought, beginning with Machiavelli and ending with John Rawls. It proceeds by way of careful reading and discussion of their most important arguments and the issues that they raise. Usually offered every year.

# Psychology

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/psych](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/psych)

Course of Study: Major

Undergraduate Advising Head: Joseph Cunningham 781-736-3304 email: [cunningham@brandeis.edu](mailto:cunningham@brandeis.edu)

The Department of Psychology offers students the opportunity to establish a strong scientific and research foundation in psychology, which prepares them to be thoughtful and discerning problem solvers. The program examines the most up-to-date and comprehensive psychological research and theory and provides opportunities for direct involvement in its application to clinical, mental-health, business, educational, and other settings.

Our faculty conducts research in diverse areas including cognitive science, normal and abnormal development, health, culture, social interaction, spatial orientation, neurological bases of sensation, perception, memory, emotion, life-span development and aging, and effects of brain damage.

## **PSYC 10A — Introduction to Psychology**

Formerly offered as PSYC 1a. PSYC 10a is the introductory course for Psychology majors and is a prerequisite for most other courses in the major.

A survey of contemporary psychology. Topics include brain and behavior, perception, memory, learning, cognitive processes, plasticity, intelligence, child and adult development, personality, social behavior, and the relationship between normal and abnormal behavior. Usually offered every semester.

# Religious Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/religious](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/religious)

Course of Study: Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Marc Brettler email: [brettler@brandeis.edu](mailto:brettler@brandeis.edu)

Deepen your understanding of religion and its manifestations through different methodologies and disciplines with the Religious Studies Program. The program offers courses in religious thought, ritual, culture, institutions, spirituality, and sacred texts, often in historical and comparative contexts.

Brandeis, with its commitment to the wide range of religious and ethnic backgrounds in its student body, provides a supportive context for examining religion with open-minded curiosity and sympathetic understanding.

## **REL 107A — Introduction to World Religions**

An introduction to the study of religion; this core course surveys and broadly explores some of the major religions across the globe.

## **REL 121A — Mysticism and the Moral Life**

Studies the lives and writings of mystics and activists from Jewish, Sufi, Roman Catholic, and African American protestant traditions, who connect prayer, the experience of God, and ethical commitment. Special focus on Heschel, Merton, Thurman, Teresa of Avila, Sayyed Hossein Nasr. Usually offered every third year.

## **REL 151A — The Buddha: His Life and Teachings**

Few human beings have had as much impact on the world as Siddhartha Gotama Shakyamuni, known to us as Buddha. This course explores his life and teachings as reflected in early Buddhist literature and Western scholarship. Usually offered every year.

## **REL/SAS 152A — Introduction to Hinduism**

Introduces Hindu practice and thought. Explores broadly the variety of forms, practices, and philosophies that have been developing from the time of the Vedas (ca. 1500 BCE) up to present day popular Hinduism practiced in both urban and rural India. Examines the relations between Hindu religion and its wider cultural, social, and political contexts, relations between the Hindu majority of India and minority traditions, and questions of Hindu identity both in India and abroad. Usually offered every second year.

# Russian Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/departments/grall/russian](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/grall/russian)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Program Director: Irina Dubinina 781-736-3223 email: [idubin@brandeis.edu](mailto:idubin@brandeis.edu)

We are a small, but vibrant program which offers a number of outstanding courses on Russian literature (taught in English) and a full three-year language curriculum. Our literature expertise is in the 19th- and 20th-century Russian novel and in Russian poetry. Language courses focus on developing all four skills: speaking, listening, writing and reading, with special focus on speaking and oral comprehension. Our language courses are intensive and fast-paced which allows students to achieve significant proficiency after only 2 years of language study. By the fourth semester (Russian 40) students are able to handle the class instructed entirely in Russian.

Our program also offers special opportunities for Russian bilinguals to acquire literacy in Cyrillic and to develop their language skills. Please contact Program Director Irina Dubinina for more information about these opportunities.

*Courses in Russian Language and Literature:*

## **RUS 10A — Beginning Russian I**

For students who have had no previous study of Russian. A systematic presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Russian culture, with focus on all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Usually offered every year.

## **RUS 20B — Beginning Russian II**

For students with some previous study of Russian. Continuing presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Russian culture, and practice of the four language skills. Special attention to reading and writing skills, as well as guided conversation. Usually offered every year.

*Courses in Russian Studies:*

## **RECS 150A — Russian and Soviet Cinema**

Conducted in English. Readings in English.

Examines the Russian/Soviet cinematic tradition from the silent era to today, with special attention to cultural context and visual elements. Film masterpieces directed by Bauer, Eisenstein, Vertov, Parajanov, Tarkovsky, Mikhalkov, and others. Weekly screenings. Usually offered every second year.

# South Asian Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/programs/southasianstudies](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/southasianstudies)

Course of Study: Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Harleen Singh 781-736-8485 email: [harleen@brandeis.edu](mailto:harleen@brandeis.edu)

The South Asian Studies program provides a minor (open to students in any major) for those who wish to structure their studies of South Asia or the South Asian diaspora. The minor offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the literatures, histories, societies, cultures, religions, arts and contemporary importance of South Asia and diasporic South Asian communities. South Asia, one of the world's most populous and significant regions, includes the modern nations of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and in certain contexts Afghanistan, Maldives, Myanmar and Tibet. Students completing the minor will come away with a strong understanding of the intellectual, cultural, political, economic and social developments at several key periods in South Asia's history and in the contemporary era.

## **SAS 100A — India and Pakistan: Understanding South Asia**

An exploration of the history, societies, cultures, religions, and literature of South Asia--India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Uses perspectives from history, anthropology, literature, and film to examine past and contemporary life in South Asia. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Anjaria, Ms. Anjaria, or Ms. Singh

# Theater Arts

[www.brandeis.edu/theater](http://www.brandeis.edu/theater)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Jennifer Cleary 781-736-3377 email: [jacleary@brandeis.edu](mailto:jacleary@brandeis.edu)

Explore the areas of academic study of theater (theater history, dramatic literature, criticism, and theory), as well as a full range of courses in performance and production (acting, voice and speech, movement, playwriting, design, technical theater, and state management).

## **THA 10A — Theater as Performance**

Develops the student's ability to read a theatrical text through the lens of the directorial mind and the voice/body/imagination of the performer. Reading, discussions, papers and exercises about acting, directing, dance, performance art, devised work, etc. will constitute the bulk of this course. Intended for Theater majors as well as students with no theater experience. Usually offered every year.

## **THA 10B — Theater as Design**

Examines design as a foundational element of theater arts. The artistic process of transforming text and story into production will be explored. In addition to examining the various elements of the artistic team, setting, costume, lights, sound and projection, the class will also explore the collaborative process: an active interchange between designers and performers, directors, technicians and management to achieve a unified vision for production. Intended for Theater majors as well as students with no theater experience. Usually taught every year.

## **THA 11A — Theater Texts and Theory I**

The evolution of Western drama from its ritual origins through the mid-eighteenth century. Greek tragedy, Roman comedy, medieval drama, Italian humanism, Spanish Golden Age comedias, and French neoclassicism. Attention paid to theater history, dramatic theory, and performance. Usually offered every year.

## **THA 11B — Theater Texts and Theory II**

This is an experiential learning course. A continuation of THA 100a, covering plays, history, and political theory. Romanticism to the present, including realism and the avant-garde. Usually offered every year.

## **THA 21B — Acting: Language in Action**

An introduction to the art and craft of acting. This course focuses on analysis and performance techniques including the use of actions, objectives, obstacles, engaging with the "other," dramatic conflict, and physical and emotional give and take of playing scenes from dramatic literature. Usually offered every semester.

**THA 109A — Improvisation**

An approach to acting through the stimulation of the actor's imagination and creativity, freeing the actor's impulses and faith. Improvisation breaks down the elements of scene work and, through a series of exercises, makes these elements more personal and accessible to the actor. Usually offered every year.

**THA 125B — Set Design I - From Idea to Image**

Introduces students to the process of creating evocative and imaginative designs for the stage. Working with a variety of texts, students will explore how to develop ideas and striking theatrical images that tell the story of the play. Working in a studio setting, students will be introduced to methods and craft of set design - including research, sketching, model making and drafting. Above all, students will be asked to take risks, and begin to develop their artistic vision. Usually offered every year.

# Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

[www.brandeis.edu/wgs](http://www.brandeis.edu/wgs)

Course of Study: Major, Minor

Undergraduate Advising Head: Dian Fox 781-736-3203 email: [fox@brandeis.edu](mailto:fox@brandeis.edu)

Women's, gender, and sexuality studies draws on the humanities, arts, social and biological sciences to explore the broad range of intellectual questions raised by the social positions of women. The curriculum brings students into contact with the extensive research on women, gender, and feminism that has burgeoned during the past thirty years as well as with historical and cross-cultural knowledge that recognizes the intersections of gender with race, class, religion, sexuality, ethnicity, age, ability, and nationality.

## **WMGS 5A — Women, Genders, and Sexualities**

This interdisciplinary course introduces central concepts and topics in the field of women's, gender, and sexuality 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. Asks how gendered institutions, behaviors, and representations have been configured in the past and function in the present, and also examines the ways in which gender and sexuality intersect with many other vectors of identity and circumstance in forming human affairs. Usually offered every fall and spring.

## **SQS 6B — Sexuality and Queer Studies**

Examines cross-cultural and historical perspectives on sexual meanings, experiences, representations, and activist movements within a framework forged by contemporary critical theories of gender and sexuality. Usually offered every year.