



Course Descriptions Fall 2019

- **BIB 345 The Book of Genesis: An Exploration of the Human Condition**

Dr. Job Jindo

This course is a close critical reading of Genesis, revolving around the themes of freewill, perception, normativity, family, and holiness. By the conclusion of this course, the student will learn: (1) the structure, purposes, and theological outlook of Genesis; (2) some insight into the complexity of being human as well as the enduring dilemmas of soulcraft as reflected in Genesis; and (3) how to teach the book of Genesis to contemporaries with AJR values (i.e., critical rigor, inclusivity, commitment to the pluralistic, contemporary Jewish, and broader communities).

Prerequisite: Introduction to Bible.

(2 credits)

- **BIB 415 Prophets of *Haftarot*: Readings in the Minor Prophets**

Dr. Job Jindo

This course explores the Minor Prophets of the *Haftarot* (an ancient part of Hebrew liturgy). By the conclusion of this course, the student will learn: (1) the distinct characteristics and messages of each of the Minor Prophets; (2) the phenomenology of biblical prophecy; and (3) how to teach the Minor Prophets of *Haftarot* to contemporaries with AJR values (i.e., critical rigor, inclusivity, commitment to the pluralistic, contemporary Jewish and broader communities). The subjects we will explore include: “election and creation,” “individuality and collectivity,” “prophecy and poetry,” “the universe as God’s kingdom,” “God’s transcendence and exclusivity,” “divine pathos and prophetic compassion,” “prophet as a vessel or partner of God,” “self-deification as idolatry,” “the purpose for transcribing a prophetic message,” “universalism and particularism,” and “dogmatism and spiritual renewal.” Prerequisite: Introduction to Bible.

(2 credits)

- **CAN 425 Advanced *Nusah* Shabbat I**

Cantors Sol Zim and Lisa Klinger-Kantor

This course gives an in depth and extensive study of the vast liturgy of the *Kabbalat Shabbat* service. Students will master, lead, and develop a deep understanding of the *nusah* and special motifs in the opening *Kabbalat Shabbat* service. Students will learn, in depth, the many *nushaot*, motifs, and participatory melodies of the *l'khab dodi* section and will master and attain a deeper understanding of the *Ma'ariv l'Shabbat* service by learning & demonstrating strong competence in the *nusah* & special motifs so as to lead a service.

(4 credits)

- **CAN 513 Popular Yiddish Folk and Theatre Music**

Cantor Sol Zim

Students will learn, sing, and analyze the most popular Yiddish folk and theatre songs taken from various rich musical sources. Students will master how to perform, interpret and use proper breathing & vocal coloration while singing and presenting these selections in concert. Yiddish music is very colorful & expressive. Students will be taught & guided how to effectively perform Yiddish materials, in order to captivate an audience. This course will count toward the Diverse Musical Traditions requirement for cantorial students. It is open to all students as an elective.

(1 credit)

- **HAL 402 Introduction to Codes II**

Rabbi David Almog

Continuation of Introduction to Codes I taught in the summer. Open to those who took that course or the equivalent.

- **HEB 250 Hebrew I**

Yifat Avner

This course will build upon the foundation grammar covered in Mechina Hebrew. The students will continue to work on developing communications skills in Modern Hebrew. They will be introduced to more advanced grammatical patterns and new vocabulary and continue to improve their writing, reading and conversational skills. Students will continue to apply their knowledge of Hebrew by reading a text independently and trying to understand it.

(4 credits)

- **HEB 350 Hebrew IIA**

Ilana Davidov

Students will almost finish *Hebrew from Scratch B* (עברית מן ההתחלה ב'). Students will learn new grammatical topics including passive *binyanim* and noun declension; develop strategies for reading comprehension and word recognition, and practice conveying ideas and opinions in both speech and writing.

(4 credits)

- **HEB 351 Hebrew IIB**

Ilana Davidov

Students will complete the last few lessons of עברית מן ההתחלה ב', supplementing the textbook with advance materials from אגדה של שפה. Students will learn new grammatical topics and practice writing ideas and opinions about independent readings. (Gesher books). Students will work on improving their aural comprehension by listening to short stories provided by instructor.

(4 credits)

- **HIS 401 Ideas and Debates of Jewish History II**

Eric Miller

The second part of this two-trimester course will examine the new ideas and the great debates that affected Jewish belief, culture and society from the Early Middle Ages up through Early Modern Times. This trimester will focus on the new ideas, perspectives, innovations, and debates of the Babylonian Jewish community under Islamic rule, followed by the growth of the Spanish Jewish community and the exciting developments created in that context. The development of the Ashkenazi Jewish community, as well as its unique understanding of Torah, will be explored, along with the influences and cultural exchange between Judaism and the Medieval Christian World, leading into the period of European Enlightenment and the Early Modern World.

(2 credits)

- **INT 331 Sacred Arts – Circus Texts**

Dr. Ora Horn Prouser and Ayal Prouser

How do we read texts with our bodies? How differently do we think with our bodies? In this class we will pursue this idea as readers, teachers, artists, and fun loving individuals. We will study text through the vehicle of circus arts, such as human pyramids, partner acrobatics, juggling, rolla bolla, tightwire, and more. We will engage in the academic study of the new field of Circus Studies, a multifarious field with many discrete methodologies that all join in the pursuit of elevating the study of

circus to scholarly levels. We will understand the value of the arts in education, and the importance of opening up our sacred literature to those who often feel disenfranchised by the traditional form of Jewish text study. We will grow as educators, students, and as artists, while also enhancing our ability to bring even more people into the study of text. This class will be co-taught by instructors in text study and in circus arts, with several visiting instructors joining us as well. Open to all ages, abilities, and fitness levels (we really mean it!!) This class will fulfill the Sacred Arts requirement, or can be counted as a Bible elective or a spirituality elective. Please note, students are required to be on-site for this course.

(2 credits)

- **LIT 271 Tefillah and Seminar**

Rabbi Debra Orenstein

This seminar will give students techniques, strategies and, most importantly, practice, in leading prayers for a variety of occasions and populations.

(1 credit).

- **LIT 307 Festival Liturgy**

Rabbi Rob Scheinberg

A study of the liturgy throughout the cycle of the Jewish year, from biblical origins to the present era. Features: variations in the basic liturgy, especially the *Amidah* for *Shelosh Regalim*; the development of *Hallel* customs; the form, function and texts of principal *piyyutim*; variations in practice among various rites and contemporary communities; the role of the *Musaf* service along with the theological implications of this part of the liturgy. Also a discussion of the liturgies that have evolved in response to the history of the Jewish community in the twentieth century *Yom Hasboah*, *Yom Hazikaron*, *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, and discussion of creative and innovative rituals that can be introduced into the fixed liturgy. Prerequisite: Introduction to Liturgy

(2 credits)

- **PHI 311 Medieval Philosophy**

Dr. Len Levin

The classics of medieval Jewish philosophy will be considered as efforts in the ongoing project to articulate a coherent Jewish world-outlook. How did they seek to integrate the value-orientation of the Bible with the best (Greek) “science” of their age? How might their attempts at integration serve as models for us? Texts to be studied will include: Bible, Plato, Aristotle, Philo, Saadia, Halevi, and Maimonides (with intensive attention devoted to the *Guide for the Perplexed*).

(2 credits)

- **PRO 341 Life Cycle I**

Rabbi Jeffrey Segelman

The Life Cycle I class is designed to provide each student with an understanding of the traditional celebrations of Jewish life from birth through marriage. This understanding is valuable in terms of the content and development of the ritual, and practical in regard to the professional skills necessary for the role of the clergy. Upon completion of this course, students will know how to plan and execute all of the traditional rituals from birth through Bar/Bat Mitzvah and will know how to prepare the families for, and officiate at weddings. In addition, students will have acquired experience in innovating the traditional rituals as well as creating new rituals that bring Jewish content to secular milestones in life.

(2 credits)

- **PRO 479 Jewish Leadership in the Eye of the Storm**

Yakir Englander

The twenty-first century opens with some old familiar questions about the meaning of leadership dressed up in modern and postmodern garb; in addition, there are also some challenges posed that are unique to the nature and culture of our generation. This course can be seen as an existential laboratory of Jewish leadership, in the context of which Jewish leaders can face and grapple with such questions, and also design and forge the framework for new and personal Jewish theologies of leadership, with a focus on North America.

Among other challenges, we will deal with the meaning of Adaptive Leadership theory and practice. We will focus on different *Mussar* values of leadership, such as creating intimacy, love, critique and deep listening. We will focus on how to speak about Israel in the American Jewish sphere, how to engage feminine leadership into our Jewish masculine culture, and will explore the tension between focusing on the future of Judaism and the future of Jews.

We will encounter a variety of contemporary voices addressing these complex questions, exploring both Jewish and non-Jewish perspectives. Participants will compose personal leadership texts based on their learning and insights. These texts will be shared with fellow participants, and will constitute an informed personal Jewish leadership. Taken together, these texts and personal reflections will be crucial in the forging of a unique and timely Jewish leadership in the United States today. This course will count toward the Entrepreneurship requirement.

(2 credits)

- **PRO 700 Field Work Support Seminar (FWSS)**

Rabbi Jeff Hoffman

This seminar group focuses upon issues that arise in the course of rabbinical and cantorial work. Students will explore the challenges that they face in their work and in their developing rabbinate/cantorate through the presentation of a case study. Participation is required of all students whose work is counting as a required internship experience. All Fieldwork must be approved prior to the beginning of the semester by Cantor Michael Kasper. Tuition is charged but no academic course credit is given for this seminar.

(No credit)

- **RAB 100 Introduction to Mishnah**

Rabbi Maya Resnikoff

This course will introduce students to the study of mishnah as a traditional and academic discipline. Texts assigned will illustrate the variety of literary styles and subject matter within the mishnah. The course will also include a brief introduction to relevant scholarly issues in mishnah study, and mishnah study's place in rabbinic work and theology. Students in this course must be at the level of Hebrew I or above

(2 credits)

- **RAB 110 Introduction to Midrash**

Rabbi Jill Hammer

In this introductory class, we will examine the forms, methods and vocabulary of rabbinic midrash and explore the function that midrash plays in rabbinic interpretation of Torah. We will learn some basic midrashic strategies, and become familiar with a variety of midrashic collections from the talmudic to the medieval period. This is a text-based class and we will spend time during each session reading midrashim in Hebrew to improve our fluency. Students in this course must be at the level of Hebrew I or above

(2 credits)

- **RAB 330 Intermediate Talmud**

Rabbi Jeff Hoffman

Students will continue to work on the skills necessary in decoding the Talmudic *sugya*. These include extensive work on the logic and the literary layers. Students will also continue to learn increase their knowledge of Talmudic terminology, vocabulary and grammar. The text will be Tractate *Megillah*. *Havruta* preparation is required of all students. Prerequisite: Two trimesters of Introduction to Talmud or the equivalent.

(2 credits)

- **RAB 510 Advanced Talmud**

Dr. Matthew Goldstone

This course will hone students' abilities to critically read, parse, and understand Talmudic material that is relevant for understanding Judaism. This trimester will focus on material from *Seder Nashim*, the part of the Talmud that deals with laws related to marriage, divorce, etc. (exact topic and *sugyot* TBD). The sources covered in this course will hopefully compliment similar rabbinic material covered in other courses and provide students with a broad view of issues related to marital and interpersonal relationships in the Talmud. *Havruta* preparation is required of all students. Prerequisite: Two trimesters of Intermediate Talmud or the equivalent.
(2 credits)

- **SPI 370 Architecture of Ritual**

Rabbi Jill Hammer

The Architecture of Ritual is a course that allows rabbinical and cantorial students to consciously explore what ritual is, what their role is in creating and performing ritual, and how ritual can be effective in the lives of modern Jews. The course will cover ritual as a phenomenon (what it is, why it exists, how it is structured) as well as explore individual ritual topics with an eye toward determining how ritual works and the function of clergy as ritual leaders.
(2 credits)