



GRADUATE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS AT HEBREW COLLEGE
COURSES AVAILABLE FOR NON-CREDIT
Spring Semester 2019-2020
February 3 – May 15, 2020

BIBLE

Biblical Origins of Civilization: Studies in Genesis 1-11

BIB548X

David Frankel

Online

In this course we will study the major stories of Genesis 1-11: Creation, Garden of Eden, Cain and Abel, the Sons of Elohim and Daughters of Man, the Flood, Noah's Drunkenness, and the Tower of Babel. In each narrative we will focus on the major interpretive ambiguities and exegetical alternatives in an attempt to achieve deeper understanding of its themes and message. We will also study parallel narratives from ancient Greece and the ancient Near East with the aim of uncovering cross-cultural continuities as well as the unique characteristics of the biblical world-view. Finally, attention will be given to Midrashic interpretation and to the ethical implications that the texts may bear.

Core Text – Torah 4: BeMidbar - The Book of Numbers

BIB700X

Rachel Adelman

Thursdays, 11:30 am-1:00 pm

(optional Beit Midrash preparation 9-11:15 am)

Non-Hebrew College students may take this class with permission from the instructor

Requires Hebrew 7 or above

This course on the Book of Numbers (BeMidbar) will focus on crises of leadership in the Wilderness. This period tracks the transition of the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt to their formation as a self-determining nation, prepared to settle the land. We will grapple with the complaint narratives, challenges to Moses' prophecy, the spies report, Korah's rebellion, and the social and legal innovations in settling the Promised Land. We will engage in a wide-range of sources – from Tannaitic Midrash (Sifre) and classic Medieval exegesis to source criticism – with an eye to broadening our reading strategies. Students will also be invited to extend and personalize issues of leadership, in anticipation of their own transition to "Rabbanut."

Core Text – Torah 1: Bereshit 2

BIB501X

Jordan Schuster

Mondays, 11:30 am-1:00 pm and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm

(optional Beit Midrash preparation Mondays 9-11:15am and Wednesdays 10:35am-12:35pm)

Non-Hebrew College students may take this class with permission from the instructor

Requires Hebrew 6 or above

In this course, we will consider the second half of *Sefer Bereshit*. In addition to developing a stronger sense of the poetry, rhetoric, and narrative structuring of the book, we will familiarize ourselves with various 20th and 21st century modes of biblical hermeneutics (Buber-Rosenzweig's redactor-critical lens, Julia Krysteva's French feminist lens, Eliade and Bachelard's topoanalytic lens, CG Jung's psychoanalytic lens). To supplement our reading of *Bereshit*, we will also be turning to medieval commentary, rabbinic midrash, and a smattering of hasidic sources.

Core Text – Torah 2: Shemot 2

BIB601X

Rachel Adelman

Tuesdays, 9:15-10:45 am and Thursdays, 2:30-4:00 pm

(optional Beit Midrash preparation Monday, 2:30 – 4 pm, and Thursday 9 – 11:15 am)

Non-Hebrew College students may take this class with permission from the instructor

Requires Hebrew 7 or above

From Sinai to the consecration of the Mishkan (Tabernacle), this course engages in a deep reading of the narrative and legal sections in the book of *Shemot* following the redemption of Israel from slavery. We will focus on the main events in the wilderness: the theophany at Sinai, the Sin of the Golden calf, and the building of the Tabernacle. We will draw upon interpretations primarily from classic rabbinic midrash and Medieval commentaries: the Mekhilta, Rashi, Ramban, and Ibn Ezra. We will also engage in a reading of the Revelation at Sinai and other selected passages through the lens of modern biblical criticism (the documentary hypothesis).

Hamesh Megillot – Esther, Song of Songs, Ruth

BIB750X

Rachel Adelman

Fridays, 11:30-1:00 pm

(optional Beit Midrash preparation 9–11:15am)

Requires Hebrew 7 or above

In this course students will engage a deep reading of three of the Five Megillot: Esther, Song of Songs, and the Book of Ruth. We will consider the historical context and genre of their composition, as well as their significance with respect to the liturgical year (Purim, Passover, and Shavuot). Special attention will be given to the dramatic presentation and character development, along with accompanying classical *parshanut*, midrash, literary commentary, modern feminist readings and creative responses to these texts. We will explore some of the existential issues each scroll presents: Jewish identity in the context of exile (*galut*) and assimilation; the virtue of the stranger (*ger*) in our midst; the tension between Law and Narrative; the problem of *hester panim* (the Hidden Face of God).

CANTORIAL ARTS

Basic Nusach

CAN517X

Lynn Torgove

Fridays, 9:00 – 10:45:00 a.m.

Requires Hebrew 4 or permission of the instructor

An introduction to the modes and motifs of traditional synagogue prayer. Emphasis will be on not only acquiring the musical skills to lead services, but also exploring the spiritual and textual underpinnings of nusach. We will be discussing issues of prayer leading, including improvisation and congregational participation, as well as the historical context of traditional davening. We will be studying Weekday and Shabbat nusach and melodies with a concentration on how to learn the modes. There will be reading assignments, and weekly recording assignments.

EDUCATION

Theory and Practice of 21st Century Jewish Education

EDU834X

Orah Levin-Minder

Online

This course explores the theories of 21st century Jewish education and ways that these theories inform practice. We will examine different tools for learning and teaching across educational venues. The course will explore how different applications support current theories in Jewish education and will also identify the pedagogic implications for integration of technology and ideas of 21st century education into learning experiences for Jewish education.

The Jewish Calendar

EDU545X

Susie Rodenstein

Online

This course will explore the Jewish holidays, across time and space. Participants will study Biblical, Rabbinic and contemporary sources to uncover the central themes and values, symbols, rituals and practices associated with each holiday. After reaching a deeper knowledge of their origins and central messages, we will develop a repertoire of resources and strategies appropriate to our individual educational settings and target audiences. Particular attention will be paid to the cycles of nature and the agricultural seasons, the historical milestones of the evolving Jewish People, and the ways in which our celebrations of the holidays enhance our relationships with the Divine.

Philosophies of Education and Leadership in Jewish Thought and Practice

EDU720X

Michael Shire

Thursdays, 2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Our work in this course is divided into two areas. In the first area, we will examine some important modern philosophers of Jewish education, in order to become familiar with some of the different approaches in this field and the purposes of Jewish education. In the second area, we will attempt to move from these more abstract levels of reflection to contemplate concrete areas and issues in contemporary Jewish education. This will give us a chance to explore how philosophical perspectives inform educational strategies and practices, whether explicitly or implicitly; it will also provide an opportunity for students to begin to spell out their own philosophical positions on real topics in day-to-day Jewish education, as they contemplate their educational leadership in these areas and challenges.

List of Required Texts

Fox, Seymour. et al. *Visions of Jewish Education*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Rosenak, Michael. *Commandments and Concerns: Jewish Religious Education in a Secular Society*. (Part two and three). New York: JPSA, 1987.

Chazan, Barry. *The Language of Jewish Education: Crisis and Hope in the Jewish School*. New York: Hartmore House, 1978.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

Biblical Hebrew

HBW607X

Harvey Bock

Fridays, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Prerequisite: Hebrew Grammar Intensive or equivalent

This course is intended to equip students for precise and nuanced reading of Biblical Hebrew and explores important features of the phonology, morphology and syntax of Biblical Hebrew. A thorough prior knowledge of basic Hebrew grammar, including the system of *niqqud* and the verb system, is presumed.

Hebrew 6

HBW506X

Adva Alpert

Mondays 10:15 am-12:30 pm and Thursdays 9:45am -12:00pm

Prerequisite: Hebrew 5

In the Academic Modern Hebrew 6 course, students will continue to develop in each Modern Language skill area: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Intermediate to advanced level content will be covered: advanced vocabulary and idiomatic expressions within Hebrew text, which will be taught with a lens into the classical and modern texts; next step syntax templates and vocabulary, will be implemented as well. Genres

are diverse (academic scientific articles, lit reviews, editorials, poetry, songs) representing the multi historical layers of our Hebrew language. Spoken Modern Hebrew is used in all meetings.

Rabbinic Hebrew

HBW608X

Harvey Bock

Thursdays, 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Requires Hebrew 7 or above

This course surveys the Hebrew of classic rabbinic works, with the goal of refining the students' ability to accurately read and understand the language of major genres of post-biblical literature. Representative texts from the Mishnah through medieval biblical commentary and law are examined sequentially. Secondary literature about the Hebrew of the genres covered is also read and discussed.

HISTORY

History and Memory: Medieval and Modern Periods

HIS534X

Barry Mesch

Online

Working within a chronological framework, this course will trace the creative transformation of Judaism and the Jewish people in the medieval period and the profound challenges posed by modernity. Students will have the opportunity to critically engage with primary sources. Major events and personalities of these two historical periods will be considered. Research methods and approaches to Jewish Studies and Jewish history will be examined.

The History of Zionism and Israeli Society

HIS510X

David Starr

Fridays, 9:00-10:30 am

Non-Hebrew College students may take this class with permission from the instructor

In the first part of the seminar we will explore the history of Zionism both by studying the social development of the movement in Palestine up until 1948 and via close reading of the various streams of Zionist thought. The course will focus on the seminal political events of early Zionism: the Zionist congresses, the Balfour Declaration, the successive waves of aliyot, etc. The latter part of the course will focus on the development of Israeli society, looking at questions of Jewish identity, the democratic nature of Israel, Ashkenazi-Sephardi tension, and the contentious relationship with the Palestinians. We will end the course by looking at contemporary critiques of Zionism, raising the charged questions of whether Zionism is at its end.

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Calling Out from the Depths: The Book of Psalms in Jewish and Christian Life

INT533X

Or Rose and Andrew Davis

Wednesdays, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm

5 sessions: February 12, February 26, March 18, April 1 and April 22

For centuries, Jews and Christians have turned to the Book of Psalms in times of joy and thanksgiving, and in times of sadness and lament. However, there have been far fewer opportunities for members of these two communities and others to explore these ancient poetic texts *together* as fellow spiritual seekers. What do we share in common? Where do we differ? How might reading these sources with people with different religious or ideological commitments impact our relationship with the text?

Leadership on the Line: Critical Conversations with Religious Activists & Organizers

INT565X

Or Rose

Mondays, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm

In this course, we will encounter several outstanding modern and contemporary religious leaders engaged in various civic and political initiatives for social and environmental transformation. This will include reading works by and about such historical figures as Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Joshua Heschel and Oscar Romero, and meeting (in-person and by video conference) with leaders from the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, American Jewish World Service, and GreenFaith. Through these encounters, we will explore core leadership capacities, organizational structures, and practices for personal growth and sustainability.

JEWISH THOUGHT

Contemporary Jewish Thought

JTH918X

Dan Judson

Wednesdays, 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

This course has two components. In the first half of the semester we will explore American Jewish history focusing on themes of particular importance to rabbinical students like the emergence of denominations and the evolution of the American synagogue. The second half of the course is a survey of the seminal Jewish thinkers who wrote in an American context such as Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Joseph Soloveitchik, Judith Plaskow and others.

We will ultimately be aiming to place our own historical moment and our own theologies within broader historical/theological frameworks.

Hasidut – No'am Elimelech: The Role of the Tzaddik

JTH801X

Ebn Leader

Tuesdays 9:15-10:45 am

Prerequisite: Hebrew 7 or above

This course will explore the models of spiritual leadership presented in the book *No'am Elimelekh*. Rabbi Elimelekh of Lezansk, the author, is one of the most important figures of early Hasidism precisely because he articulated a theory of leadership which had tremendous impact on the entire movement from the generation of his disciples onwards. We will study R Elimelekh's teachings and reflect on their relevance to contemporary rabbis. Students should have the capacity to read the Hasidic teachings in the original Hebrew.

Introduction to the Hasidic Tale

JTH515X

Jordan Schuster

Mondays 11:30 am-1:00 pm

(optional Beit Midrash preparation Tuesdays 9-11:15 am)

Requires Hebrew 4 or above

In this course, we will delve into the world of the Hasidic tale. Whereas secondary readings will offer us the historical and philosophical contexts out of which these tales emerged, our primary source materials will put us face-to-face with Hasidic Hebrew, Hasidic thought, and Hasidic narratology. The tales we will be reading will focus primarily on tropes of spiritual initiation — on the process by which a person assumes the mantle of a spiritual leader.

Keter Shem Tov

JTH710X

Nehemia Polen

2 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm

The Baal Shem Tov, called the founder of Hasidism, was not only a powerful mystic but also a wisdom teacher who expounded scripture and Talmud with fluidity and suppleness, against the grain, prizing insights that defamiliarized, startled, and led to a new awakening. This course will focus on an early collection of his teachings called *Keter Shem Tov*, now available in a vocalized text.

Among the topics explored in *Keter Shem Tov* are:

- why the goal of religious knowledge is not knowing;
- the role of laughter on the spiritual path;
- how to make tough ethical choices;
- the hasidic view of evil and good;
- how the sefirot are realized in human beings;
- why one must pray for one's enemies;
- why the greatest teachers have just one thing to teach;
- how to turn everyday activities into sacred acts;
- why the spiritual life must involve pleasure;

- Moshe's leadership and the quest for self-discovery.

A central ideal in *Keter Shem Tov* is integration of all aspects of the self, including those perceived to be undesirable, in a spirituality that caps but does not replace the physical. In this vein Ecclesiastes 9:10 is read to mean "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your mindful awareness." Non-dualism is achieved when the person simultaneously manifests thought and deed, mind and action, spirit and body, linking but not collapsing the different states. Inhabiting the linkage engenders a kind of apotheosis that channels blessing and unlocks power. Closely related to this is the Baal Shem Tov's understanding of Prov. 3:6, "In all your ways acknowledge Him," heard as a call not simply to recognize God in all aspects of life, but in all levels of one's being: holistically integrating one's corporeal and spiritual sides, so that their respective yearnings are satisfied not just serially or even in tandem, but in mindful embrace of their totality, an inhabitation of the unified Self.

Theology of Jewish Prayer

JTH600X

Nehemia Polen

Thursdays, 2:30 pm–4:00 pm

Prerequisite: Hebrew Grammar Intensive or equivalent

Prayer is the very core of religious life, yet our understanding of how and why to pray has varied throughout Jewish history. This course will survey ideals of *tefillah* in all periods beginning with *Tanakh*, but our main focus will be the teachings and practices associated with Hasidism, emphasizing interiority, fervor, and embodied expression. We will explore *davening* modalities and postures such as contemplative, petitionary, thanksgiving, ecstatic; the role of *niggun*, dance, and silence. We will study texts and tales of the hasidic masters, and will develop the idea of prayer as sonic offering. Based on a Baal Shem Tov tradition, we will develop a schema based on the rubric P.R.A.Y.=Presence/Resonance/Alignment/Yes!

LITERATURE

Introduction to Reading Rabbinic Literature

Harvey Bock

LIT501X

Thursdays, 2:30-4:00 pm

(optional Beit Midrash preparation 12-1)

Requires Hebrew 5 or above

This course is a companion to *Introduction to Talmud*, and will provide students with the opportunity to focus on the Hebrew content of the textual material of that course and to acquire familiarity with basic features of Rabbinic Hebrew. The students will also receive instruction regarding basic Hebrew verb paradigms.

LITURGY

Liturgy and Poetry of Yamim Noraim

LGY625X

Allan Lehmann

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Fridays, 10:45 am-1:00 pm

Requires Hebrew 7 or above

Students will study the classic liturgy for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, including the history of the mahzor and close reading of piyyutim (liturgical poetry). Texts will be taught in Hebrew.

MUSIC HISTORY

History of Jewish Music 2

HIS506 (use HIS506X for non-credit)

Joshua Jacobson

3 graduate credits

Tuesdays, 11:15 – 1:15

This course provides a detailed look at music composed by Jews as Jews from the nineteenth century to the dawn of the twenty-first century. Students not only examine music for its own intrinsic structure, but also consider it in the context of its cultural milieu. Study involves harmonic, melodic and formal analysis of selected compositions, as well as historical analysis through close reading of primary sources.

Prerequisite: Jewish Music History 1 or permission from instructor