

Introduction

Welcome to Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. This *Academic Catalog* provides statements about policies and procedures which are currently operative and it is intended primarily as a source of information for graduate students. The School, however, reserves the right to change policy and procedures without prior notice and to notify all parties of such changes. In regard to curriculum requirements, students will be governed by the *Academic Catalog* in the year in which they entered the program.

Students are ultimately responsible for knowing and observing all regulations and degree requirements that may affect their status at Bernard Revel Graduate School and paying all fees. For this reason, students should meet with academic advisors and the Office of the Registrar on a regular basis as well as read thoroughly the contents of this catalog.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Now in its second century, Yeshiva University is the oldest and most comprehensive educational institution under Jewish auspices in America. It is an independent university that ranks among the nation's leading academic research institutions and, reflecting the time-honored tradition of Torah Umadda, provides the highest quality Jewish and secular education of any Jewish university in the world. Since its inception the University has been dedicated to melding the ancient traditions of Jewish law and life with the heritage of Western civilization, and each year we celebrate as future leaders make YU their home.

In September 2003, Richard M. Joel was inaugurated as Yeshiva University's fourth president, succeeding Norman Lamm, who had held the office since 1976. President Joel's two other predecessors were Bernard Revel, president from 1915 to 1940, and Samuel Belkin, who served from 1943 to 1975. Ari Berman was elected the fifth president of YU in November 2016 and took office in June 2017

Accreditation

Yeshiva University is accredited by the following agencies:

- • Commission on Higher Education Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- • New York State Board of Regents
- • The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business - AACSB
- • American Bar Association (for YU professional programs in Law)
- • American Psychological Association (for YU professional programs in Psychology)

Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies

Named after the first president of Yeshiva University, Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies is recognized as one of the outstanding academic graduate programs in its field. We evolved from Yeshiva University's graduate program in Semitics, which was established in 1935.

The program was transformed into the Graduate School in 1937 and was expanded and renamed in 1941 in honor of the late Dr. Revel.

Dr. Samuel Belkin, the University's second president, was secretary of Revel's faculty during its early years. Dr. Norman Lamm, the University's third president, earned his PhD in Jewish philosophy from Revel in 1966. Other alumni include distinguished Judaica scholars, authors, principals of Jewish schools

and heads of Jewish community agencies, rabbis, teachers and leading figures in other fields for whom Jewish learning remains a central value.

Mission

Torah Umadda has been the watchword of Yeshiva University almost from its inception.

The minimal understanding of this ideal is the pursuit of the study of Torah along with secular disciplines, but its highest form is a level of integration in which each pursuit enriches the other. There is no area where the interaction is as intimate and potentially rewarding as in the use of the tools of the academy to enhance one's understanding of the Jewish heritage itself.

The study of the Jewish experience, Jewish thought, and the sacred and classical texts of Judaism in an academic mode presents both extensive benefits and substantial challenges. The men and women who study at Revel find themselves in a genuinely non-denominational school with an extraordinary faculty of twenty-one professors specializing in Jewish Studies and a curriculum encompassing a broad array of courses in Bible, Talmud, Jewish Philosophy and Mysticism, and Jewish History taught at the highest academic level. At the same time, they experience an environment suffused with a commitment to the authentic letter and spirit of historic Judaism.

The quality and quantity of faculty whose primary area of expertise is Jewish Studies along with the range of offerings render the graduate program at the Bernard Revel Graduate School among the most impressive in the field, and in some respects it is unmatched.

The professors at Revel have without exception published highly respected books expanding the frontiers of Jewish learning. In many cases, they are counted among the most prominent figures in the world in their fields, and the younger faculty are regarded as rising stars. Relatively small classes enable students to develop a close relationship with their faculty mentors.

Program Codes

All programs are registered by the New York State Education Department and meet its educational requirements

HEGIS CODE	PROGRAM #	Title	Degree
1111	11094	Bible (Hebrew Language)	Master of Arts
1111	11083	Jewish History (Hebrew Language)	Master of Arts
1111	11076	Jewish Philosophy (Hebrew Language)	Master of Arts
1111	26648	Judaic Studies	PHD
1111	11069	Talmudic Studies (Hebrew Language)	Master of Arts

List of Programs and Degrees

Bernard Revel offers MA and PhD degree programs in Modern Jewish History, Medieval Jewish History, Jewish Philosophy, Bible, and Talmud, a joint MA/MS program with the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, as well as a joint BA/MA degree program for qualified undergraduates at Stern College for Women and Yeshiva College.

MA Program: Admissions Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a recognized college or university and have a grade point average of at least B (3.0). Academic background should include documented evidence of a Hebrew proficiency adequate for the required readings. In the absence of such evidence, a Hebrew reading test may be required as part of the admission process.

PhD Program: Admissions Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the following requirements:

- Hold a bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university.
- Possess a knowledge of Hebrew adequate for the pursuit of doctoral work.
- The student's scores on the verbal, quantitative and analytical sections of the Graduate Record Examinations must accompany the application. The GRE reporting code for Revel is 6284.
- Applicants holding a master's degree and those who have made substantial progress toward such a degree must submit a qualifying paper or papers, totaling approximately 70 pages, demonstrating the ability to pursue doctoral research.
- Students applying directly out of college must submit a writing sample providing evidence of outstanding potential for pursuing such research. Students admitted on this track must devote full time to their doctoral studies.
- Applicants accepted into the program may be offered multi-year doctoral level fellowships. It is understood that receipt of such fellowships beyond the first year is contingent upon satisfactory progress.

Joint BA/MA-BS/MA Program: Admissions Requirements

General Requirements

- Cumulative grade point average: 3.2
- Average in Jewish studies: 3.4
- Senior standing (94 credits)
- Acceptance by the undergraduate dean and dean of Revel

Additional Requirements

Yeshiva College Students and Sy Syms School of Business Students

- Completion of the Jewish Studies General Education requirements or expected completion during the semester of admittance to the program

Stern College for Women and Sy Syms School of Business Students/Beren Campus

- Five of the six required semesters of Jewish studies core courses
- For Jewish Studies majors: at least 18 credits toward the major at SCW

Application Deadlines

Applications for admission to the doctoral program are considered only once a year for admission in the fall semester. The deadline for applications, including all supporting documents, is December 31 of the previous year (e.g., the deadline for fall 2019 admission is December 31, 2018). Late applications will not be considered. Applicants to the doctoral program must submit verbal, quantitative and analytical GRE scores. The GRE reporting code for Revel is 6284.

Applications for fall admission to the MA program, including all supporting documents, by students requesting scholarships and fellowships should be submitted by the end of April. Later applications will be considered, but priority in the granting of financial aid will be given to those who file by this date. For spring admission, students should apply at least one month prior to the semester in which they wish to be admitted.

Student Options/Degree Students

Students admitted with permission to work toward degrees are considered matriculated. They fall into two categories:

- Regular Students: those who have met all conditions for admission
- Provisional Students: Those who have not met all conditions of the application process but who may become regular students once all conditions for admission have been met. Provisional students do not automatically become regular students.

Non-degree Students

Students who wish to enroll for courses to meet their particular needs without entering a degree program are considered non-matriculated. They fall into two categories:

- Visiting Students: those in good standing at another school of Yeshiva University, who have the permission of the dean of that school and of the dean of Revel, may register for a limited number of courses
- Transient Students: those in good standing at other colleges and universities, who have the permission of their home institution and of the dean of Revel, may enroll for courses for possible transfer to their home school

Undergraduate Students at Yeshiva University

Students who wish to enroll for courses to meet their undergraduate and/or graduate needs fall into two categories:

- Bachelor's/master's (BA/MA and BS/MA) students: undergraduate students may apply for the joint BA/MA and BS/MA programs.
- Undergraduate students taking graduate courses for undergraduate credit: With the permission of the college dean and the dean of Revel, undergraduate students may take graduate courses for undergraduate credit only. These courses cannot be converted to graduate courses should the student desire to enroll in Revel for a graduate degree.

Auditors

A limited number of persons with the appropriate background may, with the permission of the dean, register as auditors. They are required to pay a stipulated fee. The category of auditor does not entitle the student to submit any coursework or to receive an academic record. An auditor is not entitled to use any campus facilities.

Foreign Students

Foreign students applying for admission to the school are strongly advised to file applications for admission well in advance of the admission deadline in order to ensure sufficient time for evaluation. They should have forwarded to the Office of the Dean complete transcripts of previous academic training and a certified translation of each document written in a foreign language other than Hebrew.

In addition to all admission requirements, proficiency in English—verbal and written comprehension and expression—is a prerequisite for study. Applicants whose native language is not English must submit acceptable proof of their proficiency in English before being considered for admission. Normally the student is expected to demonstrate proficiency in English by receiving an acceptable score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), administered by the Educational Testing Service. This test is given in various locations throughout the world several times a year. Information on the location of testing centers as well as other pertinent information can be obtained by contacting:

TOEFL
Educational Testing Service
PO Box 6155
Princeton NJ 08541-6155
Telephone: 609.771.7100

Equal Opportunity

The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in admission and all other facets of its educational programs and activities. The University encourages applications from qualified students regardless of sex, religion, age, race, disability, marital status, color, or national origin, within the meaning of applicable law.

Degree Requirements for MA degree

Credit Requirement

Thirty credits distributed among introductory (survey) and advanced courses in the area of concentration and electives outside that area. The distribution of these courses differs in the various areas of concentration.

Comprehensive Examination

All students are required to take a written comprehensive examination in their field of concentration. The examination is based on coursework and a reading list. It is offered at the beginning and end of the fall semester and at the end of the spring semester. Students must be registered for courses or Master's Research during the semester in which they expect to take the comprehensive examination.

In the case of the September examination, this registration requirement can also be fulfilled by registration in the previous spring semester. The student must file for the comprehensive examination by

the date appearing in the academic calendar. The comprehensive examination must be taken during or after the semester in which the student completes his or her course work. For students concentrating in Bible, it may not be taken in the same semester in which the student is taking basic courses required for the concentration unless special permission has been obtained from the dean. A student who fails the examination is provided one additional opportunity to pass it.

Residence Requirement

A minimum of 24 credits must be taken at Revel. Thus, up to 6 credits may be transferred toward the Master of Arts degree from other institutions. These must be master's- or doctoral-level courses taught in accredited graduate programs. The applicability of a course to our master's program is determined on a case-by-case basis. Students registered for 9 credits in a semester are considered full time.

Administrative Requirement

- Approbation of the faculty and president
- Filing an Application for Graduation during the registration period of the semester in which the student completes all requirements

Satisfactory Academic Progress:

Federal regulations now require all institutions to establish, publish, and apply standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress for federal financial aid eligibility. Since these must be at least as rigorous as the school's policy for students not receiving such aid, these regulations effectively mandate the establishment of standards for all students.

The BRGS policy is as follows:

MA Degree:

Students are required to complete their degree within five years. All course assignments must be completed within a semester and summer of the completion of a course, though faculty may require more timely submission. Students who have enrolled in 12 credits during their graduate careers must have completed at least 50% successfully in order to remain in good standing. Withdrawals—even without penalty—count in this calculation. Students who have enrolled in 24 credits must have completed at least 75% successfully. To remain in good standing after the completion of 12 credits, a student must have maintained a grade point average of 3.0.

Progress will be reviewed annually.

Students who have taken a leave or otherwise experienced special circumstances may request an extension of these deadlines. Students granted such an extension should contact the Office of Student Finance to determine their eligibility for government assistance.

Distribution of Courses for the Various Areas of Concentration

Bible

- Introduction to Biblical Studies I & II (6 credits)
- Biblical Hebrew (3 credits)
- 15 credits of advanced courses (numbered 6000 and higher) in Bible
- 6 credits of electives in or outside the field of Bible to be chosen in consultation with the faculty adviser.

Ancient Jewish History

- 6 credits of basic courses (those numbered 5000-5999) in ancient Jewish history
- 12 credits of advanced courses (numbered 6000 and above) in Ancient Jewish History. 6 of these credits may be in Rabbinic Literature of the pre-medieval period with the approval of the Dean in consultation with the department.
- 12 credits of electives in or outside the field of Ancient Jewish History
- At least 6 of the 30 credits comprising the concentration must be in Rabbinic Literature of the pre-medieval period either as advanced courses (with the required permission) or as electives.

Medieval Jewish History

- 6 credits of basic source courses (those numbered 5000-5999) in medieval Jewish history
- 12 credits of advanced courses (numbered 6000 and above) in medieval Jewish history
- 12 credits of electives of which at least 6 must be outside the field of medieval Jewish history

Modern Jewish History

- 18 credits of basic source courses (those numbered 5000-5999), 6 in American, 6 in Eastern European, and 6 in Central/Western European history. The basic course in Jews in Islamic Lands during the modern period may be substituted for one of the basic courses in Eastern European History. The course on the Jews of Latin America or the course on the Sephardic Atlantic may be substituted for one of basic courses in Western European history.
- 6 credits of advanced courses (numbered 6000 and above) in modern Jewish History
- 6 credits of electives in or outside the field of modern Jewish history to be chosen in consultation with the faculty adviser.

Jewish Philosophy

- Survey of: (1) Medieval Jewish Philosophy and (2) Modern Jewish Philosophy (6 credits)
- The introductory courses in: (1) Jewish Mysticism and (2) Hasidism (6 credits)
- 12 credits of advanced courses (numbered 6000 and above) in Jewish philosophy
- 6 credits of electives in or outside the field of Jewish Philosophy to be chosen in consultation with the faculty adviser.

Talmudic Studies

- 6 credits of basic source courses (those numbered 5000-5999) in Talmudic studies
- 12 credits of advanced courses in Talmudic studies
- 12 credits of electives of which at least 6 credits must be outside the field of Talmudic studies

In instances where a student's schedule makes it very difficult to take a required course, substitution of another course may be authorized in writing by the dean in consultation with the relevant department.

PHD Degree Requirements

Credit Requirement

Forty-two credits beyond those accepted for the Master of Arts degree apportioned as follows:

- 18 credits in the major, at least 3 of which must be in a doctoral seminar or the equivalent
- 6 credits in a related field of general studies, selected in consultation with the dean and adviser in the field of concentration
- 6 additional credits in or out of the field of concentration to be determined in consultation with the faculty adviser
- 3 credits (Subject) 9979 Doctoral Planning, consisting of preparation for doctoral examinations and formulation of a dissertation topic
- 1 credit (Subject) 9980 Doctoral Planning II. If additional semesters are needed for doctoral planning, students register again for this course.
- 3 credits of (Subject) 9981 Doctoral Research
- 1 credit (Subject) 9982 Doctoral Research II. If additional semesters of research are required, students register again for this course.
- Any student with fewer than 12 doctoral planning and research credits will register for a dissertation finalization course for the requisite number of credits in their final semester.

In addition to the 42 credits, a student may be required by the faculty of a given concentration to master particular skills or areas of knowledge deemed necessary for the doctoral research.

Residence Requirement

Setting aside the 12 credits of doctoral planning and research, the PhD program consequently requires 30 course credits beyond the Master of Arts degree. Twenty four of these must be taken at the school or by prior arrangement with the school. It follows that up to 6 credits may be transferred toward the PhD degree from other institutions. These must be doctoral-level courses taught in accredited graduate programs.

Since up to 6 credits may also be transferred toward the Master of Arts degree, a student accepted into the doctoral program who has taken graduate courses in another institution but has not received a master's degree recognized by Revel may transfer up to 12 credits toward the 72-credit requirement. At least six of these must be doctoral-level courses, while the remaining six may be master's-level courses. The applicability of a course to the Revel doctoral program is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Full-Time Residency

For students taking coursework, at least 9 credits each semester are required for full-time status. The dean may certify students in doctoral planning or doctoral research as full-time irrespective of the number of credits for which they are registered.

Language Examinations

The student must pass examinations in French and German, administered or approved by the School, before the approval of a doctoral proposal. With permission of the faculty advisor and the Dean, a research language may be substituted for one of these.

Field Examinations

Upon completing all coursework, the student must pass comprehensive examinations testing:

- A broad knowledge of the field of concentration.

- Knowledge of areas of general and/or Jewish studies related to the field of concentration.
- In some concentrations, skill and ability to handle primary sources.

These examinations are based on knowledge of the primary and secondary literature.

Dissertation Requirement

As a first step, the student meets with a sponsor to develop a potential topic; then the dean in consultation with the sponsor chooses an additional reader of the proposal to further monitor the beginnings of research. Out of these consultations will emerge a formal proposal that will be submitted to the faculty for approval.

When a proposal has been approved, the dean, in consultation with the sponsor and the faculty, appoints an appropriate dissertation committee. At this time, the student must also meet with an appropriate member of the Office of the Registrar concerning the proper format for the dissertation.

After the dissertation has been completed and approved by the dissertation committee, a defense is scheduled.

Satisfactory Academic Progress:

Federal regulations now require all institutions to establish, publish, and apply standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress for federal financial aid eligibility. Since these must be at least as rigorous as the school's policy for students not receiving such aid, these regulations effectively mandate the establishment of standards for all students.

The BRGS policy is as follows:

PhD Degree:

Students admitted as full-time doctoral students are required to complete their degree within ten years. All course assignments must be completed within a semester and summer of the completion of a course, though faculty may require more timely submission. Students who have enrolled in 12 credits or more in the doctoral program must have completed at least 75% successfully in order to remain in good standing. Withdrawals—even without penalty—count in this calculation. To remain in good standing after the completion of 12 credits, a student must have maintained a grade point average of 3.0. Full time status can be maintained after the completion of regular courses if the Dean and primary doctoral adviser affirm that the student is engaged in full time work on preparation for language examinations, the general examination in the major and minor fields, and the writing of the dissertation proposal and the dissertation itself.

For full-time students who enter the program with an MA degree in the same field as the doctoral concentration:

At least six courses must be completed in the first year, and the remaining four courses other than doctoral research and planning must be completed by the end of the second year. In cases where the two required outside courses were not readily available during the second year, completion of the ten required courses may be postponed to the third year. The two language examinations must be completed by the end of the fourth year. However, students must consult with their advisers to determine whether their research obligations require them to pass one or both language examinations at an earlier point. The general examination in the major and minor fields must be completed by the end of the fifth year. The

dissertation proposal must be submitted by the end of the sixth year. Subsequent to approval of the proposal, work on the dissertation must proceed at a pace certified as satisfactory by the dissertation advisor.

For full time students admitted directly from college with a BA degree or with a M.A degree in a field other than the doctoral concentration:

At least six courses must be completed in each of the first two years. The remaining eight courses other than doctoral research and planning must be completed by the end of the third year. In cases where the two required outside courses were not readily available during the second or third year, completion of the twenty required courses may be postponed to the fourth year. The two language examinations must be completed by the end of the fifth year. However, students must consult with their advisers to determine whether their research obligations require them to pass one or both language examinations at an earlier point. The general examination in the major and minor fields must be completed by the end of the sixth year. The dissertation proposal must be submitted by the end of the seventh year. Subsequent to approval of the proposal, work on the dissertation must proceed at a pace certified as satisfactory by the dissertation advisor.

Students admitted as part-time doctoral students are required to complete their degree within twelve years. They must complete their course work other than doctoral planning and research as well as their language examinations by the end of the summer following their seventh year. However, students must consult with their advisers to determine whether their research obligations require them to pass one or both language examinations at an earlier point. The general examination in the major and minor fields must be completed by the end of the eighth year. The dissertation proposal must be submitted by the end of the ninth year. Subsequent to approval of the proposal, work on the dissertation must proceed at a pace certified as satisfactory by the dissertation advisor.

Progress will be reviewed annually.

Students who have taken a leave or otherwise experienced special circumstances may request an extension of these deadlines. Students granted such an extension should contact the Office of Student Finance to determine their eligibility for government assistance.

Needless to say, students are encouraged to work more quickly and complete their degrees as expeditiously as possible

Administrative Requirement

- Approbation of the faculty and president
- Filing an Application for Graduation during the registration period of the semester in which the student completes all requirements

Degree Requirements for MA/MS

The Azrieli-Revel Dual Degree (ARDD) program, through which students earn an MS at Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration and an MA at Revel concurrently (with some courses counting toward both degrees), is designed to provide aspiring Jewish educators with high-level professional preparation in both methods and content, by combining the discipline of pedagogy in Jewish

graduate education at Azrieli with the acquisition of a level of expertise in academic Jewish studies at Revel.

Azrieli requirements:

Currently, the Azrieli MS requires eight core courses (24 credits), two electives (6 credits), and 6 credits of Professional Enhancement Practicum (fieldwork). Two Revel courses would count toward the fulfillment of the two required electives.

Revel requirements:

The Revel MA requires a concentration in one of five fields: Bible, Talmud, Medieval Jewish History, Modern Jewish History, or Jewish Philosophy (with comprehensive exams taken at the successful conclusion of coursework). Each of these concentrations include either six or eight required courses (18 or 24 credits) in the respective discipline, with the remaining four or two courses (12 or 6 credits) to be fulfilled with electives in other fields. Students in the dual program are granted transfer credit for the following two Azrieli courses: JED 5100 (Foundations of Jewish Education) and JED 5070 (Promoting Jewish Values, Spirituality and Identity).

As a result of the above modifications, students complete the dual master's program by taking 54 credits (30 credits at Azrieli, of which 6 are for fieldwork, and 24 credits at Revel) instead of 66, since 6 credits of their Azrieli coursework would count toward the Revel degree and 6 credits of their Revel coursework would count toward their Azrieli degree.

Please note that students may not switch into the dual master's program if they have completed six courses in either school (or both).

Tuition and Financial Aid Information

Tuition and Fees 2018–2019

Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies

Tuition:	
All Students	\$1,110 per credit
Masters Research	\$1,110 per semester
Fees:	
Full/Part-Time Registration Fee	\$65 per semester
Health Insurance	\$1,723.50 per semester
Technology Fee	\$125 per semester
Audit Fee	\$250 per class
Graduation Fee	\$150

For information about Yeshiva University's health insurance requirements and eligibility or to submit a waiver, please refer to the Wellness Health Center. All students who are required to have health insurance through Yeshiva University are charged automatically each fall and spring semester.

Scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Dean's Office. Please contact them at (212) 960-5253

In most cases, students enrolled simultaneously in RIETS and Revel will receive a 2/3 scholarship from Revel.

Any student interested in taking out a student loan must fill out the FAFSA form, which can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The YU school code is 002903 and our campus code is 00. You will be eligible for up to \$20,500/year in the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. To take out the loan, please go to our loans page and follow the steps listed.

Faculty Information

Core Faculty

Joseph Angel, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, New York University
Second Temple history and literature

David Berger, Ruth & I. Lewis Gordon Professor of Jewish History and Dean
PhD, Columbia University
Jewish intellectual history; Jewish-Christian relations; Messianism and Messianic movements; Jewish attitudes toward general culture

Mordechai Cohen, Professor of Bible and Associate Dean; Divisional Coordinator of Academic Jewish Studies, Yeshiva College
PhD, Yeshiva University
Medieval biblical interpretation; connections with Arabic poetics and medieval Hebrew poetry; Muslim jurisprudence and Jewish legal exegesis; modern literary approaches to the Bible

Jonathan Dauber, Associate Professor of Jewish Mysticism
PhD, New York University
Kabbalah and Hasidism; Jewish mysticism and esotericism, interface between Kabbalah and Jewish philosophy, Jewish messianism

Barry Eichler, Professor of Bible and Cuneiform Studies
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Application of Mesopotamian literature to the study of the Bible

Yaakov Elman, Professor of Jewish History; Herbert S. and Naomi Denenberg Chair in Talmudic Studies
PhD, New York University
Tosefta: structure, aims, and relationship to the Talmudim; rabbinic theology; unfolding systems of rabbinic legal exegesis

Steven Fine, Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Hebrew University
Jewish life in Greco-Roman times; art history

Jeffrey S. Gurock, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Columbia University
American Jewish history, with emphasis on social and religious history; modern Jewish history

Richard Hidary, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, New York University
History of the Rabbis and their Greco-Roman Context; Second Temple and Rabbinic Literature

Shalom Holtz, Associate Professor of Bible
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Mesopotamian literature and law and their relationship to biblical and post-biblical literature

Elazar Hurvitz, Professor of Bible; Dr. Samuel Belkin Chair in Judaic Studies
PhD, Yeshiva University
Halakhic and midrashic literature; Geonic literature; Genizah research

Ephraim Kanarfogel, E. Billi Ivry University Professor of Jewish History, Literature and Law;
PhD, Yeshiva University
Medieval Jewish history; history of halakhah; history of educational theory and practice; intellectual cross-currents between Ashkenaz and Sefarad; pietism and mysticism in rabbinic culture

Joshua Karlip, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Jewish Theological Seminary
Eastern European Jewish History, Jewish Nationalism, Modern Yiddish Culture, Jewish Intellectual Responses to Nazism, Jewish Religious Life in the Soviet Union, Lithuanian Jewry

Aaron Koller, Associate Professor of Bible and Assistant Dean of Yeshiva College
PhD, Yeshiva University
Near Eastern languages, semantics and lexicography, archaeology and texts, intellectual and cultural histories of antiquity

Jess Olson, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Stanford University
Modern East and Central European Jewry; German-Jewish history and thought; Austro-Hungarian Jewry; modern Jewish intellectual history; history of Jewish politics and nationalism

Ronnie Perelis, Chief Rabbi Dr. Isaac Abraham and Jelena (Rachel) Alcalay Chair in Sephardic Studies;
Associate Professor of Sephardic Studies
PhD, New York University
Jews in the medieval and early modern Iberian world; Inquisition and Crypto-Judaism; autobiography and travel literature; Sephardic diasporas; Jewish presence in Latin America

Daniel Rynhold, Associate Professor of Jewish Philosophy
PhD, London School of Economics
Modern Jewish philosophy; Nietzsche and Jewish philosophy; approaches to Ta'amei ha-Mitzvot; the philosophy of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik

Daniel Tsadik, Associate Professor of Sephardic and Iranian Studies
PhD, Yale University
History of the Jews in Islamic lands; Modern Iran; Shi'i Islam; Iran's religious minorities; Iran's Jewry

Joshua Zimmerman, Eli and Diana Zborowski Professorial Chair in Holocaust Studies and East European Jewish History; Associate Professor of History

PhD, Brandeis University

Jewish social and national movements in Eastern Europe; Jewish culture in Eastern Europe; Holocaust studies

Senior Adjunct Faculty

Elisheva Carlebach, Visiting Professor of History

PhD, Columbia University

History of early modern European Jewry

Sid Z. Leiman, Visiting Professor of Jewish History and Literature

PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Bible; history of biblical exegesis; early modern Jewish intellectual history

Course Descriptions

Ancient Jewish History

JHI 6221 and 6239 also counts toward a Talmud concentration. JHI 6222 also counts towards a modern history concentration.

JHI 5213 Second Temple Jewish Literature

Dr. Joseph Angel

Critical issues in the study of Second Temple literature, including biblical interpretations and commentaries, laws and rules of conduct, historiography, prayers, and apocalyptic visions.

JHI 5215 Jews under Roman Rule

Dr. Angel

An examination of Jewish history from the consolidation of Roman control over the land of Israel and other geographical regions of Jewish habitation (1st century BCE) through the Christianization of the empire (4th century CE). The course covers selected themes and trends relating to political, social, and religious development under the dynamic pressures of imperial rule, as well as specific events of interest (e.g., the violent uprisings of 66-70, 115-117, and 132-135 CE), with an eye toward engaging the diverse variety of research methodologies and debates driving the current scholarly discourse.

JHI 6221 Hebraism & Hellenism: Greco-Roman Culture & the Rabbis

Dr. Hidary

This course will analyze the interaction of the Rabbis of the Talmud with their surrounding Greco-Roman culture regarding such diverse areas as language, law, science, art, mythology, and philosophy with special emphasis on their use of classical rhetoric, the mainstay of higher education throughout the Greco-Roman world. In each class, we will read primary sources from both Greek and Rabbinic sources in order to develop a methodology of how to go about such comparative analysis.

JHI 6232 Second Temple Sectarianism

Dr. Hidary

This course will analyze Second Temple and rabbinic literature in an effort to reconstruct the origins and basis of sectarian strife. We will review the political and social background of the period as well as the legal and theological issues that divided the Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes and other minor groups. In the area of halakha, the sects present fascinating views relating to laws of marriage, purity, kashrut, Shabbat and the calendar. These groups also debated fundamental questions like predestination and afterlife that were discussed in Greek philosophical schools as well. This study serves as a foundation for the understanding of Judaism and Christianity for centuries to come.

JHI 6233 Dead Sea Scrolls

Dr. Angel

Reading of selected Hebrew and Aramaic texts from the Qumran library. The course will provide students with a deep understanding of the philological, exegetical and historical issues raised by the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the archaeological excavation of the site of Qumran. Students will be trained in the use of the scrolls for research on the history of Judaism.

JHI 6237 The "Parting of the Ways:" Early Christianity in its Jewish and Greco- Roman Contexts

Dr. Steven Fine

JHI 6238 Jews, Samaritans and Christians in Palestine of Late Antiquity

Dr. Fine

Relations between the Jewish, Samaritan and Christian communities in Eretz Yisrael during late antiquity, that is, the period of the Mishnah and the Talmud. Cultural, political, literary and social dimensions of their interaction. The significance of the Samaritanism will be highlighted. Study of the Tractate Kutim will form part of the course.

JHI 6239 The Dead Sea Scrolls and Rabbinic Literature

Dr. Angel

This course explores the various relationships between the Dead Sea Scrolls and rabbinic literature, with a particular interest in delineating how reading these two different corpora in light of one another may be done most profitably and responsibly. Comparative study will focus on a broad selection of topics,

including matters relating to the history of Jewish law, biblical exegesis, and a number of religious beliefs and practices, including mysticism, magic, prayer, and messianism.

JHI 6285 The Synagogue in the Greco-Roman World

Dr. Fine

This course will explore the history of the synagogue during the Greco-Roman period. Using the methods of social and cultural history, archaeological, rabbinic, patristic as well as Second Temple period sources will be brought to bear in this study. Synagogue studies will serve as a window through which to view significant trends in classical Jewish history.

JHI 6286 Between Byzantium and Islam: Jews in an Age of Transition

Dr. Fine

The period between Byzantine and Islamic rule in the Levant, the 6th-9th centuries, has long been considered a kind of "black hole" in Jewish history. Recent discoveries and new conceptualizations have changed that, as notions of hybridity, liminality and colonial theory, together with significant archaeological and literary discoveries, have cast light upon this period. This course will include guest speakers and field trips.

JHI 6461 Seminar in Historiography: 19th- & 20th-Century Perspectives on Classical Jewish History

Dr. Fine

This course explores ways that modern historians have formed their visions of Jewish history within their own cultural contexts, as they set their focus upon the Greco-Roman period. This course also counts toward the concentration in modern Jewish history.

Medieval Jewish History

The following courses listed under Medieval Jewish History also count toward the Modern Jewish History concentration: JHI 6377, 6811. See also Modern Jewish History for courses that can also count toward this concentration.

JHI 5321 Medieval Jewish History: Christian Europe

Dr. David Berger

Survey of the legal standing, communal life, and intellectual history of medieval European Jewry under Christendom; the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, the rise of anti-Semitism, cultural achievement, and confrontation in the major Jewish centers; the challenges of late medieval persecutions and expulsions.

JHI 5335 Jews in the Lands of Islam I

Dr. Daniel Tsadik

This course examines major developments in the Jews' lives under Muslim rule. The course starts with the discussion of the Jews' circumstance in the earliest days of Islam, the Jews' encounter with Muhammad, their perceptions in the Quran, hadith, and the Muslim (Sunni and Shi'i) polemical literature, and according to the dhimma status. We will discuss the Gaonic period, the emergence of Karaism, the world of the Geniza, and the Jews in Spain and Mamluk Egypt. In all these we will be focusing on both the Jews' status and communal life.

JHI 5345 The History of the Tosafists and their Literary Corpus

Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel

The Tosafists of northern France and Germany revolutionized the study of Talmud and halakhah. This course will identify and discuss the possible pre-Crusade origins of the Tosafist methods, the leading figures and schools of the 12th and 13th centuries (including the salient differences in method and literary style between the various centers), and the impact of historical events and intellectual currents in medieval European society on these developments. Attention will be paid to manuscript sources and 'lost' Tosafist works as well.

JHI 5355 The History of the Tosafist Centers in Northern France & Germany

Dr. Kanarfogel

This course will survey the Tosafist period along institutional and geographic lines. Among the themes to be discussed are the diffusion of rabbinic scholarship from the pre-Crusade period, the different types of Talmudic interpretation that characterized each center, and the shifts in emphasis and genre from the 12th to the 13th centuries. Additionally, the interactions between these centers (and with aspects of contemporary Christian scholarship) will be considered.

JHI 5821 Introduction to the Literature of the Rishonim

Dr. Kanarfogel

Orientation to the works of the classical Rishonim, the various schools, their affiliations and relationship; personalities of various Rishonim; the several often differing editions of their works.

JHI 6377 Muslim-Jewish Polemics

Dr. Tsadik

The course discusses Muslim—both Sunni and Shi'i—religious disputations against Judaism, as well as the Jewish rebuttal against Islam in medieval and modern times.

JHI 6384 Convivencia and Conflict: A Sephardic Cultural History: 711-1492

Dr. Ronnie Perelis

This course explores the cultural history of the Jews of Spain (the Sephardim), from the Muslim conquest of the Iberian Peninsula in 711 until the expulsion of 1492. The course explores the rich intellectual and artistic heritage of the Sephardim. We will read a wide range of Hispano-Jewish writing including poetry, chronicles, epistolary, travel diaries, polemics, and philosophy. In addition, we will study the complex interactions between Christians, Muslims and Jews and the possibilities and realities of Iberian convivencia. The last section of the course will examine Jewish responses to the expulsion.

JHI 6652 The Jewish-Christian Debate in the Middle Ages

Dr. Berger

Major themes of medieval Jewish-Christian polemic: the Christological reading of the Bible, philosophical challenges to Christian dogma, use of the Talmud and Christian Scripture, public disputations, the problem of exile, and the impact on the political and social standing of the Jews.

JHI 6807 Maimonidean Controversy

Dr. Berger

Various stages of the medieval conflict over the writings of Maimonides; early attitudes toward rationalism; the Mishneh Torah and resurrection debates and political implications; social and intellectual tensions during the great dispute of the 1230s; influences of the Christian environments; role of the Kabbalists; compromise of the Rashba; controversy concerning "Averroism" in 15th-century Spain; the study of philosophy as an issue in Italy and Poland during the waning of the Middle Ages.

JHI 6810 Mysticism, Magic, & Liturgy in Medieval Ashkenaz

Dr. Kanarfogel

The involvement of Tosafists and Ashkenazic scholars in the areas of mysticism, formulaic magic, and the writing and interpretation of piyyutim. Analysis of these disciplines will be introduced through an overview of Ashkenazic prayer and ritual theory. Despite objections and reservations of some rabbinic scholars, the interest in these disciplines continued during the Tosafist period. Comparison between Hasidei Ashkenaz and the Tosafists will be made throughout, and the differences between the Northern French and German centers will be considered.

JHI 6811 Messianism and Messianic Movements

Dr. Berger

Major forms of speculations-exegetical, typological, and apocalyptic-concerning the nature and time of the Messianic age; the relationship between such speculation and the development of the Messianic movements; social and political conditions leading to Messianic ferment.

JHI 6819 The Interface Between Sefarad & Ashkenaz in the High Middle Ages

Dr. Kanarfogel

The impact of these two centers on each others in several disciplines, including the influence of the Tosafists on the Talmudic commentaries of Nahmanides and his students, early Sefardic codification and Ashkenazic halakhic works of the 13th century, and Ashkenazic pietism and Rabbenu Yonah of Gerona.

JHI 6822 History of Biblical Exegesis in Medieval Ashkenaz

Dr. Kanarfogel

On the basis of published texts as well as manuscripts, this course will identify and locate historically a significant body of comments on the Torah that were produced by several Tosafists and other leading rabbinic figures in northern France and Germany during the late 12th and early 13th centuries. These comments consist (broadly speaking) of a combination of rabbinic and peshat exegesis, and are perhaps closest overall to the commentaries of Rashi and R. Yosef Bekhor Shor. The existence of this stratum of commentaries has implications for several other important issues and problems within the intellectual history of medieval Ashkenaz, e.g., why the northern French pashtanim of the 12th century appear to have had few Ashkenazic heirs if any, and how the development in the mid-13th century (and beyond) of the diverse compilatory commentaries known as the perushei Ba'alei ha-Tosafot 'al ha-Torah is to be understood.

JHI 6828 The History of Medieval Ashkenazic Piyyut (Liturgical Poetry)

Dr. Kanarfogel

History and Literary Development of Ashkenazic Piyyut during the Eleventh through Thirteenth Centuries with Particular Emphasis on Authors, Genres, Styles, Patterns of Composition and Earlier Influences

JHI 6831 Topics in the History of Halakhah

Dr. Kanarfogel

This course will trace the history and development of several significant halakhic policies in medieval Ashkenaz, with comparisons to Spanish and Provençal halakhah and society as well. Among the topics to be discussed are immersion for the returning apostate, the requirements of qiddush ha-Shem, the underpinnings and parameters of Jewish self-government, and the regulation of synagogue functionaries and rites.

JHI 8800, 8801 Doctoral Seminar in the Historical Analysis of Medieval and Early Modern Rabbinic Literature

Dr. Kanarfogel

Review of research methods and evaluation of recent works; techniques of manuscript retrieval and research and their impact; case studies presented initially by the instructor and then by seminar

participants, including guidance for subsequent doctoral research. Permission of the instructor required for admission.

Modern Jewish History

The following courses listed under Modern Jewish History also count toward the Medieval Jewish History concentration: JHI 5580, 6339, 6377, 6385, 6387, 6394, 6407. See also Medieval Jewish History for courses that can also count toward this concentration.

JHI 5336 Jews in the Lands of Islam II

Dr. Tsadik

This course will cover aspects of Jewish life under Islam in early modern times, from the sixteenth to the early nineteenth century. It will address various topics, including the Jews' legal status, economic basis, communal organization, and spiritual life in various Muslim political entities: the Ottoman Empire, Safavid Iran, Yemen, and North Africa.

JHI 5337 Jews in the Lands of Islam III

Dr. Tsadik

This course will cover aspects of Jewish life in the Middle East in modern times, from the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth century. It will address various topics, including transformations in the Jews' legal status, economic basis, communal organization and education. Certain aspects of their spiritual life, as well as women's place and music will be covered. The impact of Zionism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Holocaust on the Jews' lives will be also assessed in the course.

JHI 5400 Early Modern Europe: 1492-1760

Dr. Elisheva Carlebach

Historical, social, and intellectual developments in the Jewish communities of early-modern Western Europe; emphasis on the transition from medieval to modern patterns.

JHI 5410 Jews in Modern Europe, Social and Intellectual History: 1760-1900

Dr. Carlebach

Transition of Western European Jewry from the traditional community to the modern world; struggle for emancipation; Haskalah; rise of religious movements: reform, positive-historical school, orthodoxy, neo-orthodoxy. Course covers German, French, English, and Italian Jewry.

JHI 5440 East European Jewish History: 1750-1914

Dr. Joshua Karlip

Survey of the political, social, and economic history of East European Jewry from the last years of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to the outbreak of World War I; problems of emancipation; competing forces of Hasidism and Haskalah; rise of official and popular anti-Semitism in Tsarist Russia and Jewish reactions in the form of Zionism, Socialism, and Autonomism; changing family and social patterns; rise of modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature.

JHI 5441 The Jews of Eastern Europe: 1914-89

Dr. Joshua Zimmerman

Survey of the political, social, and economic history of the Jews in Eastern Europe from the outbreak of World War I to the end of Communist rule in 1989; character of the Soviet Jewish experiment; position of interwar Jewry in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Lithuania; impact of Nazi genocidal policies on the Jewish communities of the area; fate of these Jewish communities during the half-century after World War II.

JHI 5445 East European Jewry Confronts Modernity: The Haskalah in Russia

Dr. Karlip

Contrary to popular belief, the Haskalah and its proponents, the maskilim, did not seek the abandonment of the Jewish tradition. For the most part, the maskilim were observant Jews who sought to reconcile Jewish and secular learning, tradition and modernity. This course will focus on the writings and activity of three central figures of the Russian Haskalah: Isaac Ber Levinsohn (Rival, 1788–1860), Samuel Joseph Fuenn (1818–1890), and Moshe Leyb Lilienblum (1843–1910). The course will evaluate how these three, who represented the three successive generations of Russian maskilim, confronted the two-pronged challenge of modernizing Russian Jewry while at the same time reconciling traditional Jewish texts with their educational and social programs. This course will be taught as a text-course/seminar and requires reading fluency in Hebrew.

JHI 5571 American Jewish History: 1654-1881

Dr. Jeffrey Gurock

Political, economic, social, and religious development of American Jewry in the contexts of both American and Jewish history from the earliest Jewish settlements until the arrival of mass immigration from Eastern Europe.

JHI 5572 American Jewish History: 1881-1967

Dr. Gurock

Political, economic, social, and religious development of American Jewry in the contexts of both American and Jewish history from the arrival of mass immigration from Eastern Europe to the Six-Day War.

JHI 5580 The Jews of Latin America 1492 – Present

This course also counts toward the concentration in medieval history.

Dr. Perelis

This course explores Jewish immigration, settlement, cultural production and religious life from the earliest instances of European conquest and colonization of the Americas until the present day. The Americas are not just a geographic space, but they also function as a dreamscape –paradise, savage frontier, land of refuge, or an *El Dorado/Goldeneh Medineh*. We will explore the interplay between Jews, Judaism and the realities and mythologies of Latin America. The majority of the material will come from the Spanish and Portuguese zones of Central and South America with attention given to the Jewish communities of the Dutch and English colonies of the Caribbean such as Curaçao and Jamaica. The investigation into the colonial period will focus more heavily on aspects of Sephardic history such as crypto-Judaism, Inquisitorial persecution and the expansion of the Western Sephardim to the New World. As the course moves into the modern period, more emphasis will be placed on the experience of Eastern European Jewish immigrants and their descendants. Secondary sources will provide the wider historical context for the wide range of primary texts that will be at the center of the class discussion.

JHI 6385 Kehillat Yisrael: The Jewish Community in Early Modern Europe

Dr. Carlebach (This course will be limited to 15 students and is not open to auditors)

The theory and mechanics of Jewish autonomy from the 16th through the 18th centuries in Europe. The discontinuity between the medieval and early modern Jewish communities and the specific differences between these communities. Methods used by scholars to study the daily life of Jews will form part of the course. Close reading of primary texts, particularly takkanot kehillah and pinkasei kehillah of various kinds.

JHI 6386 The Sephardic Atlantic

Dr. Perelis

This course will explore the social, economic, cultural and religious activities of Jews, Conversos and Crypto-Jews within the early modern Atlantic world. In stead of focusing on one specific national or geographic zone, this course looks at the vast and complex networks linking and cutting across European centers of power and the quickly evolving areas of American and African trade and colonization. We will chart the structures and mechanism through which Iberian Conversos developed global business enterprises and maintained close family connections across political and religious lines. Following the lead of Jonathan Israel and others, it can be argued that the social and economic networks of these cosmopolitan merchants was intimately connected to the complex forms of Jewish and crypto-Jewish religious activities that developed throughout the Atlantic world of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The interplay between social and economic issues and the forms of religious practice, identity and interiority is at the center of our study of the Sephardic Atlantic.

JHI 6387 Varieties of Jewish Autobiography: From the Middle Ages to the Early Modern Period

Dr. Perelis

The course explores different forms of Jewish self-writing from the middle ages and the early modern period. We will read autobiographical texts from across the Jewish world- Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. The Jewish works will be analyzed within their wider social and cultural context. Because these texts are also a medium for spiritual and psychological self-expression and exploration, our analyses will be attentive to the interiority that is being crafted by these diverse authors.

JHI 6388 Sephardic Responses to persecution, Expulsion, and Inquisition

Dr. Perelis

Seminal turning points in the late medieval and early modern history of Iberian Jewry and the varied ways Iberian Jewry responded to these events. The traumatic events of 1391, the expulsions of 1492 and 1497 from Spain and Portugal, new geographic frontiers, new communities, and new ways of thinking.

JHI 6394 Jewish Iranian literature

Dr. Tsadik

The course examines a number of literary genres of the Jews of Iran, including poetry, apocalypse, Biblical commentary, theology, and history. Following a chronological line, the course addresses Jewish literary productions preserved in various places, including tomb stones, the Cairo geniza, letters, and books.

JHI 6398 Jews in German Lands: 1450-1780

Dr. Carlebach

Unique configurations of German Jewry from the 15th century through the rise of the Haskalah; distinctive forms of Halakhah, minhag, and popular literature; Jewish women from Glikl to the salon Jewesses; transformation of medieval policies under the influence of Renaissance humanism, the Reformation, German Pietism, and the 30-Years' War.

JHI 6399 Jews of Iran: History & Culture

Dr. Tsadik

The course will follow a chronological line, covering the history of the Iran's Jewry to the present. The following themes will be also addressed: Jewish Iranian Messianism, Judeo-Persian literature, Jews and Shi'ite Islam, Western penetration, modern education, and communal organization.

JHI 6407 Marranos and Other Heretics: Varieties of Heresy in the Iberian World

Dr. Perelis

This course examines the interaction between the Spanish Inquisition and a wide range of its targets. Beginning with a brief history of the Inquisition in the Iberian world, the focus shifts to a series of individual testimonies presented before the Inquisition. These individuals were accused of a variety of religious crimes, from bigamy and witchcraft to adhering to varying manifestations of Jewish and Protestant heresies. The course is particularly interested in the ways that individual “heretics” present themselves to their inquisitors and how they transform their interrogations into acts of self-fashioning. In addition to inquisitorial records we will examine literary and visual interpretations of the Inquisition including contemporary cinema.

This multidisciplinary course challenges the students to analyze a wide range of primary texts—Inquisitorial documents, spiritual autobiographies, Responsa, and visual media in order to explore a complex sociocultural phenomenon.

JHI 6409 Sabbatean Controversies

Dr. Carlebach

The polemical literature generated by the most important internal Jewish controversy of the early modern period; influence of the controversy on attitudes toward the study of Kabbalah, toward Messianism, and toward rabbinic authority; the writings of Jacob Sasportas, Moses Hagiz, Jacob Emden, David Fleckeles, and their opponents.

JHI 6410 Emden-Eibeschuetz Controversy

Dr. Sid Leiman

A critical study of the controversy and its aftermath. Topics include: the protagonists as reflected in their own writings; the protagonists as reflected the writings of their contemporaries; rabbinic responses to the controversy; Jewish historiography and the controversy.

JHI 6415 Haskalah in Western Europe

Dr. Carlebach

Origins and development of the Haskalah in its Jewish and European contexts, from the mid-18th century; emphasis on the foundation texts of the Haskalah, particularly those emanating from Berlin. Comparison with other Western European models.

JHI 6418 Jewish Thought & Culture in Central Europe, 1890 – 1914

Dr. Jess Olson

JHI 6417 Jews and Empires

Dr. Olson

This course is a comparative study of the Jewish communities of the Russian, Ottoman and Austrian Empires in the 1848-1918 period. In addition to a basic familiarity with the various structures of Jewish communities in these imperial settings, we will explore the ways in which Jewish communities responded to imperial policy politically and culturally. We will pay close attention to the intersection of these Jewish communities, the unique forms of Jewish cultural exchange in places where the Jews of different empires encountered each other (for instance, Russian Jews in Ottoman Palestine; Sephardic Jews of the Balkans in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, etc.). This course will also stress familiarity with the theoretical framework in current academic research that seeks to understand the interplay of ethnic and religious minorities in imperial contexts, including such themes as subaltern culture, center-periphery relations, and modes of accommodation and resistance.

JHI 6425 From Catastrophe to Renewal: Polish Jewry, 1939 – 2009

Dr. Zimmerman

This course traces the history of the Jews in Poland from the eve of World War II down to the present day. Examining the voluminous secondary and primary sources on Polish Jewry during the Holocaust and its aftermath, we study chronically the history of Polish Jewry since 1939, from the Shoah and the attempts to reestablish Jewish communal life after 1945, to Jewish renewal in post-communist Poland, from 1989 to the present.

JHI 6444 Jewish Modernity in Lithuania: From Talmud and Mussar to Revolution and Zionism

Dr. Karlip

For two centuries, Jewish Lithuania served as a center of Jewish religious, cultural, and political life. This region served as a bastion of traditional Talmudic learning and the Mussar movement even as it functioned as the cradle of such modern intellectual and political movements as Haskalah, religious Zionism, Jewish socialism, and modern Yiddish culture. In this class, we will study the works of leading representatives of each of these movements. Two of the questions that the course will address are the larger historical reasons for Lithuanian Jewry's remarkable creativity and the extent to which the secular movements continued the legacy of their religious predecessors, despite their rebellion against them.

JHI 6445 Lithuanian Rabbinic Culture: 1750-1939

Dr. Karlip

From the 18th century through the first half of the 20th century, Lithuanian Jewry produced a rabbinic culture renowned for its rabbinic personalities, its religious perspectives, its institutions of Torah study, and its response to modernity. Among the topics to be studied are: the nature of this Culture and its reaction to Hasidism, Haskalah, Zionism, socialism, and the Mussar movement. Reading proficiency in Hebrew is a prerequisite for this course.

JHI 6446 Emergence of Modern Yiddish Culture

Dr. Karlip

This course will explore the cultural movement that sought to elevate the prestige of Yiddish from the language of the marketplace to that of the literary salon and theater. We will study both the elite and popular forms of modern Yiddish culture, including the press, literature, and theater.

JHI 6452 Vilna: A Jewish Cultural Metropolis

Dr. Karlip

East European Jews referred to Vilna as “the Jerusalem of Lithuania.” This course will explore the history of Vilna Jewry from the middle of the eighteenth century through the Holocaust. The following will serve as the course’s principle themes: traditional rabbinic culture, the battle between Hasidim and Mitnagdim, the Mussar Movement, the Haskalah, Zionism, Jewish socialism, Orthodoxy, the rise of modern Yiddish culture, and cultural life in the Vilna Ghetto during the Holocaust.

JHI 6466 Eastern European Jewish History through the Prism of Drashot

Dr. Karlip

This course will explore the history of early modern and modern East European Jewry through the medium of drashot (sermons). In their sermons, magidim (traditional preacher) both reflected larger historical trends and spread them to their audiences. Deeply rooted in both the textual and oral traditions of Ashkenazic rabbinic culture, the magidim also interacted with and helped to shape the historical context of their communities. This course will begin with a methodological consideration of drashot as a source of studying Jewish history. We then will analyze representative drashot of leading magidim and rabbis in an attempt to understand how these figures interacted with and impacted the major social, cultural, and religious trends of East European Jewry from the pre-Chmienicki Golden Age through the Holocaust. More specifically, we will explore how these magidim and rabbis responded to the following trends and movements: economic success and materialism, poverty, Hasidism, Haskalah, the Mussar Movement, Zionism, secularization, and the Holocaust. Selected drashot of the following rabbis and magidim will be studied in depth: R. Efrayim Shelomoh of Lunshitz (Kli Yakar), the Dubner Magid, the Magid of Mezritsh, the Kelemer Magid, R. Yitshak Nissenbaum, R. Zvi Hirsch Masliansky, and R. Kalonymus Kalmish Shapiro (Esh Kodesh). Fluency in rabbinic Hebrew is a prerequisite for this class.

JHI 6484 Destruction of European Jewry 1933-1945

Dr. Zimmerman

The ideological roots of Nazi anti-Semitism, the breakdown of democratic institutions in Weimar Germany, Hitler’s seizure of power, anti-Jewish policy and legislation in pre-WWII Germany, ghettoization in Nazi-occupied Europe, and the conception and implementation of the Final Solution. The Judenräte, Jewish resistance, life in the ghettos and camps, and the reactions of the Allied governments and the churches to Nazi genocidal policies. Comparison of the fate of Jews in indifferent countries.

JHI 6485 Jewish Responses to Nazism

Dr. Joshua Karlip

Jewish intellectual responses to Nazism from 1933 to 1940. The crisis of humanism, the debate about the legacy of Jewish emancipation, rabbinic responses, and the “return to the ghetto” debate.

JHI 6504 Zionist Thought: 1881-1947

Dr. Zimmerman

Formative context, theoretical underpinnings, and various expressions of Zionist thought. Attempt to create a national than a religious identity for the Jewish people. Parallels between Zionism and contemporaneous European national movements. Shift from ideological trends in Europe to activism in pre-State Palestine.

JHI 6506 Jewish National Movements

Dr. Zimmerman

The rise of Jewish national movements in late-19th and early-20th century Central and Eastern Europe; focuses on the diverse forms of Jewish national expression, including Zionism, Autonomism, and Bundism; the emergence of these movements within the wider context of the national revival in 19th-century Europe.

JHI 6540 The Social and Intellectual Life of German Jewry: 1780-1933

Dr. Olson

This course is an in-depth study of the history and historiography of 19th and 20th century German Jewry. We will engage with the social, cultural and intellectual features of German Jewish communities from the late Enlightenment through the collapse of the Weimar Republic.

JHI 6541 Austro-Hungarian Jewry, 1772-1916

Dr. Olson

This course will explore the encounter of the Habsburg Empire with its various Jewish communities from the expansion of the Habsburg Empire in 1772 to the collapse of the Empire in 1918. We will investigate themes central to Jewish identity in Austro-Hungary, such as nationalism and patriotism, religion and aesthetics. As we proceed, we will combine a number of historical methods and use a diverse set of materials. We will examine secondary historical accounts to give a clearer idea of the general picture, which will be combined with original texts and artifacts, the voices of those who lived and experienced the period themselves. Although you may have encountered some of these sources before, this course will cast many of them in a new light, placing them not in the literary and intellectual world of today, but of the milieu in which they were writing.

JHI 6573 The Jewish Religion in America

Dr. Gurock

Free and religiously voluntary American society has posed unparalleled challenges to the continuity of Judaism. How Jews have defined that challenge and attempted to reconcile, accommodate, or preserve unchanged.

JHI 6576 East European Jews in America

Dr. Gurock

The range of sources (governmental, archival, periodical, and literary) and methods (quantitative, nonquantitative, and sociological) available for studying the history of the East European Jew in America; works written in this field.

JHI 6579 History of American Jewish Orthodoxy

Dr. Gurock

Attempts by Orthodox Jews to reconcile, accommodate, or preserve unchanged their religious faith and practice in a free society: differing lay and rabbinic perceptions of America; issues of cooperation and competition between Orthodoxy and other conceptions of American Judaism; growth of Orthodox institutions and parallels within American society.

JHI 6582 Minorities, Majorities and American Jews: 1920-2000

Dr. Gurock

Patterns of acculturation and issues of integration among America's Jews from the close of the period of East European migration to the contemporary era. Examination of demographic and socioeconomic changes, inter-ethnic and inter-racial relations, shifting patterns and trends in religious denominational life, attitudes towards Zionism and the State of Israel.

JHI 6583 The Contemporary American Jewish Community: Continuity and Change

Dr. David Schnall

Social, political, economic and religious trends and directions of Jews in the United States at the late 20th and early 21st century. Both quantitative and qualitative analysis reflecting the work of an interdisciplinary selection of scholars. While the focus is the Jewish population of the United States as a whole, special consideration will be directed to the Orthodox cohort.

JHI 6888 American Jewish Historiography

Dr. Gurock

The writing of American Jewish history from the era of filiopietism to the contemporary period; trends in historical research and evaluation of major recent works in the field.

JHI 7600 Reading Modern Arabic Sources on Jews and Judaism

Dr. Tsadik

The seminar seeks to cover a range of sources written by modern Arab scholars and Muslim religious scholars on Jews and Judaism. In reading the sources, some modern Arab-Muslim descriptions of Jewish life in medieval and modern times will be examined, including some religious attitudes as well as anti-Semitic ideology toward the Jews. Part of these perceptions and depictions will be shown as rooted in early Muslim writings, while others as derived from European ideologies.

JHI 8850 Doctoral Seminar in American Jewish History

Dr. Gurock

Review of research methods in American Jewish History; evaluation of recent works and trends in American Jewish historiography; refinement of writing skills; preparation of doctoral plans and prospectus. Instructor's permission required for admission to the course.

JHI 8851 From Ghetto to Suburbia and Back to the City: Research Course of New York's Jews in the 20th century

Dr. Gurock

Studying the role and status of the Jews from immigrant to native born generations within a changing metropolis. Research areas include the demographics and social tenor of Jewish neighborhoods, interaction with other ethnic and racial minorities and the leadership roles that confronted this largest Jewish community outside of Israel

Prerequisite: JHI 5572

Bible

BIB 5031 Introduction to Biblical Studies I

Dr. Leiman

Introduction to major issues and movements relating to the formation, transmission, translation, and interpretation of Hebrew Scripture.

BIB 5115 Introduction to Biblical Studies II

Dr. Eichler

Introduction to the Ancient Near Eastern background of the Bible related to the history and culture of the major civilizations and ethnolinguistic groups that formed part of the Biblical world.

BIB 5203

Dr. Aaron Koller

The course covers orthography, phonology (gemination, vowel length, stress, syllable structure, reduction, compensatory lengthening, etc.), morphology (definite article, conjunction, prefixed prepositions, suffixed pronouns, regular and irregular verbs in all *binyanim*), syntax (passive, causative, reflexive; clause types), and semantics.

BIB 6078 The Art of Biblical Poetry

Dr. Yitzhak Berger

This course offers an analysis of the craftsmanship of biblical poetry, with attention to a range of structural, rhetorical, and other compositional techniques. Students will gain (1) an appreciation of the variety of devices employed in biblical poetry; (2) insight into the meaning of each poetic selection to be sampled, informed by an appreciation of its techniques; and (3) the skills necessary to probe the meaning of poetic passages in the Bible, taking into account their literary artistry.

BIB 6081 Prophecies of Consolation

Dr. Shalom Holtz

A comparison of the prophecies of consolation found in Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah, addressing the manner in which many prophecies rework and react to the themes found in earlier ones and the way in which each prophecy reacts to the historical and political events of the period to which they are addressed.

BIB 6084 The Medieval Peshat Tradition, c. 900-1300

Dr. Mordechai Cohen

In-depth survey of the medieval peshat school of Bible exegesis, with its roots in the philological analysis of Saadia and his Karaite contemporaries in the tenth century, subsequent developments in Muslim Spain in the eleventh century, in Rashi's school in northern France in the 12th century, and in Provence and Christian Spain in the 13th century. Special focus on the notion of peshuto shel miqra and related hermeneutical concepts in Muslim and Christian scriptural interpretation.

BIB 6090 Maimonides' Biblical Exegesis

Dr. Cohen

Maimonides' philological, literary-historical interpretation of Scripture in light of rabbinic sources, the Babylonian-Iberian exegetical school, and Greco-Arabic learning. Special emphasis on his concept of peshuto shel miqra and its role in his system of halakhic exegesis in Sefer ha-Mitsvot (Book of the Commandments) and Mishneh Torah (Code of Jewish Law). Biblical interpretation in the Guide of the Perplexed, including Maimonides' analysis of Genesis 1-5 (Account of Creation), Job, Song of Songs, and his ta'amei ha-mitsvot (rationale for the commandments).

BIB 6094 French Medieval Biblical Exegesis

Dr. Cohen

The Northern French exegetical tradition, with emphasis on Rashi, Rashbam, and Joseph Kara; innovations of this tradition, especially its notion of peshuto shel miqra; impact of this tradition on contemporaneous and later exegetes, e.g., Ibn Ezra, Radak and Nahmanides; selected readings from the primary sources and the modern scholarly literature.

BIB 6097: Nahmanides' Exegesis and Thought

Dr. Cohen

Nahmanides' interpretive methods in light of earlier exegetical traditions and his cultural environment. Relation to Rashi, Abraham Ibn Ezra and David Kimhi; possible link to the northern French peshat school. Conceptions of peshat and its relation to Midrash. Debates with Maimonides. Integration of Kabbalah and exegesis. Scriptural multivalence

BIB 6109 Spanish Exegetical Tradition

Dr. Cohen

The Spanish Biblical Exegetical Tradition from its origins in Saadia until Nahmanides; methods of interpretation; linguistic, literary, and philosophic issues raised by the Biblical text; emphasis on primary texts, but historical and cultural backgrounds are analyzed; readings in the contemporary scholarly literature.

BIB 6121 Literary Approaches to Biblical Metaphor in the Spanish Exegetical Tradition

Dr. Cohen

Metaphor as a key element of biblical literary expression. Its role in Sa'adia's endeavor to reconcile Scripture and reason, Moses ibn Ezra's poetic exegesis, Abraham ibn Ezra's principle of peshat, Maimonides' theory of prophecy and the imagination, and Radak's midrashically enriched peshat method.

BIB 6212 Genesis: Biblical Cosmology

Dr. Barry Eichler

Textual study of chapters of Genesis, with emphasis on comparative data from the Ancient Near East.

BIB 6212 Genesis: The Flood

Dr. Eichler

This course will be a close text reading of the universal history found in Genesis. The sections will include the Tower of Babel, the Table of Nations and the Flood Story. Attention will be paid to the ancient Near Eastern echoes of the text.

BIB 6305 Ezra & Nehemiah

Various Faculty

The course will concentrate on the interrelationships of history and literature in the historical period covered by the book of Ezra-Nehemiah (more properly known as the book of Ezra), viz. 539-425 BCE. In addition to studying the text of Ezra, we will make use of data gleaned from material culture, from Achaemenid history, and from the Biblical books of prophecy that concern this time period.

BIB 6611 Book of Deuteronomy

Various Faculty

Selected passages from the Book of Deuteronomy, with emphasis on philological, legal, historical, and ideological problems in light of Ancient Near Eastern parallels and rabbinic commentary.

BIB 7325 Book of Judges

Various Faculty

A critical study of the structure, text, and content of selected chapters of the Book of Judges in light of classical, medieval, and modern scholarship.

BIB 7350 Book of Kings

Various Faculty

The Book of Kings in light of our knowledge of Ancient Near Eastern historical texts.

BIB 7401 Book of Jeremiah

Dr. Holtz

Traditional exegesis of selected chapters of Jeremiah examined and weighed with the help of modern historical and philological tools and methods.

BIB 7505 Book of Isaiah

Various Faculty

The course focuses on Isaiah in its historical context. It examines the political and social realities of the relevant period, and how the text responds to these realities. The timeless ideas emerge from the juxtaposition of history and prophetic response.

BIB 7718 The Book of Hosea

Dr. Holtz

Textual study of the Book of Hosea, with emphasis on modern historical and philological methods of its interpretation.

BIB 7719 Prayer in the Hebrew Bible

Dr. Holtz

Study of prayers included in the Hebrew Bible, with an eye towards their poetics and religious ideologies. Close reading of biblical passages, comparison with analogues from ancient Near Eastern literature and later Hebrew prayers, as well as engagement with modern academic writings on the subject. Texts drawn from most major genres of biblical literature, including prose, prophecy and the Psalms.

BIB 7720 Book of Amos

Dr. Holtz

Textual study of the Book of Amos, with emphasis on philological, literary, historical, and ideological issues.

BIB 7551 Book of Ezekiel

Various Faculty

Textual study of the Book of Ezekiel, with emphasis on the history of its exegesis.

BIB 8209 Book of Psalms

Various Faculty

Selected Psalms. Overview of the entire book, with special attention to major genres, literary style, historical setting, and expression of religious sentiments; Jewish exegesis, especially the rabbinic and medieval traditions; major contributions of modern scholarship; application of modern literary methods to reveal the poetic complexity of Psalms.

BIB 8250 Book of Proverbs

Various Faculty

Selected passages from the Book of Proverbs, with emphasis on intellectual and philological issues in the light of ancient Near Eastern literature, rabbinic commentary, and medieval and modern Jewish exegesis.

BIB 8305 Book of Job in the Jewish Exegetical Tradition

Dr. Cohen

Analysis of Job, its message and literary structure in light of modern scholarship and the Jewish exegetical tradition. Philological interpretations of Rashi, Joseph Qara and Rashbam; philosophical interpretations of Sa'adia, Abraham Ibn Ezra and Maimonides; Nahmanides' Kabbalistic approach. Implications for Jewish biblical hermeneutics: literary nature of Scripture, the role of peshat as opposed to other layers of meaning in Scripture.

BIB 8310 Song of Songs: Readings in Biblical Poetry

Dr. Cohen

In-depth study of Shir HaShirim, its language, structure, imagery, and depiction of human and spiritual love; literal vs. allegorical readings in rabbinic and medieval commentaries; modern scholarship, with special emphasis on literary analysis; medieval and modern theories of poetics as applied to Biblical poetry.

BIB 8610 The Book of Chronicles and Its Interpreters

Dr. Yitzhak Berger

This course examines both medieval and modern interpretation of Chronicles, contrasting different approaches to the special problems generated by the book. In particular, the course will consider commentators' assessments of apparent contradictions between Chronicles and other biblical books, and, especially in the case of modern critical interpreters, of the Chronicler's adaptation of his biblical sources.

BIB 8800 Egypt and the Bible

Dr. Koller

This course surveys the various ways in which Egypt and Israel interacted in biblical times, and the ways in which understanding ancient Egypt can help understand the Bible. Topics covered include linguistic influences, historical interactions from the Late Bronze Age through the Persian period, literary and religious influences and commonalities (hymns, and psalms, wisdom literature, love songs, prophesy, creation, monotheism) and the place of Egypt in Israelite thought.

BIB 9001 Approaches to the Study of Biblical Law

Dr. Eichler

The methodological issues inherent in the study of Biblical law. The various approaches to the study of Biblical law will be examined and critically evaluated. Permission of the instructor to take courses is required.

BIB 9065 Parashat Mishpatim

Dr. Eichler

A close reading of the Biblical text utilizing medieval and modern commentaries; special attention to ancient Near Eastern legal texts as an exegetical tool.

Jewish Philosophy

JPH 5011 Survey of Medieval Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

Basic trends (Kalâm, Neoplatonism, Aristotelianism, critique of Aristotelianism) as reflected in the writings of major exponents; religious and philosophical backgrounds and historical settings; readings in the primary and secondary literature.

JPH 5012 Survey of Modern and Contemporary Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Rynhold

Impact of modern culture and philosophy on Jewish thought; basic trends (rationalism, idealism, neo-Kantianism, existentialism) as reflected in the writings of major exponents; readings in the primary and secondary literature.

JPH 5015 The Problem of Evil in Modern Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Rynhold

A detailed analysis of the treatment of the problem of evil in Modern Jewish philosophy, addressing both pre- and post-Holocaust thought. Thinkers to be studied will be selected from among the following: Baruch Spinoza, Hermann Cohen, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, Rav Kook, Richard Rubenstein, Emil Fackenheim, Eliezer Berkovits, and Rav Soloveitchik. Emphasis will be placed on the bearing of the responses studied on the question of the nature of Modern Jewish philosophy.

JPH 5350 Introduction to Jewish Mysticism

Dr. Jonathan Dauber

Survey of major currents in Jewish mysticism in their historical and literary context from the merkavah speculations of late antiquity to the Kabbalah of 16th-century Safed. Themes discussed will include: conceptions of God, conceptions of the Torah, reasons for the commandments, evil, eschatology, piety, esotericism, and mystical experience. Readings in selected primary and secondary literature.

JPH 5360 Introduction to Hassidic Thought

Dr. Dauber

Survey of the major themes of Hassidic thought through an examination of the works of its major exponents including the Baal Shem Tov, the Maggid of Mezhirech, R. Jacob Joseph of Polonoye, R. Menahem Nahum of Chernobyl, R. Shneur Zalman of Lyady and others. Particular attention will be paid to the intellectual and historical contexts in which Hassidism flourished. Relevant secondary literature will also be considered.

JPH 6190 Jewish Eschatology

Dr. Rynhold

Messiah, resurrection, and world to come; Biblical and rabbinic antecedents; Sefer Zerubbabel; relevant chapters of Saadiah's Emunot ve-De'ot; Maimonides' views as found in his various writings; Nahmanides' Sha'ar ha-Gemul.

JPH 6201 Jewish Ethics

Dr. Rynhold

Selected philosophical texts dealing with such problems as good and evil, Divine providence and human freedom, virtue and vice, the individual and society, and the nature of human happiness; concepts in general ethical and social theory as basis for comparison.

JPH 6447 The Ba'al Shem Tov

Dr. Dauber

An examination of the life and teachings of the Ba'al Shem Tov and a critical assessment of relevant scholarship. The Ba'al Shem Tov's teachings will be situated within the context of the history of Jewish mysticism.

JPH 6522 Secrecy in Jewish Thought

Dr. Dauber

An examination of the theological and social ramifications of secrecy in Jewish thought. Readings will include works of Maimonides, Samuel ibn Tibbon, and various kabbalistic authors.

JPH 6640 Philosophy of Judah Halevi

Dr. Rynhold

Major concepts of Halevi's thought based on an analysis of selections from his Kuzari; religion and philosophy, prophecy, inyan elohi, am segullah, philosophy of law, and servant of God; religious, philosophical, and historical backgrounds.

JPH 6651 Philosophy of Maimonides

Dr. Rynhold

Major concepts of Maimonides' philosophical thought, based on analysis of selections from his Guide for the Perplexed, treatises, and halakhic writings; influence of Biblical-rabbinic tradition on Maimonides' thought; Greek and Arabic backgrounds of his philosophy; supplementary readings from commentaries on the Guide and from the secondary literature; emphasis on methodology, Biblical exegesis, and physical and metaphysical questions.

JPH 6662 Philosophy of Gersonides

Dr. Rynhold

Selected topics in the philosophy of Levi ben Gershom (Gersonides); influence of his predecessors, especially Maimonides and Averroes.

JPH 6714 Philosophy and the Concept of Mitzvah

Dr. Rynhold

This course is devoted to two of the most significant philosophical issues relating to the concept of mitzvah and is thus split into 2 parts. Part I develops a contemporary approach to the project of Ta'amei ha-Mitzvot out of the critical study of previous approaches from the history of Jewish philosophy. Part II is devoted to the conceptual analysis of models of freewill and responsibility in Jewish philosophy.

JPH 6715 Sefer ha-Bahir

Dr. Dauber

An intensive study of a foundational text of Kabbalah. Particular attention will be paid to the light this text sheds on the history of Kabbalah, on the development of kabbalistic symbolism and conceptions of the divine, and on the varieties of Jewish mystical experience.

JPH 6735 Kabbalistic Views of Maimonides

Dr. Dauber

An examination of kabbalistic attitudes toward the thought of Moses Maimonides. We will consider a variety of stances ranging from attempts to reconcile Maimonidean and kabbalistic thought to bitter criticism.

JPH 6744 Topics in the Zohar

Dr. Dauber

The seminar will focus on the section of Yitro from the Zohar. An examination of the literary context of zoharic homilies. Issues to be discussed will be the textual-redactional history of the work, and the kabbalistic interpretation of revelation and the mystical body of Torah, God, and Israel.

JPH 6745 Topics in 13th-Century Kabbalah

Dr. Dauber

An examination of the key themes of the formative period of Kabbalah. Topics studied will include: "origins" of Kabbalah, relationship to Maimonides, role of Sefer Yetsirah, Catalonian versus Castilian Kabbalah, kabbalistic theosophy, theories of evil, views of the nature of language, reasons for the commandments, and mystical experience. Readings will be taken from the works of Asher b. David, Ezra of Gerona, Azriel of Gerona, Jacob ha-Kohen, Isaac ha-Kohen, Todros Abulafia, Moses de Leon, and Josef Gikatilla.

JPH 6760 Messianism in Kabbalah & Hasidut

Dr. Dauber

An examination of the development of Kabbalistic and Hasidic views on messianism through a close reading of selected Zoharic, Lurianic, and Hasidic texts, and relevant scholarship.

JPH 6860 The Early Modern Period: Spinoza & Mendelssohn

Dr. Rynhold

Whether Baruch Spinoza can be thought of as a "Jewish philosopher" has always been a subject for debate. This course will analyze his key philosophical ideas in relation both to his medieval Jewish forbears and the major Jewish thinker who followed him—Moses Mendelssohn. Topics to be covered will include: the nature of God; the immortality of the soul; freedom and determinism; the status of Jewish Law; and the relationship between religion and state.

JPH 6862 Nietzsche & Modern Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Rynhold

Friedrich Nietzsche's relationship to Judaism has long been a focus of scholarly debate. After some initial consideration of the classical debates, this course will focus primarily on the manner in which modern Jewish thinkers have implicitly and explicitly engaged with his controversial philosophy, in particular his potent critique of religion. Topics to be covered will include: 1) Nietzsche and Nazism; 2) Nietzsche's attitude towards the Jews; 3) Nietzsche, Rosenzweig, and the nature of philosophy; 4) Nietzsche, Buber, and Nationalism; 5) Nietzsche, Soloveitchik, and Life-Affirmation; 6) Nietzsche, Rav Kook, and Atheism.

JPH 6872 Jewish Existentialism: Buber & Rosenzweig

Dr. Rynhold

A critical examination of some of the central themes that emerge out of the work of Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig, including, but not limited to, the nature of religious philosophy, human relationships (ethics), and the human-divine encounter (revelation). The course will focus primarily on developing these themes through close reading and analysis of primary texts.

JPH 6874 The Philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas

Dr. Rynhold

A study of Levinas' philosophy that will concentrate on close readings of the often difficult primary texts in order to enable students both to become independent readers of the Levinasian corpus and to understand the key movements of Levinasian thought: What does it mean to speak of ethics as "first philosophy"? What do "Totality" and "Infinity" mean for Levinas? What is the "other" and why do we have an "infinite responsibility" toward it? And how does Levinas' philosophy relate to his Jewish writings?

JPH 6876 Halakhah & Contemporary Legal Philosophy

Dr. Rynhold

This course is devoted to the critical analysis of attempts to apply models of Anglo-American jurisprudence to the halakhic system. Models to be considered will include legal positivism, natural law, Dworkin's interpretive approach and Cover's narrative approach.

JPH 6880 Themes in 20th-Century Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Rynhold

A critical examination of selected topics in 20th-century Jewish philosophy with a particular focus on the writings of some of the more neglected thinkers from the period such as Yeshayahu Leibowitz, Eliezer Berkovits, and Emil Fackenheim. Topics to be studied will include: conceptions of God, faith and theology; the status of ethics in contemporary Jewish law and thought; and conceptions of Zionism.

JPH 6885 The Philosophy of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik

Dr. Rynhold

A detailed study of philosophical themes in the writings of Rav Soloveitchik.

Talmud

Please note that some of the courses listed as those of Dr. Elman, who has just passed away, will continue to be taught by other faculty. Dr. Hidary, for example, will be teaching Introduction to Tannaitic Literature. Other elements of the Talmud syllabus will be revised.

TAS 5801 Introduction to Tannaitic Literature

Dr. Elman

Scope and nature of the Oral Law; jurisdiction and impact of the Anshei Keneset Hagedolah, Sanhedrin, and the Hillel Patriarchate; analysis of literary forms, composition, and redaction of Tannaitic literature; Mishnah, Tosefta, and Midreshei Halakhah.

TAS 5804 Introduction to Amoraic Literature

Dr. Elman

Literary history and redaction of the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmudim and their interrelationship; yeshivot and prominent Amoraim in their geographic and historical setting; analysis of the Saboraic contribution to the Talmud, and its impact on geonic—post-geonic codifiers.

TAS 5871 Introduction to the Midrashic Literature of the Tannaim

Dr. Hurvitz

Introduction to halakhic and aggadic Midrashim; definition of Halakhah, Mishnah, Midrash; origin and development of hermeneutic rules; schools of R. Ishmael and R. Akiba; development and structure of the tannaitic Midrashim: Mekhilta, Sifra, Sifrei, Mekhilta of R. Shimon bar Yohai, Midrash Tannaim, and Sifrei Zuta on Deuteronomy.

TAS 5872 Midrashic Literature of the Amoraim

Dr. Hurvitz

Annual and triennial cycles of reading; origin of haftarah; the two Pesiktot; types of Midrashim: expository, halakhic and aggadic, homiletic, historical and narrative, theological, esoteric, and apocryphal; Midrashim to be considered: Midrash Rabba, Tanhuma, Seder Eliyahu, Seder Olam, Pirkei de R. Eliezer, and Post-Amoraic Midrashim.

TAS 6520 Literature of the Rishonim

Dr. Hurvitz

Development of halakhic literature in Europe. The literature of the academies and Rishonim in Provence. The Hidushim literature on the Talmud in Spain beginning with Nahmanides. Rashi's Talmudic

commentary and its influence on the Tosafists and the Halakhah in France. Halakhic codices in Ashkenaz and their influence on the codification of the Tur and the Shulhan Arukh.

TAS 6530, 6531 Literature of the Acharonim I, II

Dr. Hurvitz

The literature of the late Rishonim and early Acharonim during the 15th-17th centuries may be divided into three categories: halachic commentaries surrounding R. Yosef Caro's Shulchan Aruch, classical commentaries added as supplements in the back of individually printed tractates of Talmud Bavli, and independently published volumes of halachic responsa or sh'elot u'teshuvot. Titles in each of these categories were composed by outstanding Torah scholars, who had similar aims but, of course, the inner contents of their works were influenced by the specific period and place in which they were written, such as Poland, Turkey, Italy, and Ashkenaz. The course will examine the historical background of the authors, the halachic contents of their words and their influence.

TAS 6817 Sources of the Babylonian Talmud

Dr. Elman

The use and origin of earlier sources by the redactors of selected Babylonian sugyot with a view to determine the principles by which these sources were selected, arranged, modified, interpreted, and reinterpreted.

TAS 6874 Classical Rabbinic Legal Thought

Dr. Elman

The interaction of the Babylonian Jewish community and the rabbinic élite with Middle Persian culture. Degrees of acculturation of various communities, especially Mahoza and Pumbedita. Topics covered include: rabbinic authority, relation with non-Jews, Jewish autonomy, and the function of Jewish courts

TAS 6877 Classical Rabbinic Thought I—The Tannaitic Period

Dr. Elman

Major topics in tannaitic thought, such as God, Torah, human condition, yetzer ha-tov and yetzer ha-ra, sin and suffering, and Providence and Predestination; methodological issues

TAS 6878 Classical Rabbinic Thought II—The Amoraic Period

Dr. Elman

Major topics in Amoraic thought, such as God, Torah, human condition, yetzer ha-tov and yetzer ha-ra, sin and suffering, and Providence and Predestination; methodological issues

TAS 6879 Rabbinic Legal Thought in Context

Dr. Elman

TAS 6880 Sifrei on Numbers and Deuteronomy

Dr. Hurvitz

Selected texts from the Sifrei and their interpretation by Rishonim and Aharonim; textual development of these midrashim in the light of the differing methodological approaches of the schools of Rabbi Ishmael and Rabbi Akiba.

TAS 6885 Classical Rabbinic Legal Exegesis

Dr. Elman

History, logic, and forms of classical rabbinic legal exegesis as found in the Babylonian Talmud; comparative materials drawn from the halakhic Midrashim and the Jerusalem Talmud.

TAS 6895 Topics in Aggadah

Dr. Hurvitz

Nature and structure of Aggadah and Homiletics in the Tannaitic and Amoraic Literature. Examination of a variety of methodologies, highlighting the interpretation of biblical texts, concepts and beliefs, and goals. Study of historical perspectives.

TAS 7521 She'iltot of R' Ahai Gaon

Dr. Hurvitz

Background of the formation of She'iltot of Rav Ahai Gaon; various editions according to manuscripts and first editions; She'iltot and their relation to the two Talmudim, Halakhot Gedolot, Midrash Yelamdenu, Midrash Vehizhir; various commentaries.

TAS 7523 Literature of the Geonim

Dr. Hurvitz

Textual examination of geonic responsa; She'iltot; halakhic codices of the Geonim; halakhic monographs of Saadiah, Hofni, and Hai Gaon; introductions to the Talmud and Geonic literature in North Africa and Spain.

TAS 7541 Halakhic Literature of Spanish Jewry 10th-14th Century

Dr. Hurvitz

The Halakhic literature of the post Geonic period. The classical works by the Rishonim of the three major centers of Sephardic Jewry: North Africa, Spain, and Egypt. The contributions of the Torah Academies headed by R. Hananel Ben Hushiel and R. Nissim Gaon in Qaytrawan; R. Moshe, Hanokh, Yoseph Ibn Abitur, Yoseph Gaon, Shmuel Ha-Nagid, Yehuda Abarzeloni and Isaac Ghayyat in Spain; R. Isaac Alfasi and R. Moshe Ben Maimon.

TAS 7544 Maimonides' Halakhic Writings

Dr. Hurvitz

The historical background. The process of composing his works and their influence on his time and later generations. His commentaries on the Mishna, Babylonian and Palestinian Talmud, Sefer ha-Mitzvoth, and Mishneh Torah. Responsa, letters and the controversy surrounding his writings. A new study on the methodology of his writings based on unknown autograph fragments from the Cairo Geniza. Bibliographies on Maimonides.

TAS 7550 Middle Persian Language and Literature

Dr. Elman

It is not on the website. Whoever is now handling this should post it with the following description: Introduction to Middle Persian language and literature, emphasizing its cultural and intellectual relevance to Babylonian rabbinic culture.

TAS 7554 Middle Persian Context of the Babylonian Talmud

Dr. Elman

Jews and Persian coexisted peacefully in Babylonia for 1,200 years. In Zoroastrianism, Jews found a religion with doctrines of reward and punishment, a future life, a messiah (actually, three messiahs), the extirpation of evil, laws of menstrual impurity—in short, a religion similar to their own. The result was a very comfortable exile, as R. Huna comments in Menahot 110a. This course will investigate the results of this long contact.

TAS 7809 The Editing of Critical Editions of Rabbinic Literature

Dr. Hurvitz

Problems of editing early texts of Talmudic, halakhic, aggadic, Midrashic, and geonic literature, Rashi, the Tosafists and early halakhic and Talmudic commentaries by the Rishonim of Spain and Provence; methodology of editing the text by using manuscripts from various libraries, the Cairo Geniza, and early printing; variance footnotes, introductions, etc.; emphasis on new material from manuscripts and fragments.

TAS 7821 Textual Development of Mishnah and Talmud

Dr. Hurvitz

The Mishnah and Talmud from the Saboraic Period until the recent, scientific editions, based on Geniza manuscripts, geonic Codices and Responsa, the Munich manuscript of the Talmud, the Parma manuscript of the Mishnah, and Geniza fragments of unknown printed editions of the Mishnah; early editions from Spain, Italy, until the Vilna edition, as well as hitherto unprinted material from the Institute for the Complete Israeli Talmud are examined.

Faculty Information

Core Faculty

Joseph Angel, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, New York University
Second Temple history and literature

David Berger, Ruth & I. Lewis Gordon Professor of Jewish History and Dean
PhD, Columbia University
Jewish intellectual history; Jewish-Christian relations; Messianism and Messianic movements; Jewish attitudes toward general culture

Mordechai Cohen, Professor of Bible and Associate Dean; Divisional Coordinator of Academic Jewish Studies, Yeshiva College
PhD, Yeshiva University
Medieval biblical interpretation; connections with Arabic poetics and medieval Hebrew poetry; Muslim jurisprudence and Jewish legal exegesis; modern literary approaches to the Bible

Jonathan Dauber, Associate Professor of Jewish Mysticism
PhD, New York University
Kabbalah and Hasidism; Jewish mysticism and esotericism, interface between Kabbalah and Jewish philosophy, Jewish messianism

Barry Eichler, Professor of Bible and Cuneiform Studies
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Application of Mesopotamian literature to the study of the Bible

Yaakov Elman, Professor of Jewish History; Herbert S. and Naomi Denenberg Chair in Talmudic Studies
PhD, New York University
Tosefta: structure, aims, and relationship to the Talmudim; rabbinic theology; unfolding systems of rabbinic legal exegesis

Steven Fine, Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Hebrew University
Jewish life in Greco-Roman times; art history

Jeffrey S. Gurock, Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Columbia University
American Jewish history, with emphasis on social and religious history; modern Jewish history

Richard Hidary, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, New York University
History of the Rabbis and their Greco-Roman Context; Second Temple and Rabbinic Literature

Shalom Holtz, Associate Professor of Bible
PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Mesopotamian literature and law and their relationship to biblical and post-biblical literature

Elazar Hurvitz, Professor of Bible; Dr. Samuel Belkin Chair in Judaic Studies
PhD, Yeshiva University
Halakhic and midrashic literature; Geonic literature; Genizah research

Ephraim Kanarfogel, E. Billi Ivry University Professor of Jewish History, Literature and Law;
PhD, Yeshiva University
Medieval Jewish history; history of halakhah; history of educational theory and practice; intellectual cross-currents between Ashkenaz and Sefarad; pietism and mysticism in rabbinic culture

Joshua Karlip, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Jewish Theological Seminary
Eastern European Jewish History, Jewish Nationalism, Modern Yiddish Culture, Jewish Intellectual Responses to Nazism, Jewish Religious Life in the Soviet Union, Lithuanian Jewry

Aaron Koller, Associate Professor of Bible and Assistant Dean of Yeshiva College
PhD, Yeshiva University
Near Eastern languages, semantics and lexicography, archaeology and texts, intellectual and cultural histories of antiquity

Jess Olson, Associate Professor of Jewish History
PhD, Stanford University
Modern East and Central European Jewry; German-Jewish history and thought; Austro-Hungarian Jewry; modern Jewish intellectual history; history of Jewish politics and nationalism

Ronnie Perelis, Chief Rabbi Dr. Isaac Abraham and Jelena (Rachel) Alcalay Chair in Sephardic Studies;
Associate Professor of Sephardic Studies
PhD, New York University
Jews in the medieval and early modern Iberian world; Inquisition and Crypto-Judaism; autobiography and travel literature; Sephardic diasporas; Jewish presence in Latin America

Daniel Rynhold, Associate Professor of Jewish Philosophy
PhD, London School of Economics
Modern Jewish philosophy; Nietzsche and Jewish philosophy; approaches to Ta'amei ha-Mitzvot; the philosophy of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik

Daniel Tsadik, Associate Professor of Sephardic and Iranian Studies
PhD, Yale University
History of the Jews in Islamic lands; Modern Iran; Shi'i Islam; Iran's religious minorities; Iran's Jewry

Associate Faculty

Joshua Zimmerman, Eli and Diana Zborowski Professorial Chair in Holocaust Studies and East European Jewish History; Associate Professor of History

PhD, Brandeis University

Jewish social and national movements in Eastern Europe; Jewish culture in Eastern Europe; Holocaust studies

Senior Adjunct Faculty

Elisheva Carlebach, Visiting Professor of History

PhD, Columbia University

History of early modern European Jewry

Sid Z. Leiman, Visiting Professor of Jewish History and Literature

PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Bible; history of biblical exegesis; early modern Jewish intellectual history

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Equal Opportunity

Yeshiva University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in admissions and all other facets of its educational programs and activities. The responsibility for the University's affirmative action/equal opportunity and unlawful harassment policy lies with all deans, chairpersons, department heads, directors, administrators, managers and supervisors in their areas of responsibility and requires the commitment of the entire University community.

If you have any questions relating to equal opportunity or affirmative action, or if you wish the University to pursue a possible violation of University policy, you should contact the University's Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Renee Coker at (646) 592-4336/ renee.coker@yu.edu.

Accreditation

Yeshiva University is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the appropriate professional agencies: the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the American Medical Association, the Association of the American Medical Colleges, the American Psychological Association, the American Bar Association, the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education, the Association of Institutions of Higher Learning for Jewish Education and the National Board of License for Hebrew Teachers. The Master of Science program in Speech-Language Pathology is a Candidate for Accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Safety and Security

Yeshiva University takes its responsibility for on-campus security very seriously and makes every effort to offer its students, faculty and staff a safe and comfortable environment by working closely with the local community and with law enforcement agencies. Even though there is a very low rate of crime on our campuses, federal law requires us to make crime statistics available. You can find them at <http://ope.ed.gov/security>. Search for Yeshiva University, then click on a particular campus. At the

bottom of each page, you can select various categories of crime statistics to view. The University's annual security report also contains policy statements and crime statistics for the University, and is available online at <http://yu.edu/safetysecurity/reports/security/> or from a campus Security Department office. You can also contact YU Security at 212-960-5221 for more information. While emergency events on campus are unlikely, it is vital to be prepared to react accordingly during emergencies to ensure your safety. To get prepared and learn about emergency response at Yeshiva University, visit our Emergency Readiness

website: www.yu.edu/safetysecurity/emergency.

Non-Discrimination and Harassment

Yeshiva University complies with all federal, state and local regulations governing Non-Discrimination and Harassment including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. In keeping with its long-standing traditions and policies, Yeshiva University provides equal opportunity for faculty, staff and students within admissions and employment, and those seeking access to programs on the basis of individual merit. The University does not discriminate in its programs and activities, including employment practices, on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran or disabled veteran status, genetic predisposition/carrier status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or citizenship status or other protected classes under the law.

University-wide policies and procedures pertaining to discrimination and harassment have been established, both as a legal obligation under applicable law and as a visible and formal expression of institutional policy. The University's Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedures can be found online at <http://yu.edu/studentlife/resources-and-services/standards-policies/>; <http://yu.edu/hr/policies/> and <http://yu.edu/ogc/policies/> (among other places).

This policy includes information about filing a report, seeking a response and options for confidential disclosure. The University will respond to all complaints promptly, thoroughly, fairly and impartially. Retaliation is prohibited against anyone who filed and/or participated in the investigation of a complaint, even if the complaint is unsubstantiated. When warranted, the University will take appropriate, corrective action to remedy all violations of this policy, up to and including termination and/or expulsion.

Administrative and investigative responsibility relating to enforcement of the policy has been assigned to the University's Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Renee Coker at (646) 592-4336 / renee.coker@yu.edu.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Office of Disability Services assists students with documented disabilities or medical conditions in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Some of the disabilities accommodated include physical, emotional, learning disabilities, ADHD, hearing impairments, and visual impairments. Visit the following website for more information about documentation guidelines and available accommodations: <https://www.yu.edu/student-life/resources-and-services/disability-services/students>.

Students who wish to request accommodations for a documented disability that affects his/her academic performance and students who suspect that they may have a disability are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services:

- Beren Campus: Rochelle Kohn, (646) 592-4132 / rkohn1@yu.edu
- Wilf Campus: Abigail Kelsen, (646) 592-4280 / akelsen@yu.edu

Student Conduct and Student Rights

Please visit <https://www.yu.edu/student-life/resources-and-services/Standards-Policies> and review the following University policies on student conduct and student rights:

- Athlete Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Hazing Policy for Students
- Credit Card Marketing Policy
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Medical Form
- Requirements for Working with Minors
- Romantic Relationships Policy
- Sexual Assault Student Bill of Rights
- Title IX (Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy)

Additional student consumer information can be found at: <https://www.yu.edu/oir/student-consumer-information>.

Privacy

In accordance with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Section 438 of the General Educational Provisions Act, 20 USC 1232g), also known as “FERPA,” Yeshiva University has adopted certain policies to protect the privacy rights of its students with respect to their education records. FERPA affords students certain rights of access to their education records. FERPA also limits the persons to whom the University may disclose a student’s education records and permits certain disclosure without the student’s written permission. Please visit the Office of the Registrar or its website at <https://www.yu.edu/registrar/parents> to obtain the Yeshiva University FERPA Policy Statement.

Use of the University’s Name

No student or student organization may use the name of the University or any of its components in print or digital/electronic media for any purpose, including identification, without written permission from the Office of the Dean.