**All 3 credit-courses can count as a History elective for those who are History Majors (up to two courses). Both 3 credit and 2 credit courses can count toward the JHIS requirements in SCW’s Jewish Studies Program.**

**JHIS 1235 60512 Dead Sea Scrolls**

**3 Credits**

**T/R 10:25-11:40 am**

**Professor Richard Hidary**

Welcome to the exciting world of the Dead Sea Scrolls. This archaeological treasure has given us a window into the critical junction between the Bible and the Mishnah. Some of these texts may seem strange and surprising but hopefully you will also find them fascinating and relevant to your own understanding of Judaism and Second Temple politics and polemics. This course will review the historical background of Second Temple Judaism, learn about the discovery and analysis of the scrolls, and then we will read the original texts to derive what they teach us about everything from the transmission and codification of Tanakh, to the diversity of sectarian practices and interpretations, and to the development of Jewish law.

**JHIS 1301 61226 Medieval Jewish History**

**2 Credits**

**M/W 10:25-11:40 am**

**Professor Chaviva Levin**

Explores the experiences of Jews in the Middle Ages in the orbits of both Islam and Christianity. Considers the challenges confronting Jews in these environments and how Jews and Jewish leaders responded to those challenges. Examines Jewish cultural and intellectual developments in the contexts in which they occur as well as studies Jewish modes of self government; the legal, social and economic roles played by Jews in Muslim and Christian cultures and the attitudes Jews adopted toward those cultures. Focuses on considering the ways in which members of majority and minority cultures in a society interact and how they affect one another.

**JHIS 4935 61231 Topics: Conversion to and from Judaism in Historical Perspective**

**3 Credits**

**MW 11:55-1:10 pm**

**Professor Chaviva Levin**

Uses the experience of conversion to and from Judaism as a lens through which to examine the Jewish past. Religious conversion, which centers on questions of individual and communal identity and communal boundaries, is an especially productive lens through which to examine the changing Jewish experience in different historical contexts. Explores the trajectory of conversion to and from Judaism from antiquity to today. Examines the experiences and motivations of converts, attitudes of Jewish communities toward converts, Jewish communal anxiety about the prospect of conversion to Christianity, and reception of converts from Judaism by their new religious community. While conversion from Judaism represents the dominant historical experience, also considers questions of conversion to Judaism, both in contexts in which conversion to Judaism was numerically significant and exploring the importance of the idea of conversion to Judaism in contexts even when it wasn’t numerically significant. Focuses on theoretical and methodological issues related to the study of religious conversion.

**JHIS 1402 61228 Modern Jewish History II: 1945 to the Present**

**2 Credits**

**T/Th 4:30-5:45 pm**

**Professor Joshua Karlip**

This course will survey Jewish life in its three major centers following World War II and the Holocaust: the United States, the new State of Israel, and the Soviet Union. It also will discuss the fate of Jews in Arab lands, and their migration to Israel. The course will discuss the ways in which American Jewry transformed into one of the leading Jewish communities into the world. It also will follow Israel from its precarious situation at its founding in 1948 through its emergence as a powerful political, cultural, and religious center of Jewry. We also will discuss the struggles of Soviet Jewry from the black years of the early 1950s through the great exodus to Israel and America forty years later.

**JHIS 1452- H 62751: Jews of Eastern Europe: Vilna-- From Renaissance to Destruction**

**3 Credits**

**T/R 3-4:15 pm**

**Professor Joshua 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, popular culture and social history, Zionism, Jewish socialism, Orthodoxy, the rise of modern Yiddish culture, and cultural life in the Vilna Ghetto during the Holocaust.

**JHIS 1486 62819 Literature of the Holocaust**

**3 Credits**

**MW 1:25-2:40 pm**

**Professor Alyssa Quint**

“I saw that the deeds of the enemy were evil beyond the power of the imagination. The power of the imagination is stronger than the power of deeds, except for the evil of the nations, which goes beyond all imagination.” So expounds the mysterious narrator of S. Y. Agnon’s short story “The Sign”(1962). This course invites students to consider “the power of the imagination” in the face of a historical event that we often refer to as “unfathomable evil.” We will read an array of examples of Holocaust literature: memoir, testimony, drama, and fiction, and we will discuss the goals and effectiveness of depicting the Holocaust in language. What are the artistic, historical, religious, and moral implications of representing the Holocaust? In representing the Holocaust, what should a literary work prioritize? Emotional reaction? Truthfulness? And, along broader terms, what is the relationship between language and the past? The syllabus includes works from a cross-section of literary genres and languages (all in English translation) and from various points in history (that is, works written both during and after the war). Works will include Primo Levi’s Survival in Auschwitz, Joshua Sobol’s drama Ghetto, Art Spiegelman’s graphic novel Maus and Agnon’s “The Sign.”

**JHIS 1511 62750 History of Modern Israel**

**3 Credits**

**TR 10:25-11:40 am**

**Professor Hadassa Kosak**

Survey of Israeli society, culture and politics from 1948 to the present. Topics: Israel and the Palestinian national movement; global political factors that shaped the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the social, cultural, and political divisions of Israeli society, and the challenges facing Israel in the twenty-first century.

**JHIS 1575 60635 American Jewish History**

**3 Credits**

**MW 11:55-1:10 pm**

**Professor Jeffrey Gurock**

The Jewish community in the United States: its development from earliest times; immigration and settlement; social, economic, and communal development; contribution to American civilization; the modern and contemporary scene. American Jews and the Holocaust, State of Israel, civil rights movement, Russian Jewry, inner-city tensions.

**JHIS 4937H Rabbis and Lords: The Jews of England, 1654-2021**

**2 Credits**

**Honors, Strauss Course**

**MW 10:25-11:40 am**

**Professor Meir Yakov Soloveitchik**