

FALL 2015 COURSES

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ENGLISH

ENGL 462: The Hebrew Bible as Literature

MW 4:30-5:45 pm

Professor Goodhart

A study of Hebrew Scripture. In this course we will read closely selections from Hebrew Scripture—the Pentateuch (the five Books of Moses), the books of the Prophets, and the Holy Writings—with the goal of understanding these texts within the Rabbinical tradition of Biblical interpretation. All texts will be examined in English and no knowledge of the Hebrew language (however desirable) will be expected. There will be no exams but students will keep a journal and write weekly informal papers and one final longer paper. Classes will proceed by paying repeated close attention to the kinds of matters one would consider in any advanced course on literary reading.

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 101: Modern Hebrew Level I

MTWF 12:30

Professor Kantor

Introduction to Modern Hebrew: The writing and sound systems, and systematic presentations of basic structures. All language skills – reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension – are emphasized. No previous knowledge of Hebrew required.

HEBR 201: Modern Hebrew Level III

MWF 1:30

Professor Kantor

Extensive practice in reading, speaking, and writing Hebrew, based on a variety of subjects from daily life and literature. Continued study of grammar and reading in the modern language. Prerequisite: HEBR 102 or equivalent.

HEBR 121: Biblical Hebrew Level I

TTh 9:00 – 10:15

Professor Robertson

The first semester of biblical Hebrew will seek to master the basic elements of the language, including alphabet, vocabulary, and grammar. No previous knowledge of Hebrew required.

HEBR 221: Biblical Hebrew Level III

TTh 10:30 – 11:45

Professor Robertson

The third semester of biblical Hebrew focuses on reading and translation of extended passages from the Pentateuch and the use of textual criticism. Prerequisite: HEBR 122 or equivalent.

HEBR 280: Modern Israel: Cinema, Literature, Politics, and History

TTh 1:30 – 2:45 (meets with Comparative Literature 230)

Professor Kantor

Critical survey/exploration of major traits of Israeli culture through a variety of media: literature, film and music, in the larger context of Judaism, Zionism, as well as the creation of a new state and culture. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Hebrew is necessary.

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 284: Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture

TTh 3:00 – 4:15 (meets with HIST 201 and CLCS 280)

Professor Robertson

This course is a survey of the development of the ancient Near East, from its pre-history to Alexander the Great. It emphasizes the evolutions of various Near Eastern cultures in their many manifestations; art, government, agriculture, economics, philosophy, religion, ethics, and science.

HISTORY

HIST 103: Introduction to the Medieval World

MWF 8:30

Professor Zook

This course is a survey of medieval history in Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to the birth of the Renaissance. We explore political, religious, and social changes as well as economic, technological, and cultural developments, seeking to understand the complexity of the medieval past, including an awareness of the experiences of peasants, townsfolk, students, the religious, knights and nobles. Topics include: the Birth of Christianity and decline of the Roman Empire; Barbarian nations; the Feudal World and Crusades; Chivalry, Medieval Warfare, and the Arthurian legend; Cities, Education and Daily Life; the Church, Heresy & Witchcraft; and The Black Death.

HIST 103: Introduction to the Medieval World

MWF 2:30

TBA

HIST 312: The Crusades

MWF 12:30

TBA

This course considers the origins, course, and impact of the Crusades on Christian, Islamic, Byzantine, and Jewish societies between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries. Why did the Crusades start when they did? What did the Crusaders hope to accomplish? Who were the important individuals active in crusading? How did bloody warfare and intense religious enthusiasm come together during the crusading period? What were the economic and intellectual results of the crusades on European life? Of what significance are the Crusades in the history of Western Civilization? These are some of the major questions that will be considered during the course of the semester's work.

HISTORY

HIST 395: Junior Research Seminar: Nazis and Archives: German-Occupied Europe

TTh 12:00 – 1:15

Professor Foray

This Junior Research Seminar for History majors will be organized around the subject of Nazi-Occupied Europe, with a particular concentration upon Western Europe. First, the class will examine such topics as Hitler's rise to power, the Nazi New Order in Europe, and the war's effects upon civilian populations. The majority of the semester, however, will be spent exploring research and writing methodologies; archival practices and collections; and specific national case studies, as selected by participants in the class. This is not a typical research class where students produce a heavily-weighted "term paper." Rather, this is a process-oriented class intended to introduce History majors to archival research and historical writing. All participants will craft an original written analysis drawing upon the British Foreign Office materials contained in the "Conditions and Politics in Occupied Western Europe, 1940-1945" archival database. Work for this class will be completed incrementally over the course of the semester, and all students will be held accountable for their work before the instructor and each other. Students are expected to come to the course with a solid understanding of modern European history so that they can narrow their topics as soon as possible.

JEWISH STUDIES

JWST 590: Directed Readings in Jewish Studies

Time and instructor to be arranged

A reading course in aspects of Judaica directed by the instructor in whose particular field of specialization the content of the reading falls. Permission of Instructor required.

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 206: Philosophy of Religion

TTh 10:30-11:45

Professor Draper

The course encourages critical reflection on traditional and contemporary views about God and other religious ideas. Topics include arguments for God's existence, the problem of evil, understanding the divine attributes, miracles, religious pluralism, and life after death.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 231: Religions of the West

MWF 12:30 (meets with PHIL 331)

Professor Ryba

This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the three Abrahamic monotheistic religions of the West: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will examine the diversity of practices and belief systems within these religions and address debates within and between communities as well as contemporary concerns. The philosophical and religious contexts of each tradition will be considered by examining its history, primary texts, key teachings, and cultural expressions.

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 310: Racial & Ethnic Diversity

TTh 9:00-10:15

TBA

Examines racial and ethnic pluralism in America: ways groups have entered our society; their social and cultural characteristics; and their relationships with other groups. Groups include the English, Germans, Irish, Jews, Chinese, Japanese, Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans.

SOC 310: Racial & Ethnic Diversity

MWF 10:30

TBA

Examines racial and ethnic pluralism in America: ways groups have entered our society; their social and cultural characteristics; and their relationships with other groups. Groups include the English, Germans, Irish, Jews, Chinese, Japanese, Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans.

SOC 367: Religion in America

TTh 12:00-1:15

Professor Winchester

Examines the social dimensions of religion in American life; religion in American culture; social profiles of America's religious groups, trends in individual religious commitment; and religion's impact on American life.

SOC 567: Religion in Social Context

TTh 4:30-5:45

Professor Olson

Examines the social bases of religion at the societal, organizational, and individual levels. Topics include the formation of religious groups and ideas; social dynamics within religious groups; religion's persistence over time; and the conditions under which religion tends to change.