

FALL 2016 COURSES

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ENGLISH

ENGL 264: The Bible as Literature

MW 4:30-5:45 pm

Professor Goodhart

The Bible has been of enormous literary significance, especially in countries within the Near-Eastern or European traditions. The Judeo-Christian scriptures are at once a collection of beautiful literary texts, and a record of various religious and other cultural values. What is more, the Bible has functioned as a literary source from which later generations have drawn themes, images, stylistic devices, and so on.

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 101: Modern Hebrew Level I

MTWTh 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 284: The Ancient Near East: Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Israelites

TTh 3:00 – 4:15 (meets with HIST 20100 and REL 31700)

Professor Robertson

This course traces the parallel story of the ancient Near East from ancient Egypt and Sumer (ca. 3000 BCE) to the end of the Achaemenid Dynasty of Persia (ca. 330 BCE). This sweep of time and places includes the rise and fall of great personalities that imposed their wills along the way (e.g., Ur-Nammu, Sargon, Hammurabi, Moses, and Cyrus), and the shifts of fortune that brought various people-groups to prominence and decline. Ancient Israel, though a small nation, played an ongoing role in the stories of many of the larger people-groups of the ancient world. We will learn different aspects of the vitality of this remote time shown in its art, architecture, religions, literature, laws, agriculture, and medicine that has had lingering effects on our own time.

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 380: Modern Israel: Cinema, Literature, Politics, and History

TTh 1:30 – 2:45 (meets with CMPL 230)

Professor Kantor

This class explores the complexity and richness of Israeli culture through an encounter with a medley of sources such as newspapers, films, short stories, music, academic research, etc.

Topics included: Zionism, Israeli History, Israel's Political System, Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Religious Conflicts, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, and Religious-Secular divide.

HISTORY

HIST 103: Introduction to the Medieval World

TTh 4:30-5:45

Professor Mitchell

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 11:30

TBA

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 302: Historical Topics: Hitler and Nazis

MWF 1:30

Professor Fleetham

This course will examine the rise, seizure, and consolidation of power of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi from Hitler's early days in Vienna, through the trenches of World War I, and the chaotic Weimar Republic. The course will compare and contrast the rise of the Nazi party to Mussolini's Fascist Movement in Italy and the Communists in the Soviet Union. It will also look at the reaction to these movements in European democracies. The course will make particular use of film, posters, and other popular culture from the period to investigate popular opinion, propaganda, and ideology.

HISTORY

HIST 323: German History

MWF 3:30

Professor Gray

How could the Germans, a people of great historical and cultural accomplishments, produce the barbarity of Nazism and the Holocaust? This is the central question of modern German history. The answers lie not only in the story of the Nazis themselves, but in the entire history of the German people. This survey requires no prerequisites. It introduces German history with brief coverage of the medieval, reformation, and early modern periods, and then turns to a more detailed study of German unification under Bismarck, the rise and fall of the Weimar Republic, and the victories and defeats of Hitler and the Nazis. The post-World War II period deals with West Germany, East Germany, Austria, and German reunification.

HIST 338: History of Human Rights

MWF 10:30

Professor Klein-Pejšová

This course explores human rights' genealogy and uneven historical evolution from the European Enlightenment through the late twentieth century human rights revolution and experience of globalization. It examines Atlantic Revolutionary era articulations of "rights of man" and "human rights," the interwar institutionalization of rights, the post-WWII shift from minority to individual human rights, the human rights revolution of the late 1970s, and the relationship between globalization and human rights using a variety of primary and secondary sources.

HIST 390: Jews in the Modern World: A Survey of Modern Jewish Society, Culture, and Politics

MWF 9:30

Professor Klein-Pejšová

This survey of modern Jewish society, culture, and politics from the expulsion from Spain in 1492 until the collapse of the Interwar state system in 1938 examines Jewish responses to modernity with special attention to the Jewish relationship to the state and with the surrounding non-Jewish cultures, and the diversity of the modern Jewish experience.

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 9:00-10:15

Professor Draper

This course examines traditional Western views about God. Topics include the idea of God, the divine attributes, the problem of evil, divine hiddenness, miracles, and arguments for God's existence.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 231: Religions of the West
MWF 9:30 (meets with PHIL 231)

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

Professor Beaman

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 3:30

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 Olson

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.