

FALL 2017 COURSES

ENGLISH

ENGL 264: The Bible as Literature Pg. 2

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 101: Modern Hebrew Level I Pg. 2

HEBR 201: Modern Hebrew Level III Pg. 2

HEBR 121: Biblical Hebrew Level I Pg. 2

HEBR 221: Biblical Hebrew Level III Pg. 2

HEBR 380: Modern Israel: Cinema, Literature, Politics, and History Pg. 2

HISTORY

HIST 103: Introduction to the Medieval World Pg. 3

HIST 302: The Arab-Israeli Conflict Pg. 3

HIST 338: History of Human Rights Pg. 3

HIST 408: Dictatorship and Democracy: Europe 1919-1945 Pg. 4

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

IDIS 491: Jewish Cinema Pg. 4

JEWISH STUDIES

JWST 590: Directed Readings in Jewish Studies Pg. 4

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 206: Philosophy of Religion Pg. 4

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 231: Religions of the West Pg. 5

REL 317: Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture Pg. 5

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 310: Racial & Ethnic Diversity Pg. 5

SOC 367: Religion in America Pg. 5

ENGLISH

ENGL 264: The Bible as Literature

MWF 11:30

D. Deering

Students of English 264 will read selected portions of the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Apocrypha. The course will entail a close study of a variety of literary forms and techniques: the structure of historical and biographical narratives (the Garden of Eden, the Exodus from Egypt, the Crucifixion/Resurrection), development of plot and character (in the stories of Abraham, David, Elijah, Jesus), and growth of prophetic and poetic styles and traditions (Isaiah, Micah, Job, Psalms), and the distinctive features of wisdom (proverbs, parables) and apocalyptic literature (Daniel, Revelation). Students will write 10-12 one-page papers. There will be no tests or final exam. Students will participate weekly in team discussions of the reading.

LANGUAGES & CULTURES

HEBR 101: Modern Hebrew Level I

MTWF 9:30

A. 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 10:30

A. 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

S. 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

S. 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 380: Modern Israel: Cinema, Literature, Politics, and History

TTh 12:00 – 1:15 (meets with CMPL 230)

A. 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 103-1: Introduction to the Medieval World

MWF 11:30

P. Lawlor

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 103-2: Introduction to the Medieval World

MWF 8:30

M. 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 302: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

TTh 10:30-11:45

S. Holden

The media often presents the Arab-Israeli conflict as an irreconcilable age-old divide between Muslims and Jews, but in fact tensions originated just a century ago. This class traces the emergence of Zionist immigration during the late-Ottoman era, the divisive policies of the British Mandate, the establishment of a Jewish state and the multiple wars between Israel and Arab countries. In examining the events of this region, students assess the significance of Jerusalem to Christians, Arabs and Jews; the role of women in Palestinian nation-building; the institutions of American diplomacy; the immigration of Arab Jews and their inclusion in the political and cultural life of Israel, and the various ways that Palestinians have resisted occupation. Religious difference is but one part of a complex struggle for access to land and resources.

HIST 338: History of Human Rights

MWF 10:30

R. 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.

HISTORY

HIST 408: Dictatorship and Democracy: Europe 1919-1945

MWF 1:30

D. Fleetham

This course examines the fleeting triumph of democracy across Europe, followed by the rise of fascism, communism, and Nazism. Emphasis will be placed on broad economic, social, and cultural transformations as well as individual choices to resist or conform.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

IDIS 491: Jewish Cinema (meets with FVS 491 and LC 490)

MF 3:30-4:20, W 3:30-6:20

J. William

While the concept of Jewish cinema can be interpreted and defined in many ways, for the purposes of this course, it broadly encompasses cinematic works that deal with issues directly related to Jews and Judaism. The primary objective of the course will be to provide the students with an understanding of the great breadth of Jewish cinema, which cannot be reduced to any one category, genre, or style. Films shown over the course of the semester will represent a cross-section of cultural and socio-historical contexts; some films will address the far-reaching ramifications of anti-Semitism, past and present, while others will highlight different facets of, and perspectives on, Jewish culture and its traditions. The course will be structured chronologically with the intent of surveying the history of international films that address Jewish identity in various ways and in a number of times and places. There are no prerequisites for taking this class, and the grade components include short response papers, a midterm and final exam, and participation in class discussions. There is one required textbook for the course: *The Modern Jewish Experience in World Cinema*, Ed. Lawrence Baron, Brandeis University Press, 2011 (ISBN 978-1-61168-199-4; paperback version).

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

P. Draper

The goal of this course is to introduce students to philosophical inquiry about the nature and existence of God. The course has two parts. In the first part, an attempt is made to articulate the Western monotheistic idea of God. Topics include the issue of whether or not the idea of God is identical to the idea of a perfect being and, if so, what does that imply about God's attributes. In the second, evidence both for and against the existence of God is analyzed and evaluated. Topics include the issue of whether or not the order in the universe is evidence for God's existence and whether or not the suffering we observe is evidence against God's existence. Students of all religious and non-religious viewpoints are welcome in this course and will be treated with respect.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REL 231: Religions of the West
MWF 2:30 (meets with PHIL 231)

T. 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.

REL 317: Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture: Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Israelites
TTh 3:00-4:15 (meets with HEBR 284 and HIST 201)

S. 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.

SOCIOLOGY

SOC 310-5: Racial & Ethnic Diversity
TTh 9:00-10:15

J. 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 310-7: Racial & Ethnic Diversity
MWF 11:30

W. Dukes

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 310-8: Racial & Ethnic Diversity
TTh 10:30-11:45

J. 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 367: Religion in America
TTh 12:00-1:15

D. 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.