

SEMESTER BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

HOW TO ENROLL

STEP ONE: COURSE SELECTION

- Browse the list of eligible courses, taking note of any prerequisites and the course number and title.
- The cost for a 3-credit course is \$750; 6-credit courses carry a rate of \$1,500.
- All courses are held on the JTS campus unless otherwise noted.
- Open Classroom auditors in Hebrew language courses do all required homework and take tests.

STEP TWO: THE APPLICATION

- Before applying for a Hebrew Language course, contact our office regarding the required placement exam.
- Complete the online application. Applications will be accepted through August 12, 2024.
- A \$50 deposit is due upon application. This amount will be applied to tuition and is refundable only if a class is oversubscribed or canceled due to insufficient enrollment.
- **Please note that enrollment is not guaranteed; classes may be oversubscribed or canceled.**

STEP THREE: ENROLLMENT

- Your application will be reviewed as soon as possible, but not later than August 19. If your selection is approved, you will receive an email with registration and payment instructions.

REFUNDS/WITHDRAWALS

- To withdraw from your course(s), send an email to: openclassroom@jtsa.edu.
- For refunds (minus the \$50 deposit), notification of withdrawal must be received by September 17, 2024.

Questions? Contact us at openclassroom@jtsa.edu.

THE TOWER OF BABEL: BIBLICAL EXEGESIS AND CONTEMPORARY JEWISH THOUGHT (BIB 5001 Z)

Kaye, Miriam

Th, 8:40 - 11:25 AM

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

This course is designed to present contemporary Jewish philosophical and ethical approaches to biblical interpretation of certain narratives. The main narrative upon which the course is based is that of the Tower of Babel, which will be studied through biblical, midrashic and philosophical literature, in an interactive class environment. The course highlights philosophical aspects of biblical interpretation especially in contemporary times and will engage student discussion on timely interpretations of Bible.

THE PENTATEUCH WITH RASHI (BIB 5013)

Harris, Robert

M, W, 11:40 - 12:55 PM

The course is methodologically oriented, designed to help students acquire and refine skills of close reading of the biblical text by integrating a modern literary approach with the study of Rashi and other traditional Jewish commentaries. Students will learn to identify the questions that have been asked for centuries, creating an ongoing dialogue with ancient, medieval, and contemporary close readers. The class will study all Rashi commentaries in the original Hebrew; although English translations may be consulted, all students are expected to be able to prepare and discuss the texts in the original language.

BIBLICAL GRAMMAR (BIB 5560 Z)

Fassberg, Steven

M, W, 8:40 – 9:55 AM

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

An overview of biblical Hebrew grammar, focusing on those elements most important for interpretation, especially syntax. Main goals include rapid identification and parsing of verbs; the uses of verbal forms and word order to express a wide range of tenses, aspects, and moods; using grammar and syntax to produce linguistically rigorous and exegetically sensitive readings; vocalizing unpointed texts. Students who sign up for this course should already know the basics of Hebrew grammar—and in particular have been introduced to all the binyanim and to most of the gezarot, though not that they have mastered all of them. Prerequisite: HEB 5203, or with instructor permission.

HEBREW ALEF 1 (HEB 1001)

Instructor TBA

Section 1: M through Th, 10:10 - 11:25 AM

Section 2: M through Th, 8:40-9:55 AM

6-credit course

The course covers the 7 Introductory Units and Lessons 1-8 of *Hebrew from Scratch, Vol. 1 (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Alef)*. It takes the student from learning the mechanics of reading and writing unpointed Hebrew to active mastery of 500 words; knowledge of the present tense and infinitive verb forms; reading and enactment of dialogs relating to everyday life; and reading comprehension of short descriptive, narrative and informative texts. Additional course materials, daily assignments and unit tests will be delivered and submitted via Canvas.

HEBREW ALEF 2 (HEB 1101)

Instructor TBA

M through Th, 10:10 - 11:25 AM

6-credit course

This course, a direct continuation of HEB 1001, brings students near the end of the first volume of *Hebrew from Scratch A (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Alef)* with the same emphasis on reading comprehension as well as the development of communication skills. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and learn— among other basic language forms—the past tense. Additional readings will be assigned from the folktale anthology *Sipur ve-Od Sipur*.

HEBREW ALEF 3 (HEB 2103)

Instructor TBA

Section 1: M through Th, 10:10 - 11:25 AM

Section 2: M through Th, 11:40 - 12:55

6-credit course

Using the second volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)* as textbook, supplemented by additional readings, this course is designed to seamlessly follow HEB 1101 by building on the comprehension and oral-aural skills previously acquired, and continuing to develop vocabulary and grammar knowledge (including the future tense); special attention will be given to dictionary look-up skills.

HEBREW BET 1 (HEB 2201)

Instructor TBA

M, W & Th, 8:40 - 9:55 AM

This course continues with the second volume of *Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)*, complemented with online listening comprehension modules. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and advance their aural-oral skills. In grammar, the study of the future tense and major prepositions begun in the previous semester will be concluded, and new topics in syntax and the verb system will be introduced.

HEBREW BET 2 (HEB 5203)

Instructor TBA

Section 1: M, T & Th, 8:40 - 9:55 AM

Section 2: M, T & Th, 11:40 - 12:55 PM

This intermediate-level course will bring students to the end of *Hebrew from Scratch II (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet)*, supplementing the textbook with materials from level gimel books and other readings in Hebrew from various periods (e.g. adapted stories, poems, selections from parashat ha-shavua, midrash and Biblical commentary). Students will learn new grammar topics, develop strategies for reading comprehension and word recognition, and practice conveying ideas and opinions in both speech and writing.

HEBREW GIMEL 1 (HEB 5205)

Instructor TBA

M through Th, 11:40 AM - 12:55 PM

A year-long intermediate-level Hebrew language course designed for Division of Religious Leadership students and aiming to develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. We will focus on reading comprehension of informative and narrative texts in Hebrew of various periods; classical Hebrew grammar (phonology and the verb system); topics in syntax; vocabulary development; and dictionary usage skills.

HEBREW DALET 1 (HEB 5301)

Instructor TBA

M through Th, 11:40 AM - 12:55 PM

This course focuses on learning Hebrew as the language of Jewish culture. Students will comprehend, critique, and comment (orally and in writing) on Hebrew texts of various genres and periods that deal with major issues in Jewish and Israeli history and culture. Attention will be given to vocabulary development and advanced grammar topics. Students will peer-teach topics from parashat ha-shavua.

COMPREHENSION AND COMMUNICATION: DEVELOPING ADVANCED HEBREW SKILLS (HEB 5521)

Instructor TBA

M, W, 8:40 – 9:55 AM

This advanced Hebrew language course is designed for students who wish to develop their comprehension and communication skills beyond the Intermediate level. Through engagement with a variety of written and spoken texts and class presentations, students will develop and refine oral and written expression skills, enhance reading comprehension of journalistic, semi-academic and selected literary texts, expand vocabulary and grammatical knowledge and practice Internet use in a Hebrew language environment.

MODERN JEWISH HISTORY (HIS 5406)

Fishman, David

T, 2:45 - 5:25 PM

A survey of major trends in the history of European and American Jewry from the Emancipation to the present. Primary emphasis is placed upon the internal communal, religious and ideological responses of Jews in different localities to modernity.

JEWS & JUDAISM IN THE SOVIET UNION (HIS 5419)

Fishman, David

W, 2:45 - 5:25 PM

A study of Lenin and the “Jewish” question, the Jewish sections of the Communist Party, the rise and fall of Soviet Yiddish culture, the Holocaust in the Ukraine and White Russia, anti-Semitic policies and propaganda in the postwar period and the emigration of Soviet Jewry in the 1970s.

CLASSICAL MYSTICAL TEXTS AND IDEAS OF EARLY HASIDISM (JTH 5105)

Fishbane, Eitan

T, 2:45 - 5:25 PM

A seminar devoted to classic mystical texts from the “golden age” of early Hasidism. With an eye to the authors’ vision of spiritual revival and theological meaning,

students will explore a range of striking teachings from canonical texts such as the Me’or Einayim, the Degel Mahaneh Efrayim, the Kedushat Levi, the Tanya, and others. Prerequisite of Hebrew level Bet 2 or higher or with permission of instructor.

FORGIVENESS IN ETHICS, POLITICS AND JEWISH THOUGHT (JTH 5402)

Billet, Shira

R, 10:10 – 12:55 PM

It would be impossible to have human relationships without forgiveness; and political life would be intolerable without forms of reconciliation and compromise across ideological and political disagreement. In this course, we examine these concepts in political philosophy and in philosophy of religion, with special attention to Jewish thought. Repentance and reconciliation with God are often related, in religious thought, to forgiveness and reconciliation between human beings. The course considers questions such as: What is the nature of forgiveness? Who has the right to forgive? Is forgiveness a virtue? Is there a duty to forgive? Are some crimes or sins unforgivable? What virtues and social practices make forgiveness possible?

BABYLONIAN ARAMAIC (RLC 5453)

Koller, Aaron

R, 10:10 AM - 12:55 PM

This course will immerse us in Aramaic, the language of the Bavli. We will read some of the Aramaic texts still in use in Jewish life—kaddish, the ketubba, and the get—and study extended passages, mostly narratives, from the Talmud itself. The goals are to become comfortable with the basics of Aramaic grammar; to accumulate a solid working knowledge of Aramaic vocabulary; and to gain fluency and confidence in reading Aramaic talmudic texts. The course assumes knowledge of Hebrew and at least some background in Talmud.

JUDAISM IN AMERICA (HIS 5529)

Wertheimer, Jack

W, 10:10 - 12:55 PM

This course will examine the religious dimension of American Jewish life. We will survey the history and current condition of each of the religious movements; examine the gap in observance and theology between elites and the masses of Jews; trace the evolving practices of synagogues; and explore how religious leadership has been shaped. The course will carry the story into the present and will analyze the key challenges facing American Judaism today. It will also ask: Where might we find Jewish religious expression in unconventional places and what kinds of Judaism seem to lie on the horizon?