JUDAIC STUDIES

Humanities Quadrangle, Rm. 423, 203.432.0843
http://judaicstudies.yale.edu

Chair
Maurice Samuels

Director of Graduate Studies
Steven Fraade

Professors Joel Baden (Divinity), Steven Fraade (Religious Studies), Paul Franks (Philosophy), Christine Hayes (Religious Studies), Hannan Hever (Comparative Literature), Nancy Levene (Religious Studies), Ivan Marcus (History: Religious Studies), Samuel Moyn (Law), Paul North (German), Maurice Samuels (French), David Sorkin (History), Katie Trumpener (Comparative Literature; English), Laura Wexler (Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies; American Studies)

Associate Professors Elli Stern (Religious Studies; History), Marci Shore (History)

Assistant Professors Jacqueline Vayntrub (Divinity)

Senior Lecturer Peter Cole (Comparative Literature)

Senior Lector II Shiri Goren (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations)

Senior Lector I Dina Roginsky (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations)

Lectors Josh Price (German), Orit Yeret (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations)

Judaic Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to the critical study of the culture, history, languages, literature, religion, and thought of the Jews. Jewish institutions, philosophies, societies, and texts are studied critically and in comparative historical perspective in relation to the surrounding societies and cultures.

Graduate-level programs are available through the following departments: Comparative Literature (Hebrew and Comparative Literature), History (Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Jewish History), Religious Studies (History and Literature of Ancient Judaism, Medieval and Modern Jewish History, Philosophy of Religion), Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Northwest Semitic, Hebrew Language and Literature), and Philosophy. Applications are made to a specific department, and programs of study are governed by the degree requirements of that department.

Other resources include the Judaica collection of Sterling Memorial Library and its Judaica bibliographer, the Fortunoff Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, the biweekly faculty/graduate student Judaic Studies Seminar, several lecture series, postdoctoral fellowships, and graduate fellowships in Judaic Studies.

Additional information is available on request to the director of graduate studies of the department of intended specialization, or to the Chair, Program of Judaic Studies, Yale University, PO Box 208282, New Haven CT 06520-8282, and at http://judaicstudies.yale.edu.

COURSES

For course offerings in the Hebrew language and in Israeli society and culture, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

JDST 695b / HEBR 563b, From Biblical to Modern Hebrew Dina Roginsky
This course aims to support students who have reading knowledge of Biblical Hebrew but cannot read or converse in Modern Hebrew. The course concentrates on reading and aims at enabling students to use Modern Hebrew for research purposes. The texts chosen are tailored to students’ particular areas of interest. Prerequisite: two years of Biblical or Modern Hebrew studies, or permission of the instructor. Conducted in English.

JDST 761a / HIST 596a / MDVL 596a / RLST 773a, Jewish History and Thought to Early Modern Times Ivan Marcus
A broad introduction to the history of the Jews from biblical beginnings until the European Reformation and the Ottoman Empire. Focus on the formative period of classical rabbinic Judaism and on the symbiotic relationships among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Jewish society and culture in its biblical, rabbinic, and medieval settings.

JDST 806a / HIST 603a / MDVL 603a / RLST 616a, Jews and Christians in the Formation of Europe, 500–1500 Ivan Marcus
This seminar explores how medieval Jews and Christians interacted as religious societies between 500 and 1500.

JDST 835a / HEBR 519a, Israel in Ideology and Practice Dina Roginsky
An advanced Hebrew class that focuses on changing ideology and politics in Israel. Topics include right- and left-wing political discourse, elections, state-religion dynamics, the Jewish-Arab divide, and demographic changes. Materials include newspapers, publications, online resources, speeches of different political and religious groups, and contemporary and archival footage. Also, this course draws comparisons to American political and ideological discourse. Prerequisite: HEBR 502 or equivalent.
JDST 846a / HIST 598a / RLST 771a, Jewish Emancipation in the Nineteenth Century  David Sorkin
A study of the various forms of emancipation politics in the nineteenth century. Conventional historiography has identified Haskalah (Jewish Enlightenment) and religious reform as the predominant forms of emancipation politics. This course explores neglected forms of emancipation politics including: the citizen intercessor, lawyers using law, organized community politics, cooperation with the state, opposition to the state, horizontal alliances, public protests, private diplomacy, etc.

JDST 857a / CPLT 924a, Modernism and Avant-Garde in Hebrew Poetry: Poetics and Theory  Hannan Hever
Modernism in Hebrew poetry: close readings of the poetry of Nathan Alterman, Lea Goldberg, Nathan Zach, Yona Volakh, Avot Yeshurun. Prerequisites: a high level of reading Hebrew texts in poetry and criticism, and permission of the instructor.