JUDAISM IN SECOND TEMPLE AND ANTIQUITY (ANC 5886)
David Kraemer, Professor
M 2:45–5:25

PENTATEUCH WITH RASHI (BIB 5013)
Walter Herzberg, Assistant Professor
T 11:40–2:20
The course is methodologically oriented, designed to help William Davidson School 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. Prerequisite: HEB 2103 or the equivalent.

CHRONICLES (BIB 5413)
David I. Marcus, Professor
W 10:10–12:55
A rapid reading of the two books of the Chronicles with special attention to morphology, syntax, and literary style. Comparison of parallel passages in the books of Samuel and Kings. A working knowledge of biblical Hebrew is assumed. Prerequisite: Bible 5560 or its equivalent.

TALMUDIC ARAMAIC (BIB 5453)
David I. Marcus, Professor
W 4:10–6:50
An introduction to the morphology and syntax of Talmudic Aramaic. Readings from the Aramaic passages of the Talmud. No previous knowledge of Aramaic is assumed.

ART OF BIBLICAL POETRY (BIB 5501)
Benjamin Sommer, Professor
Th 2:45–5:25
Analysis of key issues in the study of Biblical verse. Among the topics to be considered: the definition of “poetry” in the Bible; meter and parallelism; the application of specific trends in modern literary theory to Biblical poetic texts; and convention and invention. Attention will focus especially on strategies by which to read and draw significance from the genre. Taught in Hebrew.
BIBLICAL GRAMMAR (BIB 5560)
David I. Marcus. Professor
T & TH 8:40–9:55
A review of the morphology, syntax, and lexicon of biblical Hebrew. An inductive survey of selected biblical texts with special attention given to Masoretic notations.

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW 1 (HEB 2201)
Ilona Ben-Moshe. Lecturer
M, T & TH 8:40–9:55
This course continues with the second volume of Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet), complemented by 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.

COMPREHENSION AND COMMUNICATION (HEB 5221)
Rivka Halperin. Lecturer
M & W 8:40–9:55
This advanced Hebrew language course is designed for students who wish to further develop their comprehension and communication skills. Each student will select a topic in an area of her or his interest, explore its treatment in a variety of Hebrew-language texts, and prepare oral and written presentations integrating different facets of the topic. This course is for students who are exempt from HEB 5203 or have completed it with a grade of A- or higher.

ADVANCED HEBREW 1 (HEB 5301)
TBD
M–TH 11:40–12:55
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-shavaa.

MODERN JEWISH HISTORY (HIS 5406)
Brian Smollett. Assistant Professor
T & TH 11:40–12:55
A survey of the political, social, cultural, and religious transformation of the Jews from the seventeenth century to the present.

AMERICAN JEWRY SINCE 1945 (HIS 5415)
Jack Wertheimer. Professor
M 2:45–5:25
This course will examine how the focus of synagogue life has evolved from the colonial era to the present in response to internal Jewish needs and broader American patterns; how these shifts have affected the religious, liturgical, and educational programs of congregations; and the altered roles played by rabbis, cantors, educators, and lay leaders. It will conclude with an examination of contemporary trends.
JEWS AND JUDAISM IN THE SOVIET UNION
(HIS 5419)

David Fishman. Professor
TH 4:10–6:50
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.

MEDIEVAL MARRIAGE AND WOMEN’S LIVES
(HIS 5520)

Stefanie Siegmund. Professor
T & TH 11:40–12:55
Marriage is intensely regulated by rabbinic law. However, the study of its historic role in pre-modern society, in the construction of gender roles, in economic life, in the formation of Jewish ethnic identities, and as a locus for Jewish artistic, ritual, and spiritual practices deepens our appreciation of the complexity of this crucial institution. In this interdisciplinary course (which does not focus on current practices or on all relevant halakhic issues) we will read historical scholarship, medieval and Renaissance Jewish art and literature, and, for comparison, contemporary examples of ketubot and marriage rituals. A creative family history project is also part of the course.

SERMONS AND PREACHING IN EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWRY
(HTJ 7427)

David Fishman. Professor
T 8:40–11:25
Readings and analyses of select sermons and homiletic texts by some of the great modern and early modern preachers of Ashkenazic Jewry. The goal is to recognize different homiletic strategies and methods and to place each preacher in a historical-intellectual context. Texts will be studied in Hebrew.

GOD AND ETHICS
(JTH 5320)

Alan Mittleman. Professor
T 11:40–2:20
A course on the relationship between religion and morality, with attention to Jewish considerations of the problem.

JEWISH LAW AND LEGAL THEORY
(JTH 5422/7322)

Yonatan Brafman. Assistant Professor
W 2:45–5:25
An introduction to modes of thinking in the philosophy of law and their implications for the future of halakhah (especially for the Conservative Movement). Jewish legal texts, reflections on halakhic theory, and jurisprudential theory will be read and discussed.

BEGINNER’S YIDDISH
(LIT 1051)

Jonathan (Nachum) Lerner. Adjunct lecturer
M & W 5:35–6:50
An intensive one-year course that covers the essentials of Yiddish grammar, the major dialects of Yiddish, and the spoken, written, and sung word.

JEWISH AMERICAN DRAMA FROM MASS IMMIGRATION TO HOLOCAUST
(LIT 5102)

Edna Nahshon. Professor
TH 2:45–5:25
In this course we will analyze issues regarding Jews and the American stage. Mostly devoted to dramatic works, the course will also deal with the interrelationship with the Yiddish stage and with such theatrical phenomena as the “Stage Jew,” the Jewish fight against objectionable subject matter on the stage, and the allegiance of Jewish control of the theater.

JEERUSALEM/TEL AVIV-JAFFA IN THE ISRAELI CULTURAL IMAGINATION
(LIT 5303)

Barbara Mann. Professor
M 10:10–12:55
An examination of cultural, literary, and artistic representations of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, which have been traditionally cast as the Hebrew culture’s antitheses. This course will focus on the stereotypes of these two cities, as well as their dismantling, in a variety of cultural iterations, drawing mainly from literary texts from the early twentieth century to the present.

IN SHYLOCK’S AND JESSICA’S SHADOW
(LIT 5571)

Edna Nahshon. Professor
M 4:10–6:50
The course will focus on selected topics concerning the construction of Jewishness on mainstream European and American stages, on Jewish political and artistic responses to these representations, and on the formation of Jewish self-representation.

THE FIXED AND THE FLUID IN JEWISH LITURGY
(LIT 7041)

Robert Scheinberg. Adjunct lecturer
TH 11:40–2:10
A course exploring whether Jewish liturgy in the Rabbinic era was improvisational or had a fixed text. To what extent is there such a thing as “the” traditional prayer book? What accounts for liturgical diversity today, and what are the limits of Jewish liturgical flexibility? This course will examine such questions through analysis of rabbinic sources and the writings of contemporary liturgical scholars.
CLASSICS OF THE JEWISH TRADITION (MDS 5102)
Benjamin Gampel, Professor
T 4:10–6:50
A focus on the classics of the medieval and modern age, considering the social, religious, and historical significance of each of the works against the background of the period in which it was written.

CRITICAL METHODS IN STUDY OF MIDRASH (MID 8525)
Burton Visotzky, Professor
T 8:40–11:25
A survey of various techniques and methods currently employed in the study of Midrash. Lower critical issues as well as historic and literary methods are covered. Prerequisite: MID 6101 or permission of the instructor.

JEWISH CULTURE AND RITUAL IN NEW YORK, AND BEYOND (MJS 5167)
Galeet Dardashti, Assistant Professor
TH 2:45–5:25
How do people communicate “Jewishness”? This course will introduce students to contemporary Jewish ethnography—the close study of a culture through observation, participation, and reflection. We will focus primarily (but not exclusively) on New York City. In addition to reading/analyzing scholarship, students will learn to conduct fieldwork for semester projects in New York.

JEWS, NATIONALISM, AND GENDER (MJS 5823)
Hillel Gruenberg, Director of Israel Engagement
M 2:45–5:00
This class will examine connection between Jews, nationalism (especially as it relates to Zionism and its Jewish critics), and gender. We will consider how conceptions of Jewish nationhood have been imagined, constructed, and criticized in the modern era, and the role that gender has played in these processes.

INTRODUCTION TO RABBINIC LITERATURE (TAL 5025)
TBD
W 2:45–5:25
An introductory course designed for graduate students not majoring in Talmud. Students are introduced to the methodology, structure and terminology of the Babylonian Talmud, as well as to the skills necessary for reading Rashi’s commentary. Prerequisites: HEB 2201 and BIB 5011 or permission of the instructor.