THE BOOK OF GENESIS (BIB 5327)
Benjamin Sommer, Professor
T 10:10–12:55
A close reading of selected Hebrew texts, focusing on the Joseph narrative. A main goal of this course is to improve students’ knowledge of biblical Hebrew grammar, syntax, and narrative style through careful parsing of the text. Attention will also be given to literary interpretation of the text, to source critical perspectives, and to the interaction between these two methods of biblical criticism.
Prerequisite: HEB 2201 or equivalent.

FIVE MEGILLOT AND JONAH (BIB 5412)
David I. Marcus, Professor
T 2:40–5:25
A survey of the contents of the six short books of the Bible which are all read on Jewish holydays: Esther (on Purim), Song of Songs (on Pesach), Ruth (on Shavuot), Lamentations (on Tisha’ beAv), Jonah (on Yom Kippur), and Ecclesiastes (on Sukkot).

RELIGIONS AND MYTHOLOGY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST (BIB 5609)
Benjamin Sommer, Professor
T & TH 4:10–5:25
An introduction to the myths and rituals of the ancient Near East from the perspective of comparative religions, with attention to the ways they help us understand ancient Israelite religion. Prerequisites: an introductory course in biblical studies or any two Bible Department courses.

TRADITIONAL COMMENTARIES (BIB 5650)
Walter Herzberg, Assistant Professor
W 8:40–11:25
The course will emphasize a three-stage integrative methodology of close reading of the Torah text with the study of traditional commentaries: 1. Identifying textual questions; 2. examining different interpretive solutions to the textual questions; 3. articulating the moral, theological, and homiletical possibilities. The class will be geared to an advanced level and will focus on encouraging students to become more familiar with and comfortable using many traditional commentaries including Rashi, Rashbam, Ibn Ezra, Hizqunni, Ramban, Seforno, R. Bahya, Alshikh, Abarbanel, Tzeror Hamor, Toledot Yirzhaq, Keli Yeqar,
Or Hahayim, Shadal, Haketav Vehaqabalah, Netziv, Malbim, Rashi supercommentaries, plus some Hasidic commentaries like Mei Hashiloah, Sefat Emet, Netivot Shalom, and some more modern ones like Cassuto, and Itturei Torah (anthology).

BOOK OF NUMBERS (BIB 5830)
David I. Marcus, Professor
TH 4:10–6:50
An analysis of religious, theological, and social issues in the book of Numbers. Special attention will be paid to the new commentaries on the book, particularly to the JPS Torah Commentary by Jacob Milgrom. Taught in Hebrew.

ADVANCED BIBLICAL EXEGESIS: 19TH-CENTURY COMMENTATORS (BIB 7522)
Walter Herzberg, Assistant Professor
T 2:40–5:25
The course will focus on the following four 19th-century commentaries: Malbim, Haketav Vehaqabalah (Y. Z. Meklenburg), Shadal (S. D. Luzzatto), and Ha’ameq Davar (the Netziv, Naftali Zvi Yehudah Berlin). Taught in Hebrew.

ELEMENTARY HEBREW I (HEB 1101)
Sarah Hochfeld, Visiting Instructor
M–TH 10:10–11:25
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 Bet) 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 folk tale anthology Sipur ve-Od Sipur.

ELEMENTARY HEBREW II (HEB 2103)
Rivka Halperin, Lecturer
M–TH 10:10–11:25
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.

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW I (HEB 2201)
Nina Nesher, 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.

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW II (HEB 5203)
Hanna Garti-Bar
M, T, & TH 8:40–9:55
This intermediate-level course will bring students to the end of the second volume of Hebrew from Scratch (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Bet), supplementing the textbook with materials from level gimmel 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.

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW II FOR DIVISION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP (HEB 5206)
Sarah Hochfeld, Visiting Instructor
M–TH 11:40–12:55
A continuation of HEB 5205.

COMPREHENSION AND COMMUNICATION (HEB 5221)
TBD
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 II (HEB 5303)
TBD
M–TH 11:40–12:55
The goals of this course are to prepare Rabbinical School students for participation in Hebrew-instructed content courses during their year in Israel, and to familiarize them with the cultural and political discourse of Israel. A direct continuation of Hebrew 5301, the course provides further practice in reading advanced materials as well as training in lecture comprehension and listening strategies through authentic video lectures. Students will read unabridged sources relevant to the culture and history of Zionism and the State of Israel.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE MODERN ERA (HIS 5518)
Jack Wertheimer, Professor
M 4:10–6:50
Even as Jewish communal life is a necessity for group existence, it periodically undergoes radical transformation. Ours is a time of such change. To understand the context for current rethinking, this course will address a number of questions: What was the traditional kehilla and why was it no longer viable in the modern era? Why have Jews considered it important to create and maintain Jewish communities in the modern era? What have those communities looked like in different parts of the globe? And what new visions of community are emerging in our time? A range of sources drawn from the realms of history, anthropology, sociology, literature, and film will be used to address these questions.

JUDAISM IN AMERICA (HIS 5529)
Jack Wertheimer, Professor
T 2:40–5:25
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?

JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS (HIS 5546)
Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Associate Professor
M 2:40–5:25
This seminar, designed for both Jewish and Christian participants, offers an experience in interreligious learning. Participants will study the origins of Christianity in Second Temple Judaism, survey key historical encounters, address significant questions in the relationship of the two traditions, and examine implications for the education and formation of Jews and Christians in our time. NOTES: Class meets at Union Theological Seminary; co-taught with Mary Boys, professor of Practical Theology at UTS.

THE JERUSALEM OF LITHUANIA: JEWISH LIFE IN VILNA (HIS 5620)
David Fishman, Professor
T 4:10–6:50
Vilna, “the Jerusalem of Lithuania,” occupied a unique position in the cultural history of east-European Jewry. This course will explore rabbinic culture, Haskalah, the Jewish socialist movement, modern Yiddish culture, Jewish-gentile relations in this multi-ethnic city, and the destruction of Vilna Jewry during the Holocaust.

READINGS IN JEWISH GENDER STUDIES (JGW 5521)
Stefanie Siegmund, Professor
T 2:40–5:25
This course is an advanced introduction to the gender studies scholarship of contemporary Jewish studies scholars in fields including Bible, rabbinics, Kabbalah, history, food, sexuality, and theology. We will both study classic texts from a gendered perspective and study gender itself as it appears as an organizing system in Jewish culture(s).

TEACHINGS OF R’ NAHMAN OF BRATZLAV (JTH 5114)
Eitan Fishbane, Associate Professor
T 2:40–5:25
This course studies the mystical thought of the great 19th-century Hasidic master Rebbe Nahman of Bratzlav. Through close analysis of original Hebrew sources, we will explore such issues as the spiritual meaning of melody, prayer and meditative concentration, and the mystical power of joy.
ETHICS IN THE JEWISH TRADITION AND COMMUNITY (JTH 5325)
Yonatan Brafman, Assistant Professor
TH 2:40–5:25
What is Jewish ethics, how does the answer to this question relate to general ethical theory—as well as to the sources of Jewish tradition—and how has Jewish ethics developed in communities that have faced real ethical decision-making in specific areas?

AMERICAN AND JEWISH POLITICAL THOUGHT (JTH 5336)
Alan Mittelman, Professor
M 4:10–6:50
This course brings classic Hebraic and Jewish ideas about government into conversation with significant works of American political thought. The course will help students understand how American political culture has influenced the development of American Judaism and, conversely, how Jewish political teachings, as interpreted by dissenting Protestants and others, shaped American ideas of liberty, order, social contract, and constitutionalism.

BEGINNER’S YIDDISH II (LIT 1052)
Jonathan (Nachum) Lerner, Adjunct Lecturer
M & W 5:35–6:50
Continuation of LIT 1051

THE JEWISH GRAPHIC NOVEL: FROM MAUS TO THE RABBI’S CAT (LIT 5132)
Barbara Mann, Professor
M 2:40–5:25
This course explores the emergence of the Jewish graphic novel as a genre of literary and artistic expression in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Themes treated included the Shoah and Israel; gender and history; and political, cultural, and spiritual identity.

INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH EXEGESIS (MID 6101)
Burton Visotzky, Professor
M 2:40–5:25
An introduction to the basics of rabbinic Bible exegesis. A survey of the texts and techniques of classical rabbinic Midrash from its earliest times through Rashi. Emphasis is on reading and translation of selected texts.

LEVITICUS RABBHAH (MID 7353)
Burton Visotzky, Professor
T 10:40–12:55
A rapid reading course in Midrash Leviticus Rabbah (LR). The purpose of this class is to gain familiarity with LR—contents, forms, redactional history, gender and women’s issues, and rabbinic relationships with other rabbinic and Hellenistic literatures. Prerequisites: MID 6101

MIDDLE EASTERN JEWS (MUS 5730)
Galeet Dardashti, Assistant Professor
W 2:40–5:25
This course will examine what Jews of the Islamic world left behind upon their immigration to Israel, the United States, and beyond, and how their children and grandchildren have attempted to artistically reimagine and reconnect with their dislocated Arab, Persian, and Turkish identities (e.g., film, literature, music, and poetry).

ART OF YIDDISH SONG (MUS 5999)
Joyce Rosenzweig, Adjunct Instructor
M 5:30–7:30
This course will explore Yiddish art, folk, and theater repertoire, with emphasis on song performance. The instructor will provide background material on the composers and genre to be studied.

INTRODUCTION TO RABBINIC LITERATURE (TAL 5025)
Eliezer Diamond, Associate Professor
M 2:40–5:25
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.
MISHNAH, MEMORY, AND MANUSCRIPT
(TAL 7438)
Jonathan Milgram, Associate Professor
M 10:10–12:55
This course is an advanced graduate seminar on the redaction history, dissemination, and textual development of the Mishnah. Students will be trained in methods for the study of the Mishnah as an ancient oral composition and its subsequent textual history as evidenced in medieval manuscripts. In addition, class sessions will deal with some structural aspects of the Mishnah as a composition, grammatical phenomena particular to mishnaic Hebrew, the history of the political environment in which the Mishnah was produced, comparative ancient law and the relationship of the Mishnah to other tannaitic literary collections. Previous exposure to the study of the Mishnah and the ability of students to read bibliography in modern Hebrew is assumed.

THE STRUCTURE AND FORMATION OF THE BABYLONIAN TALMUD (TAL 7689)
Richard Kalmin, Professor
W 2:40–5:25
An examination of the major theories of the structure and development of the Babylonian Talmud, from the geonic period to the present, including editorial activity during the amoraic period, authorship of the anonymous passages, and the relationship between the Bavli and Yerushalmi. Permission of the instructor required prior to the first class session.

THE SABBATH THROUGH HISTORY
(TAL 7851)
David Kraemer, Professor
T 2:40–5:25
The Sabbath is one of the most important of Jewish institutions, arguably the Jews’ greatest gifts to humankind. But there is no single Sabbath. Because the Torah says so little to define the Sabbath, different Jewish groups through the ages have created very different Sabbaths—from radically restrictive and self-denying to joyous and life-affirming. In this class, we will examine the way the Sabbath has been understood through the ages—from the Bible to the rabbis to the medieval philosophers to modern poets and apologists. We will ask how the Sabbath that did emerge understood the human condition (and the human-divine relationship), and how, based on these many foundations, we can reinterpret the Sabbath in our own age.