SEMESTER BEGINS SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

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 10, 2023.
• 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 17. 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 19, 2023.

Questions? Contact us at openclassroom@jtsa.edu.

THE BURNING BUSH: INTERPRETATION, ETHICS & MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY (BIB 5010 Z)
Kaye, Miriam
Th, 8:40–11:25 AM
TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

This course will explore the Burning Bush episode of Exodus as a compelling paradigm in Modern Jewish Ethics and Philosophy. The course will open with biblical and midrashic interpretations of the Burning Bush and then hone in on three main areas of Modern Jewish philosophical approaches to Bible. The first is divine revelation: revelation and transformation as an individual of faith through an experiential transformation. This first part also explores theories of revelation and ethics in modern Jewish thought through interpretations of the burning bush, especially that of Emmanuel Levinas. The second is the idea of translation and biblical significance of the words: ‘Eheye Asher Ehyeh’ in Modern Jewish Thought, according to Hermann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, and others, who treat this as a philosophical issue, bringing the issue to recent philosophical discourse of Derrida and Ricoeur about biblical texts, and the importance and limitations of translations and understanding between different cultures in today’s world. In the course we will also focus on the idea of Other, and the ways in which this plays out in the story, as well the concept of space and place, of the ‘Holy Ground’ in biblical and philosophical interpretation.

BABYLONIAN ARAMAIC (BIB 5453)
Koller, Aaron
M, 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.

THE BOOK OF JOB (BIB 5509 Z)
Greenstein, Edward
W, 8:40–11:25 AM
TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM
The book of Job is brilliant, challenging, and difficult. We will be looking at the book as a whole in an extensive way, relying on translations (and the instructor’s in particular). But we will also be studying excerpts from the narrative frame and poetic core of the book in order to appreciate the art, the rhetoric, and the language of the texts. For these purposes a basic knowledge of Hebrew is recommended. The secondary readings will all be in English.

HEBREW ALEF 1 (HEB 1001)
Instructor TBA
M through Th, 10:10–11:25 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
M through Th, 10:10–11:25 AM
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, T & 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 oral-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
M, T & Th, 8:40–9:55 AM
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. The course helps prepare Rabbinical students to participate in Israeli life and in Hebrew-instructed content courses during their year in Israel.

HEBREW POETRY IN SONG: WORKSHOP IN READING HEBREW POETRY IN HEBREW (HEB 5572)
Meir, Miriam
T, 2:45–5:25 PM
The goal of this course is to introduce Hebrew poetry to students who have reached an advanced level. Taught in Hebrew, the course will focus on developing linguistic skills necessary to understand and appreciate poems in Hebrew. In addition to reading works by major modern Hebrew poets, we will discuss their reception in Israeli culture and evaluate musical treatments of these poems in popular Israeli music. Readings are in Hebrew, and students are encouraged to write their papers in Hebrew. Prerequisites: HEB 5203 or the equivalent.

JEWS AND THE LEFT (HIS 5624)
Fishman, David
Th, 2:45–5:25 PM
This course will focus on the relationship between Jews and left-wing politics on three continents: Europe, the Land of Israel, and the United States. The political left is usually defined as those movements and ideologies that strive for greater social and economic equality. Jews have often supported such movements, to a large part because they championed equal rights for religious and ethnic minorities. But on other occasions, Jews have been targeted by left wing political movements, when they have perceived Jews as embodying power, wealth, and nationalism. Topics will include: the Jewish question in the French revolution; Jewish radicalism in Russia; Socialist Zionism and the labor movement in pre-state Israel; American Jews in the far left (the Communist Party), and moderate left (the civil rights movement); leftist attacks on Zionism and Israel.

SERMONS AND PREACHING IN EAST EUROPEAN JEWRY (HIS 7427)
Fishman, David
T, 2:45–5:25 PM
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.

FRIENDSHIP IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND JEWISH THOUGHT (JTH 5135)
Billet, Shira
M and W, 2:45–4:00 PM
Friendship is an indispensable component of what philosophers have called “the good life,” a meaningful and ethical life lived within a flourishing society. This course examines a diverse array of sources ancient to modern, Jewish and non-Jewish, that contain philosophical and theological reflection on the nature of friendship, its virtues, obligations, risks, hardships, and joys, and the different spheres of life in which friendships are sought, nourished, lost, and gained—from the private sphere to the political sphere and everywhere in between.
SOUL, BODY AND REINCARNATION IN THE KABBALAH (JTH 5456)
Fishbane, Eitan
Th, 2:45–5:25 PM
How have kabbalists understood the nature of personhood, and how have they prescribed the life-path of moral and spiritual self-formation? Guided by the conceptual frames of religious and ethical studies, as well as the philosophy of personal identity, we will examine a variety of classic texts from sixteenth-century Tzfat, with special attention to kabbalistic notions of reincarnation and the formation of the soul in Hayyim Vital’s Shaʿar ha-Gilgulim—one of the great classics of Lurianic Kabbalah—seeking to understand the relationship between kabbalistic theology, moral guidance, religious identity, and mystical experience. Through close readings of original Hebrew sources from kabbalistic literature (with English translations provided in most cases), combined with comparative and theoretical scholarship on the nature of the self and cross-cultural theories of rebirth, we will study the range of kabbalistic visions of the ethical, well-lived life, the prescribed path to wholeness and self-perfection, the dialectic of body and soul.

FROM PURIM SHPIEL TO AVANT GARDE: YIDDISH PLAYS IN TRANSLATION (LIT 5163)
Nahshon, Edna
T, 2:45–5:25 PM
The Yiddish theater was one of the most influential institutions in modern Jewish Ashkenazi culture. Though thematically devoted primarily to Jewish subject-matters, Yiddish dramatists were also at home with contemporaneous dramatic trends in their respective host cultures. Their plays present us with major themes of their day as well as ours: the conflict between modernity and tradition, the encounter between Maskilic ideals and fossilized religiosity, capitalism and labor relations, social and class tensions, the role of women, crime and prostitution, and myths and messianic. In discussing the transfer from page to stage we will also watch segments of Yiddish films and will discuss issues concerning cinematic adaptations.

RAINMAKERS ROGUES & REVOLUTIONARIES: INTRODUCTION TO RABBINIC NARRATIVE (RLC 5022)
Kamine, Benjamin Haber
W, 5:35–8:15 PM
Examining stories about the last generations before the Destruction and the first generations of Tannaim, this class surveys the forms and methods of Midrash Aggadah through close reading of primary sources in the original Hebrew and Aramaic, as well as select secondary literature. We will get a sense of the eclectic characters that populate Rabbinic literature by focusing on the founding myth of the Rabbinic movement, the escape from Jerusalem and the competition between the Nasi and Sages at Yavneh. Particular emphasis will be placed on identifying the mechanics of Rabbinic storytelling and biblical exegesis.