

## SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 20, 2026

### HOW TO ENROLL

#### STEP ONE: COURSE SELECTION

- Browse the list of eligible courses, taking note of any prerequisites and the course number and title.
- All courses are \$1120, with the exception of Hebrew Alef 1-3 which are \$2240
- All courses are held on the JTS campus unless otherwise noted. Online courses are marked with a “Z”
- Open Classroom auditors in Hebrew language courses must complete 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 January 9, 2026.
- 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 January 16, 2026. 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](mailto:openclassroom@jtsa.edu).
- For refunds (minus the \$50 deposit), notification of withdrawal must be received by February 3, 2026.

**Questions? Contact us at [openclassroom@jtsa.edu](mailto:openclassroom@jtsa.edu).**

#### **BIBLICAL POETRY: EMBODIMENT, PERFORMANCE, THEOLOGICAL IMAGINATION (BIB 5501)**

**Bacchus, Nazeer**

R, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

This course explores biblical poetry as an expression of literary artistry and theological imagination. In conversation with modern literary theory, we will examine key issues in the study of biblical verse, including the definition of “poetry” in the Bible, meter and parallelism, and the interplay between convention and innovation. Central to our work will be the embodied and performative dimensions of biblical poetics: how and why poetry so often takes shape through the voices of biblical characters, and why it is especially employed in genres rooted in embodied speech such as wisdom, prophecy, prayer, and liturgy. Particular emphasis will be placed on the close reading of texts in the original Hebrew.

#### **BIBLICAL GRAMMAR (BIB 5560)**

**Jindo, Job**

M,W, 8:40 –9:55 AM

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 unpunctuated texts. Students who sign up for this course should already know the basics of Hebrew grammar—and in particular that they 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.

### **CLOSE READINGS OF THE PARASHAT HASHAVUA (BIB 5962)**

Edinger, Malka

R, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

This course introduces DRL students to the academic study and exegesis of the Torah by focusing on the weekly Torah readings. Students will gain familiarity with the content of these parashiyot and themes found within them. Through close readings of biblical texts taken from each week's parasha, students will become sensitive to literary and linguistic issues in the text and traditional exegetical methodologies of those texts, including masoretic notations. Over the course of the semester, we will have opportunities to explore the historical and cultural contexts of some biblical texts and to consider some of the critical issues raised and debated by scholars pertaining to these texts. We will also address the meaning and ongoing relevance of these texts for contemporary religious life, and consider how we can convey this relevance to others.

### **SOCIAL HISTORY OF JEWISH MARRIAGE (HIS 5520)**

Siegmund, Stefanie

M, W, 1:05 PM–2:20 PM

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.

### **JEWS AND THE LEFT (HIS 5624)**

Fishman, David

T, 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.

### **THE PERCEPTION OF NON JEWS IN JEWISH THOUGHT (JTH 5251)**

Bloch, Emmanuel

T, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

This course explores how Jewish thought perceives non-Jews. It will employ a conceptual framework articulated by Christian theologian Alan Race, and distinguish between four approaches (Exclusivism, Inclusivism, Universalism, and Pluralism). Drawing on a wide range of classical and modern Jewish sources (philosophical, halakhic, and others), students will examine diverse Jewish perspectives on interfaith relations.

### **FEMINIST JEWISH ETHICS (JTH 5322)**

Richman, Aviva

M, 10:10 AM–12:55 PM

Feminist philosophy began as a philosophical response to the marginalization female voices in the history of philosophy, and Jewish feminist thought challenges the exclusion of women from centers of Jewish ritual, cultural, and intellectual life. While Jewish feminist thought is often read as its own separate branch of modern Jewish thought, this course troubles that separation by elevating the experience of “philosophizing from the margins” as integral both to feminist philosophy and to modern Jewish philosophy. In this course we read feminist philosophy alongside modern Jewish philosophy and Jewish feminist thought.

### **BEING & NOTHINGNESS: SELF & SELF-TRANSCENDENCE IN MYSTICAL THOUGHT AND PRACTICE (JTH 5506)**

Fishbane, Eitan

R, 2:45 –5:25 PM

Mystics the world over have expressed intense devotional yearning for revelation and ultimate bonding to God. This course will explore the perspective of Jewish mystics on such ideas—from medieval Kabbalah to modern Hasidism. Topics to be studied include: soul and body / human nature and embodiment; devotional ascent of the mind to Divinity; altered states of mystic consciousness and associated techniques; the divine within / the spiritual interior of selfhood; unio mystica (mystical union; erasure and merger of the human self into Divinity) and *devekut* (radical bondedness to the Divine Self); deconstruction of the ego into the *ayin* (the Nothing; “pure” consciousness; the spiritual essence of Being), sometimes called *bitul ha-yeish el ha-ayin* and *hitpashtut ha-gashmiyut*—ultimately asking: “what is truly real?”

### **FRENCH JEWISH ETHICS (RLC 5022)**

Haziza, David

W, 2:45 –5:25 PM

This course offers an introduction to Franco-Jewish ethics. It discusses French and French-speaking authors who, over the last two centuries, have engaged with ethical questions such as the self and the other, the tension between universalism and particularism, gender and queer issues, and nature and ecology. While keeping in

mind contemporary debates, we will also endeavor to relate these modern sources to canonical (ancient and medieval) ones. Course readings (originally written in French or Hebrew) will be read in English translation.

### **MAIMONIDES' GUIDE OF THE PERPLEXED (JTH 5826)**

**Shemesh, Yonatan**

M, 5:35 – 8:15 PM

In this course, students undertake a careful study of Moses Maimonides' Jewish-philosophical masterpiece, the Guide for the Perplexed. Class sessions will be devoted to analyzing the text and exploring the book's major philosophical and theological themes, including: the relation between science and religion, the nature of God, creation versus eternity, prophecy, scriptural interpretation, divine providence and the problem of evil, law and politics, and the purpose of human existence. Students will also consider competing approaches to the interpretation of the Guide, both medieval and modern.

### **JEWISH SEXUALITIES: FROM THE NEW MUSCLE JEW TO TRANSPARENT (LIT 5176)**

**Bailis, Beverly**

M, W, 2:45 – 4:00 PM

In this course we will explore a variety of texts and films that feature the intersections of Jewishness, sexuality, gender and the body. The course will take as its starting point the turn-of-the-20th century discourse on Jewishness put forth by cultural critics and sexologists, where Jewish bodies became "pathologized" and bound up with emerging theories of race, in order to interrogate the longstanding notion that Jews embodied non-normative sexual and gender categories. We will then explore the legacy of these discourses, by asking how did such alleged non-normativity help to shape modern Jewish writing and creativity, what did it open up for the Jewish imagination in terms of conceptions of Jewishness, constructions of Jewish masculinity, femininity, queerness, and trans identity? How has it been mobilized in gender rights movements and Jewish activism? Readings will include theoretical works by Daniel Boyarin, Anne Pellegrini, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Judith Butler, and José Esteban Muñoz, that will help frame our discussions of the work of cultural critics and thinkers such as Magnus Hirschfeld and Max Nordau, as well as a range of works of modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature by S. Y. Agnon, Yosef Haim Brenner and Sholem Asch. We will likewise turn to more contemporary American iterations of Jewish sexuality from the TV show Transparent to memoiristic works including Leslie Feinberg's groundbreaking work on transgender identity, Stone Butch Blues, and Joy Ladin's Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders.

### **ISRAELI THEATRE AND DRAMA (LIT 5570)**

**Nahson, Edna**

R, 2:45 – 5:25 PM

This course will examine the story of the Israeli stage from the period of the Yishuv to this date as it reflects historical moments and ideological issues. We will examine important Israeli plays (in English translation) and will discuss central themes and artistic styles. Play texts will be situated within their socio-political context. A select number of Israeli feature and documentary films will be presented. Taught in English.

### **RISHONIM: LIVING WITH OTHERS (RLC 5151)**

**Kraemer, David**

T, 2:45 – 5:25 PM

A close examination of Eruvin, chapter 6, through the lens of the medieval rabbinic scholars active between the 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Additional topics will include relationships of rabbinic students with their teachers and drunkenness and its legal consequences. **PRE-REQ Experience with Talmud study and the equivalent of Hebrew Bet 2.**

### **DEATH AND DYING IN CLASSICAL RABBINIC LITERATURE (RLC 5318)**

**Visotzky, Burton**

M, 2:45 – 5:25 PM

A study of Jewish law (hilkhot avelut) and narrative (aggadah) on death and dying in an effort to understand the sociology and psychology of death, afterlife, theodicy, and consolation of mourners. Modern readings in English, rabbinic texts in Hebrew and Aramaic with English translations. **PRE-REQ Experience with Talmud study and the equivalent of Hebrew Bet 2.**

### **MIDRASHIC WOMEN: GENDER IN RABBINIC LITERATURE (RLC 5617)**

**Kamine, Benjamin**

W, 10:10 AM – 12:55 PM

This class explores the ways in which the rabbis expanded female characters of the Tanakh who appear for only a verse or two, and usually unnamed, into essential characters of Jewish history. In the process, students will build on prior skills in rabbinic narratology and exegesis, learning how the rabbis track specific Biblical characters across the rabbinic storytelling universe, reviving them to serve particular cultural needs. Significant attention to feminist scholarship on midrash (such as Judith Baskin, Gwynn Kessler, and Charlotte Fonrobert) will give students a strong theoretical basis for understanding this work. Possible characters include: Serach bat Asher; Rebecca's nurse, Devora; and the mother of King David. Prerequisites: All texts will be read in the primary language, so knowledge of Hebrew is required.

**HEBREW LANGUAGE & LITERATURE****HEBREW ALEF 2 (HEB 1101\_1)****Nesher, Nina**

M, T, W &amp; 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 (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 2 (HEB 1101\_2)****Rydel, Rebeca**

M, T, W &amp; 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 (Ivrit min ha-Hathala Alef)* with the same emphasis on reading comprehension and 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)****Hochfeld, Sarah**

M, T, W &amp; 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 ALEF 3 (HEB 2103 Z)****Allon, Cila**

M, T, W, 12:00–1:40 PM

6-credit course

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

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\_1)****Ben-Moshe, Ilona**

M, T &amp; 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 1 (HEB 2201\_2)****Hochfield, Sarah**

M, T &amp; W, 11:40–12:55 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 1 (HEB 2201 Z)****Allon, Cila**

M, T, W, 8:45–10:00 AM

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

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)****Zalis, Chana**

M, T &amp; R, 8:40–9:55 AM

This intermediate-level course will bring students to the end of *Hebrew from Scratch (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 *hashavua*, 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 2 (HEB 5206)****Rydel, Rebeca**

M, T, W &amp; Th, 11:40 AM–12:55 PM

The second course in a year-long intermediate-level Hebrew language course designed for Division of Religious Leadership students. The course aims to develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. It includes a 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 2 (HEB 5303)****Meir, Miriam**

M, T, W &amp; Th, 11:40 AM–12:55 PM

The goals of this course are to prepare rabbinical 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.

**HEBREW POETRY IN SONG (HEB 5572)****Meir, Miriam**

W, 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.