

## SEMESTER BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8, 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 August 17, 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 August 25th, 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 September 22, 2026.

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

#### **THE BURNING BUSH: INTERPRETATION, ETHICS & MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY (BIB 5010 Z)**

**Kaye, Miriam Feldman**

R, 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. We 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. (1) Divine revelation: revelation and transformation as an individual of faith through an experiential transformation. We also explore theories of revelation and ethics in modern Jewish thought through interpretations of the burning bush, especially that of Emmanuel Levinas. (2) The idea of translation and biblical significance of the words: ‘Ehey Asher Ehyeh’ 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. (3) 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.

#### **THE BOOK OF JUDGES (BIB 5310)**

**Landman, Yael**

M, 2:45 –5:25 PM

A critical analysis of selected chapters of the Book of Judges in the light of modern scholarship. The stories of Ehud, Gideon, Abimelech, Jephthah, and the Levite & his concubine will be studied in detail.

**PRE-REQ: Since the course involves close reading of Judges in the original, knowledge of Hebrew is required.**

**THE SONG OF SONGS IN ANCIENT AND  
MIEVEAL RABBINIC INTERPRETATION  
(BIB 5525)**

Harris, Robert

R, 2:45 –5:25 PM

Our course will introduce students to rabbinic interpretation of the Song of Songs, ranging from ancient Midrash to the peshat commentators active during the Renaissance of the 12th century.

**PRE-REQ: Since the course involves close reading of sources in the original, knowledge of Hebrew is required.**

**THE BOOK OF JONAH: PROPHECY, PARODY,  
AND PROTEST (BIB 5616)**

Enlow, Loraine

R, 2:45 –5:25 PM

At four chapters long, the Book of Jonah is among the shortest in the Bible, and among the most contested. Is it prophecy, satire, or parable? A story about a reluctant prophet, or an argument about the limits of divine mercy and human nationalism? This course takes Jonah seriously as a literary and theological text while celebrating its interpretive tensions and its wider cultural reception. We will move through the book closely, attending to language, structure, and the peculiarities that have made Jonah a perennial provocation. Alongside weekly close reading, each week will explore different contemporary critical approaches, including postcolonial criticism, affect theory, animal studies, and trauma theory. Throughout the semester we will engage particularly with the ways that historical interpretations have shaped its reception history. We will trace how Jewish and Christian commentators from late antiquity into the middle ages read Jonah, and follow the book's afterlife into liturgy, ethics, art, literature, popular culture, and more. The goal throughout is not to resolve Jonah but to read it with the patience and curiosity the book itself rewards.

**Note: While all of the material is in translation, the course will explore Hebrew nuances, so you should be comfortable reading in Hebrew.**

**SHIRA V'SHIR: CONTEMPORARY HEBREW  
POETRY IN SONG (HEB 5574)**

Meir, Miriam

R, 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 literary and linguistic skills necessary to understand and appreciate poems in Hebrew. In addition to reading works by major modern Hebrew poets from 1891 through the 20th century, 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. **Taught in Hebrew, prerequisite HEB 5203 or by permission of the instructor.**

**YIDDISH CULTURE (HIS 5350)**

Fishman, David

W, 2:45 –5:25 PM

An examination of the process through which Yiddish literature, theater, press, schooling and the Yiddishist movement became major forces in east-European Jewish life between 1860 and 1917. Reading knowledge of Yiddish desirable but not required. **Prerequisite: survey course of modern Jewish history or eastern-European Jewish history OR permission of instructor.**

**THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THE HOLIDAYS  
IN HASIDIC MYSTICISM (JTS 5632)**

Fishbane, Eitan

R, 2:45 –5:25 PM

This course will explore the various ways in which hasidic rebbes and authors (from the earliest decades of Hasidism all the way through to the late twentieth century) have perceived and expressed the images, symbols, and rituals of the Jewish sacred calendar. Through close readings of primary sources in the original Hebrew, we will attempt to unpack the interpretive methods and spiritual imagination cultivated by several generations of hasidic master teachers. We will seek to understand the homiletical process of hasidic creativity, and the ways in which these authors set out to convey spiritual-mystical readings of Jewish ritual life and the rhythms of holy time. Alongside these textual concerns, we will study the writings of several prominent theorists and historians of religion in order to situate our inquiry in the interconnected web of comparative religious studies.

**PRE-REQ: Knowledge of Hebrew is highly recommended. Students should be comfortable preparing and reading sources in Hebrew**

**SECOND AVENUE MEETS BROADWAY  
(LIT 5166)**

Nahshon, Edna

T, 2:45–5:25 PM

The course will focus on the multifaceted story of the Yiddish theatre in America and on the cross-pollination between the Yiddish and the mainstream English-language stage. The Yiddish theatre in America will be discussed both as an immigrant institution and as an important chapter in the history of the American stage.

**RAINMAKERS, ROGUES, AND  
REVOLUTIONARIES: INTRODUCTION TO  
RABBINIC NARRATIVE (RLC 5022)**

**Kamine, Benjamin**

M, W, 2:45 –4:00 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 orienting ourselves around the founding myth of the Rabbinic movement, the escape from Jerusalem and the competition between the Patriarch and Sages at Yavneh. Particular emphasis will be placed on identifying the mechanics of Rabbinic storytelling and biblical exegesis.

**NOTE: Sources will be read in the language of their composition (Hebrew/Aramaic). Completion of Hebrew Alef 3 or the equivalent required.**

**THE EMOTIONAL WORLD OF THE RABBIS  
(RLC 5083)**

**Wolf, Sarah**

M, W, 11:40 AM –12:55 PM

This class will explore how we should think about emotions in Late Antiquity in general and in rabbinic literature in particular. To what extent should we see the rabbis as being concerned with a category of “emotion” that resembles our own sense of what that means? What ideas did they have about the relationship between emotion and gender, or how emotions manifest in the mind and body? What does it look like when emotions and halakha are put into conversation with one another? We will engage with these questions by looking at different emotion concepts in rabbinic and other ancient sources, and we will read these texts through the lens of scholarship on emotions and the self in rabbinic literature, affect theory and emotions in antiquity, and emotion in law and literature. Please note that this course requires students to engage with rabbinic literature without using translations.

**PRE-REQ Experience with Talmud study and the equivalent of Hebrew Bet 2.**

**JEWES AND JUDAISM IN ANCIENT WORLD  
(RLC 5117)**

**Landes, Yitz**

T, 10:10 AM –12:55 PM

In this course we will look at the *longue durée* of the history of the Jews in antiquity, from the end of the Achaemenid Empire in the 4th c. BCE until the period of the Umayyad Caliphate in the 7th-8th c. CE. Central to our discussion will be the social, political, and religious shifts that Jews experienced, with special attention given to aspects of continuity and change. Emphasis will be placed on the complementary use of material and literary sources and the different methodological issues that these sources raise (texts will be provided in English translation, although copies in the original languages will be made available). Students will also be acquainted with the main *instrumenta studiorum* for the study of Ancient Judaism. Each weekly meeting will be divided between historical introductions, discussions of secondary readings, and close analysis of primary sources.

**BABYLONIAN ARAMAIC (RLC 5453 Z)**

**Markose, Howard**

T, 10:10 AM –12:55 PM

TAUGHT ONLINE VIA ZOOM

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.

**PRE-REQ: The course assumes knowledge of Hebrew and at least some background in Talmud.**

**PESIKTA DE RAV KAHANA (RLC 5333)**

**Milgram, Jonathan**

M, W, 1:05–2:20 PM

This course is a graduate (reading) course in the midrashic collection, *Pesikta de- Rav Kahana*. Students will read selections from the midrash, aligned to the fall Jewish holiday schedule and special Shabbatot to appreciate the unique style and approach of this work. In addition, students will be exposed to scholarship on the textual history of the midrash and work with some of the medieval manuscripts in the JTS library.

**PRE-REQ Experience with midrashic techniques and the equivalent of Hebrew Bet 2. Sources will be studied in the original language.**

**HEBREW LANGUAGE**

**HEBREW ALEF 1 (HEB 1001)**

TBD

M, T, W & Th, 10:10–11:25 AM

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)**

TBD

M, T, W & Th, 10:10–11:25 AM

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 3 (HEB 2103\_1)**

TBD

M, T, W & Th, 10:10–11:25 AM

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 & 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 2 (HEB 5203\_1)**

TBD

M, W, & Th, 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 BET 2 (HEB 5203)**

TBD

M, W & Th, 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 1 (HEB 5205)**

TBD

M, T, W & 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)**

TBD

M, T, W & 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 hashavua*. The course helps prepare Rabbinical students to participate in Israeli life and in Hebrew-instructed content courses during their year in Israel.

**COMPREHENSION AND COMMUNICATION:  
DEVELOPING ADVANCED HEBREW SKILLS  
(HEB 5221)**

TBD

M, W, 8:40–9:55 AM

This advanced Hebrew language course is designed for students who wish to develop their comprehension and communication skills beyond the Intermediate level.

Through engagement with a variety of written and spoken texts and class presentations, students will develop and refine oral and written expression skills, enhance reading comprehension of journalistic, semi-academic and selected literary texts, expand vocabulary and grammatical knowledge and practice Internet use in a Hebrew language environment.