

AKK 501-Introduction to Akkadian

Dr. Peter Obermark

3 credit hours

No course description given.

AKK 520-Akkadian Parallels to Biblical Texts

Dr. David Weisberg

3 credit hours

No course description given.

BIB 401-Introduction to Biblical Prose

Dr. David Aaron

3 credit hours

This course will provide grounding in the basics of textual criticism, so-called source criticism and a variety of literary approaches to the analysis of narrative in the Tannakh, with primary emphasis on the Torah. Students will gain analytical skills in a variety of genres, as well as learn to identify the theological and political issues that underlie the Torah's history of composition.

BIB 518-Classical Biblical Narrative Prose

Dr. Stephen Kaufman

3 credit hours

Rapid readings of the narrative texts of Joshua-Kings (and Ruth). The goal is to develop vocabulary and to master the intricacies of Biblical Syntax. Students will be required to prepare a paper on a particular feature of Hebrew grammar as exemplified in this corpus.

- Will fulfill the residency requirement for Ph.D. students.

BIB 569-Text and Theory

Drs. David Aaron and Susan Einbinder

3 credit hours

No matter what one's professional engagement or academic discipline, we have all been touched by recent developments in literary theory. This course takes the questions of literary theory and asks how they might influence one's reading of Jewish sources, both historical and literary, from a variety of eras. Some of the questions we will address are: Is it possible to retrieve the meanings of ancient texts according to the author's original intent? Is authorial intent relevant to our reading of a text? How does gender, religion, economic structures, values, ideology, shape the ways we determine meaning? Are all texts-and all acts of reading-ideologically motivated? Theoretical readings may cover structuralism, deconstructionism, post-modernism, Marxism, feminism, psychoanalytic theory, gender theory, cultural criticism, etc. Primary sources will range from biblical to early modern (in Hebrew and translation).

BIB 610-Women and Gender Issues in the Torah

Dr. Nili Fox

3 credit hours

How does a Torah commentary authored by females present perspectives on women and gender issues in the Pentateuch? This course is designed to offer students an opportunity to read selected texts in the Torah while exploring them through the lenses of contemporary gender study. The main course text will be the recently published: *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*. T. Eskenazi and A. Weiss eds. (URJ Press, 2008). Other readings pertaining to gender study approaches, as well as specific text commentaries will also be utilized. Examples of Torah texts covered include: the creation accounts; narratives on the matriarchs; and laws relating to women. The *Women's Commentary* complementary post-biblical interpretations and contemporary reflections to these texts will also be analyzed.

- This bible text course is open to Rabbinical and Graduate students.

BIB 611-Book of Esther and its Reception

Dr. Jason Kalman

3 credit hours

This course will explore the variety of ways Jewish and Christian writers have interpreted the book of Esther. The book which is read as a regular part of the Purim liturgy raised many issues for Jewish and Christian interpreters particularly because God is never mentioned. An examination of these interpretations will provide the class the opportunity to explore Rabbinic and Patristic literature as well as a broad range of Jewish and Christian thinkers and how they understood the Bible.

- Enrollment is limited to 12 students.

BIB 608-Biblical History and the History of Israel in the Biblical Period

Dr. David Weisberg

3 credit hours

Sample reading: "The Historical King David, Biblical History and the 'Hermeneutics of Suspicion'." A "sub-text:" Are only non-biblical texts to be taken at face value? – maintaining a critical stance in harmony with a robust faith for Reform Jews.

- Both Rabbinic and Graduate students are welcome.

EDU 519-Lifelong Learning and Adult Religious Education

Rabbi Samuel Joseph

This course will present both the foundations of adult religious education and practice of adult religious education all within a context of a lifelong learning program. Topics will include a developmental and historical understanding of adulthood; approaches to adult religious education; planning and organizing for adult education; and designing adult religious educational programs. Plus how one curriculizes life long learning. A special component of the course will include family education. There will be many hands-on experiences with the best of adult religious educational programming and family education. Students will learn how one becomes an effective adult educator. Exposure to a wide range of materials and bibliography necessary in the designing of adult religious educational programs will round out the course.

HEB 402-Reading for Meaning

Staff

3 credit hours

A study of the grammar, syntax, idiomatic expressions and other linguistic features of Biblical Hebrew (prose and poetry).

- This course will be divided into two sections per Hebrew efficiency.

HEB 401-Survey of Hebrew Literature

Dr. Susan Einbinder

3 credit hours

A survey of major trends and issues represented in Hebrew literature, an introduction to general literary-critical terms and methods, and their applicability to classical and modern Hebrew texts. Readings will draw from a variety of genres of Hebrew literature written from the twelfth to the twentieth centuries. Whether poetry, prose, polemic, drama, lyric, or film, literary texts open a unique window onto the culture and concerns of Jewish communities over the centuries and around the world. Like all literary texts, they also raise questions about the use of language to convey meaning, and the inevitable evolution of meaning and audience over time. Questions of identity, meaning and power; what we communicate and how we communicate it; how literature makes meaning; and what tools we have to find it – these are some of our concerns.

HIS 401-Jewish History Survey

Drs. Nili Fox and Adam Kamesar

3 credit hours

This course is continued during second semester and covers all major periods, trends, and events in the Jewish experience and is taught in coordination by members of the Department of History.

His 403-American Jewish Experience

Dr. Gary Zola

3 credit hours

This course will examine the historical experience of Jews in the United States, from the colonial era to the present day, with attention to religious, social and cultural developments.

- Attendance is mandatory.

HIS 501-History of Reform Judaism

Dr. Michael Meyer

3 credit hours

A chronological and topical study of Reform Judaism both in Europe and American within the context of other Jewish religious denominations and with particular emphasis on its problems and prospects in the world today.

- Prerequisites: HIS 401 and HIS 402 or permission of the instructor.

HLT

Course to be announced at a later date.

LIT 401-Introduction to Jewish Liturgy

Cantor Yvon Stone

3 credit hours

A study of the content, theology, historical development, and phenomenology of Jewish liturgy; the major components of the traditional worship services of the entire year, in terms of structure, working, ritual practices and ideas; and the salient liturgical features of Reform Judaism. We shall explore as well the concepts of worship, prayer, liturgy and ritual performance as these are expressed in rabbinic Judaism. Students will also be introduced to some of the relevant scholarly literature on the history, structure, and phenomenology of Jewish worship. Small groups will meet with Cantor Stone once a week for 45 minutes. The goal is to make informed Reform liturgical choices by developing proficiency with the Jewish liturgical calendar, including familiarity with both the Reform and traditional cycles of Torah and Haftarah readings (including holidays) and all aspects of the art of the Gabbai.

LIT 505-Reform Prayer Books

Dr. Richard Sarason

3 credit hours

Reform Judaism began as a movement for liturgical reform in central Europe, and ultimately flourished in North America. Initial issues of worship aesthetics and style were soon joined by issues of theology and belief. The overarching issue, though, remained that of modern Jewish identity and its expression in the worship context. Over the past two centuries, literally hundreds of Reform prayer books have been produced around the world. Most of these books are represented in the collections of our own Klau Library in Cincinnati. This course will examine in detail the most influential and noteworthy of these prayer books, beginning with the first prayer book of the Hamburg Tempelverein in 1819 and concluding with the North American Mishkan T'Filah in 2007 and the British Reform Lynn T'filah, still in progress. Many other works will also be introduced and discussed.

MID 501-Introduction to Diverse Genres and Styles of Midrashic Literature.

Dr. Edward Goldman

3 credit hours

Attention will be paid to the hermeneutics of the midrashic process and to the world view which the rabbis bring to the reading of the Scripture. Selected texts and collateral readings in the secondary literature. Students will also acquire a familiarity with bibliographical tools in the study of midrashic literature.

- MID 401 is a prerequisite.

MID 536-Occasional Sermon from Pesikta de Rav Kahana

Dr. Edward Goldman

3 credit hours

The purpose of this course is to help the student to gain mastery in the style and content of this genre by reading widely in sermons selected from the Mandelbaum critical text. Such sermons as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Shabbat Zachor, Shabbat Hahodesh, Passover, Shavuot and Tisha Beav will be read and analyzed. Such study will lead the students to an appreciation of the principal themes of each of these days as the Rabbis understood them. Contemporary homiletical applications will be explored.

- MID 401 is a prerequisite.

MUS 518- Essentials in Nusach L'Shabbat

Cantor Yvon Stone

1.5 credit hours

This course provides the fundamental elements in nusach for Kabbalat Shabbat, erev Shabbat, and Shabbat Schacharit. The first semester focuses on Ashkenazic forms, including Chassidic melodies, and various styles of hazzanut. The second semester focuses on Sephardic melodies, aspects of shalosh seudah, maleva malkah and havdalah. This is a performance oriented class.

PDE 401-Worship and Ritual

Cantor Yvon Stone

This course covers the fundamental principles for practical rabbinics on all life cycle events. Text study includes an overview of halakhic and reform sources. The class focuses on two areas: 1) Developing the skills needed to create effective ritual. 2) Addressing the individual's capability for handling situations that arise during life cycle events. The course provides the foundation for a comprehensive rabbinic portfolio through developmental programming, traditional and creative liturgies, music, innovative ritual, site visits, in class observations and projects.

PDE 402-Teaching within the Reform Educational Setting

Rabbi Samuel Joseph

Teaching within the Reform Educational Setting. Basic objectives, principles of learning and educational philosophy and pedagogical methodology for Reform religious education of children and youth. Classroom teaching and field visits required. Limud with Cantor Stone meets weekly for 30 minutes in small groups. This offers the pedagogic tools needed for ta'amei mikra. Listening skills, kinesthetic, cognitive and developmental language approaches for various learning styles are covered. Individual mastery of Torah and Haftarah chanting through grammar, interpretation, performative Hebrew and chanting skills is key to teaching others.

PDE 403-Homiletics

Rabbis Abie Ingber and Sanford Kopnick

The structure and content of the Jewish sermon, stressing the textual and non-textual sermon.

PDE 404-Human Relations

Rabbi Ruth Alpers

Human relations provides the theoretical bases for understanding individual and family behaviors. Students will learn to deal appropriately with common life issues facing congregants, and will practice basic techniques for responding to a variety of pastoral care needs. The course will also include discussion of Jewish teachings and attitudes towards pastoral care.

PDE 405-Clinical Pastoral Care

Rabbi Ruth Alpers

HUC-JIR offers all 4th year students the opportunity to complete a unit of CPE during the academic year. It consists of two separate components: a formal classroom instruction, conducted one evening per week and practical experience, which involves the pastoral care of patient populations, including unaffiliated Jewish patients (approximately 10 hours per week) at one of three or four local placements under the supervision of the course instructor.

- Instructor's Permission is required for admission to this course.

PDE 406-Leadership Skills and Theory

Rabbi Samuel Joseph

The organizational behavior and operation of a Reform congregation, or a Jewish Communal organization, in its administrative dimensions and in relation to the direction, staffing and implementation of its basic program. Visioning and leading as a professional working with other professionals and lay leadership will be a central course theme.

- PDE 402 prerequisite.
- Field visits required.

PDE 407-Senior Practicum

Rabbi Ken Kanter

Required of the candidate for ordination, this course will examine issues, challenges, and problems that confront the contemporary rabbi. Together we shall examine and discuss key questions to which we must direct our thinking and help our people find personal and communal responses. Some additional programs are required.

PDE 408-Field Work Seminar

Rabbi Ken Kanter

No course description given.

PDE 409-Mayerson Fieldwork

Rabbi Ken Kanter

Each student serving a bi-weekly (or its equivalent) for credit must register for this course both fall and spring semesters.

PDE 410-Fourth Year Sermon

Rabbi Ken Kanter

A required speech/homiletics workshop for fourth year students. This is a year long course. Sermon structure, style and delivery.

PDE 411-Fifth Year Sermon

Rabbi Ken Ehrlich

No course description given.

PHI 401-Medieval Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Haim Rechnittzer

3 credit hours

A critical introduction to some of the basic issues of medieval Jewish philosophy from Sa'adia ben Joseph to Moses Maimonides. Emphasis will be placed on interpreting texts in translation and analyzing the philosophical issues raised by the thinkers selected for study. The goal of the course is to explain how their distinctive views reflected their commitment to Judaism and to philosophic inquiry.

PHI 510-Liberalism, Religious Community and the Limit of Tolerance

Dr. Haim Rechnittzer

3 credit hours

Religious tolerance is a major tenet of liberalism. Nevertheless contemporary understandings of liberalism and political practices are challenged by religious practices that negate some tenets of the liberalism such as gender, race, and ethnic equality before the law, including equal access to education, the separation of private and public spheres, and the neutrality of public spaces and political discourse. In this course we will follow various liberal responses to these challenges and reflect on their implications to the relationship between Judaism and liberalism. This course will fulfill the prescribed Ethical Literature requirement.

PHI 515-Pathos, Process and Divine Reactivity: Jewish Conceptions of an Evolving God

Dr. Barry Kogan

3 credit hours

Classical forms of Jewish theism have traditionally affirmed that God is properly described by attributes of perfection, such as omnipotence, omniscience and Omni benevolence among others, which also include God's being eternal, timeless and ultimately changeless, i.e. beyond the capacity of creatures to affect. Examples of religious language to the contrary have usually been interpreted as little more than metaphors. Nevertheless, in modern Jewish thought and alternate view has sometimes been expressed, albeit in diverse and not always in compatible ways, which suggests that God is indeed describable in terms of change-actions, reactions, and even interior emotions, not merely metaphorically, but really, and that these descriptions are not only more coherent with traditional religious language but also with the world as we have come to understand it in modernity. This is also presented as a view that gives more than lip-service to claims of divine immanence, without succumbing to naïve literalism or fundamentalism. Various called Transcendentalism, the theology of divine pathos, belief in a God who grows, panentheism and process thought, all of these variants maintain that God genuinely interacts with creatures through time and changes because of those interactions. In this course, we will examine the views of several thinkers who have contributed to developing the outlines of these positions, notably: Mordecai M. Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Henry Slonimsky, and Michael Wyschogrod, Alvin j. Reines, David Blumenthal and William Kaufman. We will explore their conceptions of which attributes really describe God and why they think so, as well as their views, where appropriate, on God's knowledge, God's concern for human beings, revelation, providence, prayer, the problem of evil, and attendant questions for free will and determinism in both God and human beings. Paper required.

RAB 401-Early Rabbinic Literature and Thought**Dr. Jason Kalman****3 credit hours**

An introduction to the literature and thought-world of early rabbinic (tannaitic) Judaism in its cultural, religious, and historical contexts. Through the reading of selected primary texts in Hebrew and more extensive primary texts in English as well as significant secondary literature, we will explore some of the major issues of early rabbinic culture, such as its relation to biblical and post-biblical antecedents and the biblical text, and its often quite independent development and expansion of biblical legal themes and norms, within the larger context of the Greco-Roman near east. We also will examine the range of exegetical and discursive practices in early rabbinic literature. Students will become familiar with the characteristics conceptual and rhetorical traits, as well as the themes and issues, of the Mishnah and Tosefta. Some attention will be devoted to the tannaitic Midrashim and their relationship to the Mishnah and Tosefta. The course thus additionally prepared students for work in the core Midrash and Talmud courses. One course session each week will be devoted to lecture/presentation of materials and concepts by the instructor. The second session will be devoted to reading and discussing of primary texts in smaller groups, divided according to level of Hebrew fluency and supervised by the instructor.

SYR 501-Introduction to Syriac**Dr. Stephen Kaufman****3 credit hours**

Elements of Syriac-Aramaic grammar are presented in conjunction with pertinent comparative Semitic features and with reference to other Jewish-Aramaic dialects, especially the Bavli.

- This course is open to Rabbinic and Graduate fellows preparing to read rabbinic texts.
- Attendance is a course requirement.
- Permission of Instructor Required.

TAL 401-Readings from Seder Mo'ed**Dr. Jonathan Cohen****3 credit hours**

An introduction to Talmudic literature, especially the style, language and procedure of the Gemara. The emphasis is on helping the student acquire the tools for independent Talmud study. This class requires a tutorial section