



# UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

## Spring 2015 Judaic Studies Courses

**Prof. Richard FREUND - [freund@hartford.edu](mailto:freund@hartford.edu)**

**JS 191/HIS 291 - World Archaeology and Religion TR 3:30-4:45 PM**

An introduction to archaeology, historical geography, textual history and many of the religions throughout the world. Seven regions of the world will be explored through some of the major archaeological discoveries in these regions. Focusing on art, architecture, language, and the religions that developed in these areas through their textual traditions and material culture. The course surveys what we know about the rise of complex urban cultures and ceremonial centers in pre-classical Europe, as well as Africa, the Americas, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Indus Valley, China and Japan.

**JS /REL218W-Intro to Jewish, Christian Islamic Ethics R 5-7:20 PM**

This course will introduce students to the study of ethics and the history of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims, the communities in the modern period, the major authoritative texts used for legal and ethical decision making, and some of the ethical decision making of Jews, Christians and Muslims on a variety of major issues. Topics addressed including (but not limited to): sexuality, political and social ethics, gender and medical ethics.

**Prof. Avinoam PATT - [patt@hartford.edu](mailto:patt@hartford.edu)**

**JS/HIS/REL 216-Modern Jewish History MW 1:30-2:45**

What does it mean to be a Jew in the modern World? The vexed question of Jewish identity emerged at the end of the eighteenth century in Europe and has dominated Jewish history throughout the modern period. This course will introduce students to the major social, cultural, religious, and political transformations that shaped the lives of World Jewry from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until the present. We will explore such topics as the nature of traditional Jewish society, emancipation, Jewish diversity, the reform of Judaism, competing political ideologies, Jewish-gentile relations, the rise of modern anti-Semitism, the role of Jewish women, interwar Jewish life and culture, Jewish responses to Nazism and the Holocaust, the creation of the state of Israel, and the situation of Jews in the postwar period.

**JS/HIS/REL 210 - Responses to the Holocaust MW 2:55-4:10**

This course explores both Jewish and non-Jewish responses to the Holocaust in an interdisciplinary manner through an examination of social, religious, theological, political, cultural, psychological, and literary responses to the Holocaust both during and after the Second World War. The class (1) focuses attention on the diversity of human responses to Nazi persecution, both Jewish and non-Jewish, and (2) facilitates a deeper understanding of the

manner in which individuals and communities respond to extreme persecution in war and genocide both contemporaneously and in its aftermath.

**JS/ENG/REL 324W – Modern European Jewish Lit MWF 11:30-12:20**

What is modern European Jewish literature? This class explores the relationship between the Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah) and the development of modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature. In our readings and class discussions, we will examine shifting conceptions of Jewish identity, the development of modern Jewish literature and its relationship to Jewish tradition, notions of Diaspora, Exile, and Home, and the tension between the particularity of the national experience and the universality of the Jew. Readings by masters of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> -century European Jewish fiction will include: S.Y. Abramovitch (Mendele Mocher Seforim), known as the “grandfather” of Yiddish literature; Sholem Aleichem’s humorous tales of Eastern Europe; the folk stories of Y.L. Peretz; Isaac Babel’s passionate narratives of the Russian revolution; I.B. Singer’s tales of Jewish Europe; and others. We will conclude with an examination of contemporary Jewish fiction and what it may draw from the legacy of European Jewish literature. We will also consider some adaptations of these works in Yiddish and English drama and film and ask the question: “what really gets lost in translation?”

**Prof. ABO-RABIA - [hazzarabia@hotmail.com](mailto:hazzarabia@hotmail.com)**

**ARA 111 - Arabic Language and Culture II TR 4:50-6:05 A-110**

**JS 204-Arabic Lit, His, Cul in Translation R 7:30-9:50 pm A-321**

Students will be introduced to Arabic literature, culture and history from the classical period of Islam through the modern period. The course includes an assessment of the differences between urban and rural cultures in these time periods and it explores social, philosophical, religious, and historical aspects of Arab and Islamic communities (mainly but not exclusively in the Middle East) through a collection of videos, readings and discussions. Contact between the Arab world and the West in the modern era will be seen in relation to changes in Arabic culture from the medieval period as reflected in cultural creations of major figures in Islamic culture and society.

**Prof. Yifat AVNER - [avner@hartford.edu](mailto:avner@hartford.edu)**

**\*please contact Prof. Patt ([patt@hartford.edu](mailto:patt@hartford.edu)) if you would like to take a placement test to determine the best HBR course for you.**

**HBR 114 – Elementary Hebrew II TR 9:25-10:40 a.m. A-110**

**HBR 116 – Intermediate Hebrew II TR 10:50 a.m.-12:05 p.m. A-110**

**HBR 118 – Advanced Hebrew Language TR 2:05-3:20 p.m. A-110**

**Professor bios are available at:**

[http://www.hartford.edu/A\\_and\\_S/departments/judaic\\_studies/faculty/](http://www.hartford.edu/A_and_S/departments/judaic_studies/faculty/)

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