JEWS STUDIES (JWST)

JWST 120 - ISRAEL: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE I
Short Title: ISRAEL: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE I
Department: Jewish Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will combine a study of basic Hebrew vocabulary and grammar with literature, film, and popular culture from Israel. It will explore the history of Israel through a study of its culture and language, including poetry, songs, movies, and television.

JWST 121 - ISRAEL: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE II
Short Title: ISRAEL: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE II
Department: Jewish Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course is a continuation of JWST 120, but is open to any student who can read basic Hebrew. It will explore Israeli culture through literature, music, current events, and film.

JWST 201 - GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
Short Title: GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH CULTURE
Department: Jewish Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The Jewish people have often understood themselves as the "people of the book," because of the Jewish tradition's reliance on texts and textual study as a central component of religious culture and practice. This course will take the idea of the book as a starting point for a survey of Jewish history and culture. Spanning the biblical period to the present, we will read primary texts important to Jewish life and culture as well as scholarship from disciplines as varied as religion, history, anthropology, sociology, comparative literature, philosophy, and gender and sexuality studies. In doing so, we will learn about the varied communities that produced these texts; the languages they spoke and read; their particular religious and cultural practices; and how they have understood themselves in the context of other social and political communities over time, including in the ancient, medieval, and modern eras.

JWST 218 - RADICAL JEWISH CULTURES
Short Title: RADICAL JEWISH CULTURES
Department: Jewish Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In 1990s New York City, a group of musician-improvisers began to describe their artistic practice under the title of "Radical Jewish Culture." The term raised a slew of interrelated questions: What makes culture Jewish? What makes Jewish culture radical? What are some of the aesthetic characteristics of alternative Jewish artistic practices? What social questions related to Jewish life are entangled within these practices? In what ways does alternative Jewish art expand the conversation on relevant social questions and vice versa? This course explores this core set of questions among a range of Radical Jewish Cultures across media and around the world throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Moving through Europe, the U.S., Latin America, North Africa, and Israel/Palestine, we will read, listen to, and view Jewish literature, music, theatre, dance, and film that sit outside the mainstream.

JWST 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Jewish Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Lecture/Laboratory, Seminar, Independent Study
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

JWST 301 - JEWISH FOOD: RELIGION, CULTURE, AND CONSUMPTION FROM THE BIBLE TO BAGELS
Short Title: JEWISH FOOD
Department: Jewish Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: "We are what we eat," the saying goes. But is that true? How do choices and practices connected to eating define us and our communities? Our study of Jewish food traditions from the Bible to the present will engage this and other important issues related to religion and identity politics. Repeatable for Credit.
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JWST 418 - MUSIC AND DIASPORA
Short Title: MUSIC AND DIASPORA
Department: Jewish Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Though it is common for musical genres to be affiliated with nation-states, border-crossing diasporic music is in fact booming all around us. Bhangra, rai, jazz, klezmer, and many more point to longer histories and larger systems of transnational movement and social consciousness. In this course, we follow the music to explore the central place of diaspora in our world as well as the social critiques it offers. We ask two simultaneous questions: How does diaspora shape music? And what can music teach us about diaspora? Throughout the semester, we will listen to and read about Afro-diasporic music, music from the Jewish diaspora, the South Asian diaspora, “queer diaspora,” and beyond. Threaded together with broader materials from ethnomusicology, anthropology, cultural studies, and more, we explore key histories of border crossing that lead to modern diasporic formations, including the transatlantic African slave trade and colonialism. Critically analyzing musical questions such as tradition and hybridity leads us to examine diasporic approaches to themes of movement, borders, home, and identity, that challenge social systems of power. This course is designed to benefit and interest students from a wide range of disciplines and interests in the subject matter. Please feel free to reach out directly to instructor with any questions you may have about the course’s fit.

JWST 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Jewish Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Lecture/Laboratory, Independent Study
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.