center for jewish studies (cjst)

cjst153 ethnicity, race, and religion in the middle ages
this course concerns the invention of premodern ideas of ethnicity and race. our focus will be on a selection of medieval texts dealing with the encounters – real and imaginary – of western european christians with other cultures, from the celtic borderlands to the mongol empire. the readings will begin historically with the crusades and the (often grisly) chronicles written by christian, muslim, and jewish authors. other genres will include religious polemics, autobiographical narratives of religious conversion, and travel accounts by missionaries, spies, and colonial propagandists. we will also read some later "romances" that re-imagine the crusades in terms of exoticized sexuality, racial transformation, cannibalism, and nationalist fantasy.
offering: crosslisting
grading: a-f
credits: 1.00
gen ed area: ha-engl
identical with: engl153
prereq: none

cjst210 jews & america
this course will investigate why jews came to america and how they and their children adapted to their new home. it will explore american jews' relations with other groups, including the irish americans, african americans and the white anglo-saxon protestant elite, and jews in other parts of the world. finally, the course will consider jews' quite significant impact on the american economy, politics, society, and culture. although it will begin with the colonial era, the course will focus primarily on the 19th and especially the 20th centuries.
offering: crosslisting
grading: a-f
credits: 1.00
gen ed area: sb-s-hist
identical with: hist210, amst223
prereq: none

cjst216 jesus through jewish eyes
in this course, we explore the visual and textual representations of the vexed relation between jews and christians throughout history. looking at the various ways in which christianity and judaism define themselves vis-à-vis the other allows us to understand what mechanisms of cultural appropriation, subversion, and hidden polemics are at work. special attention will be given to the figure of jesus as a point of artistic and theological contention. how do artistic representations change our understanding of religious themes? what is at stake for each religion in the encounter with the other? what are the political implications of theological debates? is this dialogue needed, or even possible, in our post-secular age?
offering: crosslisting
grading: a-f
credits: 1.00
gen ed area: sb-rel
identical with: reli216
prereq: none

cjst221 from literature to cinema and back: what happens when literary works are adapted to films
israeli literature has a long history of the written word behind it, which sometimes serves as a burden for hebrew writers. israeli cinema, on the other hand, has no tradition of visual representation behind it, no iconic conceptual history. so what happens when a major literary work is adapted to film? does the film maintain the same approach to the issues that the novel is confronting, or does it find new ways to deal with the subject, reconfiguring the perspective and the hierarchy of its inner elements?
offering: host
grading: a-f
credits: 0.50
gen ed area: ha-cjst
prereq: none

cjst224 israel in therapy: society under the influence of tv series
the course deals with the prototypes of the israeli character as they appear in the original israeli tv series in treatment, and other israeli tv series, such as florentine and a touch away. we will compare the structure and the characters of the series to other dramatic israeli series, examine the appearance of the characters, and discuss the similarities and differences between the roles they perform. in addition, we will examine the role of television drama series as a tool to define and characterize our societies, and also look over the five characters that appear in the first season of in treatment, define them, and examine the five prototypes of the israeli character they represent. the instructor is the co-creator and head screenwriter of the original version of the tv series in treatment as well as the center for jewish studies distinguished visiting professor.
offering: host
grading: a-f
credits: 1.00
gen ed area: ha-cjst
identical with: film311
prereq: none

cjst236 revival of the israeli cinema
this course will analyze the possible reasons for the current revival of israeli cinema. we will explore the history of israeli filmmaking in the context of the changes that the political and social climates in israel have undergone over the years, focusing on the developing cinematic styles and the rises and falls of various cinematic movements. selected israeli films will be examined and discussed. this course will be taught by an israeli film director.
offering: host
grading: a-f
credits: 1.00
gen ed area: ha-cjst
prereq: none

cjst238 political thought and politics of israel
israel was founded as a state of the jewish people. what political principles and practices are distinctive to it, and what ideas does it share more generally with modern political thought? are there israeli ideas of time, space, citizenship, virtue, equality, diversity, liberty, and justice? we will also look at israel's basic laws, electoral system, political parties, legislative and judicial decisions to see whether and how they form a political community.
offering: crosslisting
grading: opt
credits: 1.00
gen ed area: sb-goingvt
identical with: goingvt394
prereq: none

cjst240 when private meets public in israeli documentary films
israeli documentary films reflect freedom of speech and democracy, but it wasn't always the case. the films that israeli filmmakers were
commissioned to create in the very early ’50s had to reflect the official voice of the Israeli establishment. There was no room but to serve the cause of building a nation in a state that had just been established. The year 1967 marked the beginning of a new era when, for the first time, the Israeli public broadcaster was on air, yet some daring films that were made back then were censored and have never been shown. Modernist documentaries of filmmakers David Perlov and David Greenberg opened the field to various voices; when the 1973 war broke, the consensus in Israeli society fell apart, and critical and radical documentaries started to be produced. The major revision happened when Channel 2 was licensed and the New Israeli Foundation for Cinema and TV was founded. Both paved the road for individual voices that could, from then on, tell very personal stories (no longer serving the establishment) and deconstruct controversial social and cultural subject matters.

Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: HA-CJST  
Prereq: None

CJST241 Judaism(s): Religion, Power, and Identity in Jewish History  
This course will offer students an intensive survey of the major currents in Jewish social, political, intellectual, and religious history, while focusing in particular on what it means to be a Jew in the twenty-first century. It explores how Jews are a culture, ethnicity, nation, nationality, race, religion, and more and how Jewishness gets constructed differently across different times and contexts. It looks both locally and globally at the plurality of Jewish identities. Students will read primary historical texts from prominent Jewish thinkers and writers, as well as texts written about Jews by non-Jews.

Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI  
Identical With: RELI204  
Prereq: None

CJST243 Jewish Graphic Novels  
This course will explore issues in Judaism and the Jewish experience through the medium of the graphic novel. Students will not only gain proficiency in critically reading graphic novels and sequential art, they will also gain a grasp on some of the major issues in Jewish history including (but not limited to) immigration, life in America, the Holocaust, and Israel/Palestine.

Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI  
Identical With: RELI217  
Prereq: None

CJST244 Introduction to The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament): From Canaan to Canon  
This course will offer students an introduction to the Hebrew Bible, or Tanakh, one of the three core scriptures of Judaism. The Hebrew Bible not only provides the mythic prehistory of both humanity and the Jewish people, it is also one of our best and most complete texts for understanding the world of ancient southwest Asia and the people who inhabited it. Approaching the Bible from a historical, critical hermeneutic allows students to analyze the information on the page as a separate data set from the religious or theological meaning of the page to various groups. In addition to reading selections from all three sections of the Tanakh, students will also read noncanonical or apocryphal texts and discuss the reasons why these texts were not included in the Tanakh, although some of them are included in versions of the Old Testament. Students will also read various secondary texts to help them better understand issues of biblical authorship, the archaeology that helps us better understand the world of the Bible, and the social and political pressures that shaped the text into what we know today.

Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI  
Identical With: RELI201, MDST203  
Prereq: None

CJST272 Thinking After the Holocaust  
The Holocaust is an epoch-making event that challenges many ideas about the modern world, human nature, and God. In this course, we examine some of the difficult questions raised in the aftermath of this catastrophe: Can one adequately represent such a catastrophe in words and images? What is the relation between modern bureaucracy and genocide? How have Jewish thinkers answered the question: Where was God during this dark period? Is it possible to forgive such atrocities, and if so, who has the right of forgiveness? In our search for answers, we will engage various sources, including philosophical and theological texts, films, and memorial sites.

Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI  
Identical With: RELI272  
Prereq: None

CJST278 American Jewish Humor  
This course is a look at American Jewish history through one particular lens—that of the peculiar phenomenon of Jewish humor. There is a long history of Jews and humor that has nothing to do with the immigrant experience in America, but the immigrant experience in America nonetheless has a great deal to do with the humor that has been produced by Jews in this country, particularly in the 20th century. We will read some historical background on American Jews and some humor theory as our foundation for our understanding of film viewings, short stories, stand-up comedy performances, and musical recordings. By looking at the way Jewish humor changed throughout the 20th century, we should, in the end, be able to chart the way the lives of American Jews were changing and have a deeper understanding of the American Jewish experience.

Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST  
Identical With: RELI278, AMST292  
Prereq: None

CJST308 Funny, You Don't Look Jewish: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Judaism  
This course will give advanced students the opportunity to engage deeply with critical current issues in Judaism, including race, gender, and sexuality. In both the U.S. and Israel, issues of Jewish whiteness (or not), straightness (or not), and maleness (or not) dominate conversations about the direction Judaism will take in the 21st century and how Judaism can remain relevant in an increasingly globalized and secularized world. Students in this course will read contemporary scholarship on those who have been traditionally pushed to the margins of Judaism and will be asked to wade into murky ethical waters as they think about the power of naming and who has the authority to determine “in” and “out.”
CJST313 Performing Jewish Studies: History, Methods, and Models
Jewish studies is broad in terms of disciplinary approaches and diverse in the ways it conceives its subject matter. This course will focus on the historical roots of the field of Jewish studies, models that advance theories and methods of Jewish studies, and on how such studies are being differently forged and performed in different disciplines, including Jewish history, Jewish literary studies, anthropology, sociology, and religious studies.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI308, FGSS313
Prereq: None

CJST319 Crisis, Creativity, and Modernity in the Weimar Republic, 1918-1933
Born in defeat and national bankruptcy; beset by disastrous inflation, unemployment, and frequent changes of government; and nearly toppled by coup attempts, the Weimar Republic (1918-1933) produced some of the most influential and enduring examples of modernism. Whether in music, theater, film, painting, photography, design, or architecture, the Weimar years marked an extraordinary explosion of artistic creativity. New approaches were likewise taken in the humanities, social sciences, psychology, medicine, science, and technology, and new ideas about sexuality, the body, and the role of women were introduced. Nevertheless, Weimar modernism was controversial and generated a backlash that caused forces on the political right to mobilize to ultimately bring down the republic. This advanced seminar explores these developments and seeks to understand them within their political, social, and economic contexts to allow for a deeper understanding of Weimar culture and its place within the longer-term historical trajectory of Germany and Europe. This perspective allows for an appreciation of the important links between Weimar modernism and Imperial Germany, as well as an awareness of some of the important continuities between the Weimar and Nazi years.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST313, RELI396
Prereq: None

CJST351 Debate and Destruction: Jews and Christians in the Middle Ages
This course will consider relations between the Jewish minority and their Christian neighbors in England before the Jews’ expulsion in 1290. We will also look at how the Jews are depicted in subsequent Christian writing. We will read texts originally written in Hebrew, French, and Latin (all in translation) as well as English, giving us a sense of the conversations that took place between two groups that were both inextricably bound together and set apart by centuries of conflict and persecution. Among the issues we will explore are: the popularity of Jewish-Christian debate as a literary form, the Crusades, gender roles and gender fluidity, Jewish and Christian apocalyptic programs, and the curious afterlife of Jews in Middle English literature.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL351, MDST351, RELI351
Prereq: None

CJST401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CJST402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CJST411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

CJST412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT