AHEB 102: Introductory Hebrew (Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri 10:25 – 11:20)
General Education Category: Foreign Languages
Acquiring the Hebrew language while being able to function in it, using skills including reading, writing, speaking and listening. The methods used in this class will include a wide range of educational techniques; including written and oral exercises, dramatizations and simulations of typical life situations in America and Israel. Via our text book the student will be exposed to different elements from Israeli and Jewish culture, as well as the tools for understanding it better. This course is a continuation of Hebrew 101 course and it builds on the foundations, which were acquired in the prior semester.
Dr. Sarit Moskowitz, saritandmark@hotmail.com

AJST/REL 151: Foundational Jewish Texts: (Tues/Thurs 1:15-2:35)
General Education Category: Humanities
In every era, Jews have responded to their political, geographical and historical situations through a variety of textual means. Many of these literary works became elevated to the status of the sacred and were thus employed by subsequent generations as a way of comprehending the events and situations of their own time. Furthermore, previous textual responses became guides for setting future paths and direction for Jewish continuity. In other words, what was significant then is often significant now, and may be significant for the future.
The critical study of texts requires us to understand them in the context of time and place. In this course we will examine a variety of canonical Jewish texts from ancient times until the present. We will consider how each was a meaningful voice regarding the affairs of its own era and to what extent it remains significant in our own day. With each topic, therefore, students will read a variety of primary sources and related secondary sources. Through the study analysis of these works, students will be able by the end of the course to demonstrate knowledge of foundational Jewish texts. In so doing, students will gain an awareness of Jewish issues, concerns, values, and responses at various historical moments and in relation to and interaction with host cultures in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere.
Rabbi Don Cashman, dcashman@albany.edu

AHEB 202: Intermediate Hebrew (Mon/Wed/Fri 11:30 – 12:20)
This course in Modern Hebrew is for students who have completed the Hebrew 201 course with a passing grade, or have otherwise acquired comparable proficiencies. The class builds upon Hebrew 201 to provide opportunities for the review and development of spoken and written Hebrew for study of Hebrew within the context of Israeli culture. Grammar foundations are expanded upon and refined while vocabulary is further developed while practicing conversational skills, reading, and writing in Modern Hebrew.
Dr. Sarit Moskowitz, saritandmark@hotmail.com

AJST/AHIS 250: Holocaust in History (Tues/Thurs 8:45-10:05)
General Education Category: International Perspectives
The Holocaust is a singular and central event in twentieth century world history. The assault on European Jewry and others by Nazi Germany and its allies during World War II irrevocably changed the course of Jewish and world history. This course aims to provide students with a basic understanding of the specific social and political context in which the Holocaust occurred, how it was carried out, and some of its effects.
Dr. Arthur Brenner, abrenner@albany.edu

AJST/AREL 256 & HIS 266: World Jewry Since the Holocaust (Mon/Wed 2:45-4:05)
General Education Category: International Perspectives
More than two generations have passed since the end of World War II and the Nazi Holocaust and yet the
attempt to exterminate the Jews plays an increasingly large role in contemporary Jewish life. It stands at the center of modern Jewish identity, is the topic of innumerable novels, films, and scholarly studies, and is regularly evoked in political discourse. In this class, we will investigate several different cultural controversies and legacies that have shaped our understanding of the Holocaust, including 1) its contested role in US and Israeli societies; 2) Hannah Arendt's provocative thesis regarding Eichmann and "the banality of evil"; 3) its invocation in the 1970s/80s campaign to "save" Soviet Jewry; and 4) the question of historical truth and the Holocaust memoir. By the end of the course, students will have a clearer understanding of how post-war Jewish communities have contended with the legacy of the Holocaust and why it continues to remain a subject of deliberation.

Prof. Barry Trachtenberg, btrachtenberg@albany.edu

AHEB/AJST 309: 20th Century Hebrew Literature—Breaking the Silence by the Second Generation Israeli Holocaust Survivors (Mon/Wed/Fri 12:35 – 1:30)

General Education Category: International Perspectives

The emotional ramifications of the Holocaust were not much of a theme in modern Israeli writing until the late 1960's. Where were the voices of the Holocaust survivors? What were the causes for their silence, and what were the forces behind the breaking of this silence? What was the literature on the topic of the Holocaust like in Israel prior to the 60's and how did it change its character, and what caused the change? In this course we will explore the reasons for the silence as well as the reasons for breaking it. We will explore the role of the first and the second generations in changing the character of the literature on this topic. Through short stories, novels, bibliographies, as well as interviews by a number of different modern Israeli writers. In this course we will analyze the role of literature in exposing the trauma of the Holocaust, and examine the extent to which the literature served as an agent of healing. We will further explore the manner in which male and female authors wrote and dealt with the trauma of the Holocaust. The class will examine the authors’ backgrounds in order to understand what influenced their writings. We will examine the literary devices used by the writers to present and deal with this emotionally charged topic. The different styles of writing and the various ways in which the narrative was constructed will be explored.

Dr. Sarit Moskowitz, saritandmark@hotmail.com

AJST 357: West European Jewry in Modern Times (11:45-1:05)

General Education Category: International Perspectives

Can modernizing societies successfully absorb and integrate minority populations into their mainstream? If so, how can this be accomplished? This course will provide case studies looking at how, between the time of the French Revolution and the Nazi Era, Western European societies (primarily in England, France, Germany, and Austria), and the Jews who lived in them, confronted the novel challenge of whether and how to resolve "the Jewish Question". Could Jews become, and be allowed to become, full, contributing citizens to their societies? For their part, most Jews embraced the new opportunities offered by full civic equality, and we will explore the ways this took place and how this also affected Jewish life and communities in Western Europe. The response by Europeans was more mixed, with some accepting and embracing the new arrangements, and others challenging and resisting these processes. Thus the course looks both at Jewish emancipation and modernization, on the one hand, and the development of modern antisemitism, on the other. The course will include some lecture and considerable discussion of the issues raised by these topics. Students will also opportunities to select topics for their own written work. Among the readings may be a graphic novel/biography.

Dr. Arthur Brenner, abrenner@albany.edu