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 textbook 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/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/AHIS/AREL 254: The Jews in the Modern World (Tues/Thurs 11:45 – 1:05)
General Education Category: International Perspectives
Beginning with the end of the late Middle Ages and the emergence of the Enlightenment, this class explores how Jewish communities responded to the demands of an ever-modernizing world. In particular, this course examines the ways that Jews and Jewish communities sought to create expressions of Judaism that were no longer dependent on a strictly legal (rabbinic) definition of Judaism, and the response of rabbinic Judaism to these challenges. Students will examine the rise of Hasidism, the aims of the Haskalah (“Enlightened” Jewry), Jewish nationalism, the creation of secular Jewish cultures, the world wars, modern antisemitism and the Nazi Holocaust, and the emergence of Jewish centers in the United States and Israel.
Dr. Arthur Brenner, abrenner@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/AHIS 360: Bearing Witness: Holocaust Diaries and Memoirs (Mon/Wed 2:45 – 4:05)
General Education Category: International Perspectives
A study in diaries, autobiographies, and memoirs of Jews written during and after the Nazi Holocaust. This course considers the complex historical questions raised by such works, including: What can be learned about the Holocaust through autobiographical writing? To what extent were the authors aware of the scope of the attacks on European Jewry beyond their own immediate experience? What responses were available to Jews during this period? How did the authors make sense of their experiences? What are the merits and limits of autobiographical writing as a historical resource? How do accounts of the period change as authors’ chronological proximity to the events increases? In what ways are memoirs of the Holocaust shaped by the events occurring at the time in which they written?
Prof. Barry Trachtenberg, btrachtenberg@albany.edu