SPRING 2013: Judaic Studies and Hebrew Courses

http://www.albany.edu/judaic_studies/index.shtml
http://www.albany.edu/llc/otherlanguages.shtml#heb

JST 150: Survey of Jewish Civilization (Mon/Wed 2:45 – 4:05)
After being provided with a chronological and geographical map of the Jewish experience, participants will read extensively in primary sources to introduce the dimensions of Jewish culture and civilization. The course will explore the principal epochs of Jewish history: Biblical, post-Biblical, medieval, modern and contemporary. Guided by the instructor, students will analyze and reflect on narrative, legal, religious, philosophical and historical texts and through their readings will be introduced to the breadth of the Jewish experience through the ages. Rabbi David Gordis, PhD, david.gordis@gmail.com

AJST/AREL 155: Judaism — Traditions and Practices (Tues/Thurs 1:15 – 2:35)
In this course we familiarize ourselves with the significant events, writings, and concepts of Judaism, and examine Jewish religious and cultural traditions and practices from the Rabbinic period to the present. We shall focus on Jewish law and custom related to the annual calendar cycle, as well as life cycle events from cradle (and before) to grave (and after). We will seek to understand the differentiation of beliefs and practices of the various Jewish denominations. We will explore such daily practices such as prayer, kashrut, and consider how modernity continues to effect changes on Judaism. Rabbi Don Cashman, dcashman@albany.edu

AJST/AHIS/AREL 254: The Jews in the Modern World (Tues/Thurs 11:45 – 1:05)
This survey of modern Jewish history from the 1600s to the present emphasizes the Jewish encounter with modernity in both Western and Eastern Europe. Themes include the struggle for enlightenment and civil rights; religious reforms in Judaism, the Hasidic movement, reactions to Antisemitism, Jewish nationalist and political movements, the Holocaust, events leading up to the founding of the State of Israel, and Jewish history in the United States. Course materials include textbooks, original documents, film and video segments, news articles, and three firsthand accounts from different periods. Course requirements include a midterm and final exam, plus one or two essays and several short assignments. Dr. Arthur Brenner, abrenner@albany.edu

AJST/AHIS 275: Antisemitism in Historical Perspective (Tues/Thurs 8:45 – 10:05)
The course explores various forms and manifestations of anti-Jewish hatred in the ancient world, the Middle Ages, and in modern history. It will also examine several contemporary manifestations of Antisemitism. It will examine how antisemitic hatred has been used for various purposes, and how Jews have responded to its challenge. The course explores the ideological, political, and socioeconomic underpinnings of Antisemitism, allowing us to see how anti-Jewish intolerance and prejudice became embedded in the worldviews of significant sectors of society. Course materials include textbooks, original documents, film and video segments, news articles, and Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice. Course requirements include a midterm and final exam, plus one or two essays and several short assignments. Dr. Arthur Brenner, abrenner@albany.edu

AHEB 102: Introductory Hebrew (Mon/Wed/Fri 10:25 – 11:20)
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.
Ms. Sarit Moskowitz, saritandmark@hotmail.com

AHEB 202: Intermediate Hebrew (Mon/Wed/Fri 11:30 – 12:20)
This course in Modern Hebrew is for students who have passed Hebrew 201, or have otherwise acquired
comparable proficiencies. The class builds upon Hebrew 201 to provide opportunities for the review and development of spoken, written Hebrew, and for study of Hebrew and Israeli culture. Grammar foundations are being expended upon as well as vocabulary. **Ms. Sarit Moskowitz, saritandmark@hotmail.com**

**AHEB/AJST 309: 20th Century Hebrew Literature (Mon/Wed/Fri 12:35 – 1:30)**  
Breaking the Silence by the Second Generation Israeli Holocaust Survivors.  
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. **Ms. Sarit Moskowitz, saritandmark@hotmail.com**