Hebrew

The Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures offers a major and a minor in Hebrew. As a major in Hebrew, students can expect to gain proficiency in the language, study the area’s literary and cultural landmarks, and gain familiarity with the historical context.

Language Placement: Placement tests are required for all students entering our language programs. Students may be eligible for up to 6 units of back-credit based on advanced placement and successful completion of the recommended course. Native speakers are not eligible for back-credit; evidence of secondary or post-secondary study of the language is required. Any units received from back-credit cannot be counted toward the major or minor.

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For a list of affiliated faculty, please visit the Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures faculty page.

The Major in Hebrew

Prerequisites:
- Beginning Modern Hebrew I (HBRW 105D), Beginning Modern Hebrew II (HBRW 106D), Intermediate Modern Hebrew I (HBRW 213D), Intermediate Modern Hebrew II (HBRW 214D) — whether by course work or placement

Required courses (30 Units)
- History, Text and Identity: Introduction to Jewish Civilization (JINE 208F)
- Introduction to Islamic Civilization (JINE 210C)
- 12 units from courses in Hebrew at the 300- or 400-level
- 6 units from 300- or 400-level courses in Jewish studies and Hebrew literature and culture
- 3 additional elective units at the 300- or 400-level in Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies
- Capstone Seminar (HBRW 4001)

Senior honors
- HBRW 488, HBRW 489 + thesis (A student must take capstone even when writing a senior honors thesis).

Additional Information

Regulations for language and culture majors
- Two semesters of the field language must be taken at Washington University.
- 300- or 400-level courses of a language may be counted toward the major.
- A maximum of 12 units from 300- or 400-level language courses can be counted toward the major.
- Note that 300- or 400-level courses that include the study of texts in the original language may be considered courses about history, literature, or religious studies rather than language courses.
- Back-credit granted for language courses does not count for the major.
- Students enrolled in WU study abroad programs (during the regular academic semester) can earn a maximum of 9 units subject to review by adviser and DUS. Summer programs and transfer courses can be granted as much as 6 units subject to review by adviser and DUS. However, a limit of 9 units in total can be applied to the major, whether the units are earned in study abroad, summer programs, or transfer courses.
- No credit will be given for courses taken outside the department other than those which are cross-listed.
- A minimum of 27 units is required for the major. 21 of those must be from 300- or 400-level courses.
- Double counting courses: a maximum of 3 units used for the major can be counted toward another major or minor.
- To be eligible for Senior Honors a student must maintain a GPA of 3.65 through the sixth semester.
- A Capstone Seminar may be taken in junior or senior year.
- Students have to maintain an average of B in all courses for the major. A grade of B- must be earned in each language course in order to advance to next level.
- No pass/fail course can count toward either prerequisites or major.

Study Abroad: Students majoring in Hebrew are encouraged to participate in the Washington University Study Abroad program. The university currently sponsors preapproved programs of study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the University of Haifa, Aalim Arabic Program in Morocco, Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, and the American University of Cairo. Students may enroll in summer programs anytime at their discretion; however, semester abroad is usually during the junior year and after a minimum of one year of language study at Washington University.

Senior Honors: Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies majors who have a cumulative GPA of 3.65 or higher after six semesters are eligible to apply for candidacy for departmental senior honors. Once they receive departmental approval, candidates must satisfactorily complete a senior honors thesis in order to be considered for departmental honors. Please visit the department web page for further information and requirements at http://jinlec.wustl.edu/undergraduate/senior-honors-guidelines-and-evaluation-form.

The Minor in Hebrew

Prerequisites:
• Beginning Modern Hebrew I (HBRW 105D), Beginning Modern Hebrew II (HBRW 106D) (or Advanced Beginning Modern Hebrew I (HBRW 151D)) — whether by course work or placement

**Required courses (18 Credits)**

- History, Text and Identity: Introduction to Jewish Civilization (JINE 208F)
- 9 credit units from 200-, 300-, or 400-level courses in Hebrew language
- 6 credit units from 300- or 400-level courses in Jewish studies and Hebrew literature and culture

**Additional Information**

**Regulations for all language and culture minors**

- Two semesters of the language must be taken at Washington University.
- No more than 12 credit units can be from language courses.
- Note that 300- or 400-level courses that include the study of texts in the original language may be considered courses about history, literature, or religious studies rather than language courses.
- Preapproved WU study abroad programs during the regular academic semester, summer programs, and transfer courses can earn a maximum of 3 credits subject to review by adviser and DUS.
- Back-credit granted for language courses does not count for the minor.
- No credits will be given to courses taken outside the department other than those which are cross-listed.
- A minimum of 18 credits is required for minor.
- Double counting courses: a maximum of 3 credits used for the minor can be counted for another major or minor.
- Students have to maintain an average of B for the minor. A grade of B- must be earned in each language course in order to advance to the next language course.
- No pass/fail course can count toward either prerequisites or minor.

**L74 HBRW 101D Beginning Biblical Hebrew I**
This course prepares the student to read Biblical literature in Hebrew. Same as L75 JINE 101D.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS EN: H

**L74 HBRW 105D Beginning Modern Hebrew I**
For the student with no knowledge of Hebrew. Students with background in Hebrew are required to take the placement exam and encouraged to consider HBRW 151D. Foundation for modern conversational Hebrew. Skills for writing and speaking introduced. Five class hours a week plus laboratory work. Limit: 15 students per section. Same as L75 JINE 105D.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

**L74 HBRW 106D Beginning Modern Hebrew II**
Foundation for modern conversational Hebrew. Skills for writing and speaking introduced. Three class hours a week plus laboratory work. Limit: 15 students per section. Same as L75 JINE 106D.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

**L74 HBRW 151D Advanced Beginning Modern Hebrew I**
Designed for the student with some background in Hebrew. Emphasis is on review of grammar, increased fluency and vocabulary enrichment. This course prepares students for HBRW 106D. Limit 15 students. Same as L75 JINE 151D.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

**L74 HBRW 179 Freshman Seminar: Midrash**
Freshman Seminar. The aim of this course is to introduce students to Midrash, the highly fascinating literature of rabbinic biblical interpretation. Among the topics studied are: How did the classical rabbis read the Bible? What is the relationship between the plain meaning of the biblical text and the polyphone interpretations of Midrash? How can numerous, at times even contradictory, interpretations of the same verse coexist? What is the function of imaginative narratives, parables and folklore in Midrash? Initially the Midrashic logic may seem elusive from the viewpoint of a modern Western reader; in turn its creative thinking proves to be smart, playful, at times even slippery, and yet substantial. Addressing the literary, historical and cultural context in which rabbinic Midrash developed, we get to know a variety of Midrashic collections and styles covering a time span from late antiquity to the Middle Ages. All primary sources are read in translation. Throughout the semester we devote time to discussing practical questions such as how to use the library’s catalogue and (electronic) reference sources, as well as techniques for structuring and writing students’ essays. Same as JINE 179
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

**L74 HBRW 213D Intermediate Modern Hebrew I**
Reading and discussion on the intermediate level of selected topics pertaining to contemporary Israel. Review and further study of grammar and development of conversational skills. Prerequisite: grade of B- or better in HBRW 106D or placement by examination. Same as L75 JINE 213D.
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

**L74 HBRW 214D Intermediate Modern Hebrew II**
Intermediate modern Hebrew reading and discussion of modern Hebrew fiction. Development of language skills in special drill sessions. Conducted in Hebrew. Prerequisite: HBRW 213D or equivalent. Same as L75 JINE 214D.
L74 HBRW 300 Intro to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
A survey of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) examined in the historical and cultural context of the ancient Near East. Traditional Jewish and Christian interpretation of the Bible is discussed. No knowledge of Hebrew required; no prerequisites. Same as Re St 300
Credit 5 units. A&S: LA & S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L74 HBRW 306 Modern Jewish Writers
What is Jewish literature? While we begin with — and return to — the traditional question of definition/s, we take an unorthodox approach to the course. Reading beyond Bellow, Ozick and Wiesel, we look for enlightenment in unexpected places: Egypt, Latin America, Australia. Recent works by Philip Roth, Andre Aciman, Simone Zelitch and Terri-ann White are supplemented by guest lectures, film, short stories and significant essays. We focus on issues of language, memory and place. Background knowledge is not required, though it is warmly welcomed. Same as Comp Lit 306
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH & S: IQ, HUM BU: ETH, HUM FA: SSP

L74 HBRW 320D Third-Level Modern Hebrew I
Improves proficiency in the oral and written use of modern Hebrew through reading and discussion of short stories, Israeli newspaper articles, and other selected materials. Students discuss, in Hebrew, current events and public issues related to contemporary Israeli society. Prerequisite: grade of B- or better in HBRW 214D or placement by examination. Same as L75 JINE 320D.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA & S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: HUM, IS

L74 HBRW 322D Third-Level Modern Hebrew II
Same as L75 JINE 322D.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA & S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: IS

L74 HBRW 324 Hebrew of the Media
Reading and discussion of newspaper articles. Viewing and analysis of television news programs and films. Prepares students to become familiar with the language and typical issues of the Israeli media and to discuss in writing and speech the issues in the news. Prerequisite: HBRW 322 or by departmental approval. Same as L75 JINE 3241.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA

L74 HBRW 340 Israeli Women Writers
Study of selected novels and shorter fiction by women. Attention to the texts as women's writing and as products of Israeli literature. No knowledge of Hebrew necessary; all readings in English translation. Same as L77 WGSS 340, L75 JINE 340.

L74 HBRW 3401 Capstone Seminar
Same as JINE 4001
Credit 3 units.

L74 HBRW 350 Israeli Culture and Society
Same as JINE 350
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, SD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: HUM FA: SSP

L74 HBRW 384 Intro to Biblical Hebrew
This course enables students to read the Bible in the original Hebrew. Review of Hebrew grammar. History of the Hebrew language. Intended for students with a foundation in modern Hebrew. Prerequisite: HBRW 214D or instructor's permission. Same as L75 JINE 3841.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA & S: IQ, LCD, LS EN: H

L74 HBRW 385D Topics in Biblical Hebrew Texts:
Prerequisite: HBRW 384 or permission of the instructor. Same as L23 Re St 385D, L75 JINE 385D.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM EN: H

L74 HBRW 387C Topics in Hebrew Literature
Hebrew works read in English translation. Prerequisite: sophomore standing; previous courses in literature recommended. Same as L75 JINE 387C.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH FA: Lit

L74 HBRW 4001 Fourth-Level Modern Hebrew I
Introduction to modern Israeli literature and literary analysis for the advanced student of Hebrew. Topics include selected genres, influential writers, and the relationship between literature and society. Conducted in Hebrew. Prerequisite: grade of B- or better in HBRW 322D, or permission of instructor. Same as L15 Drama 4010, L75 JINE 4010.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA, WI A&S: IQ, LCD, WI BU: HUM, IS

L74 HBRW 401W Seminar in Hebrew Literature
This course is designated as Writing Intensive. Same as L75 JINE 401W.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA, WI A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD, WI LS EN: H

L74 HBRW 402 Fourth-Level Modern Hebrew II
Students with advanced proficiency maintain and develop reading, speaking and writing skills. Class conducted in Hebrew. Readings focus on key works of Hebrew poetry and fiction from earlier in this century and from contemporary Israel; additional
reading and discussion of essays and editorials from current Israeli press, viewing of films and current news broadcasts produced in Israel. Prerequisite: HBRW 4010. Same as L75 JINE 402.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD, LS BU: IS

**L74 HBRW 420 Topics in Modern Hebrew Literature**
Various themes in Hebrew belles lettres, e.g., the intertwining of politics and literature, the survival of rabbinic metaphors. Same as L75 JINE 420.
Credit 3 units. A&S: LA A&S: IQ, LCD FA: Lit

**L74 HBRW 421 Study of Selected Texts in Modern Hebrew Literature**
Major works in Hebrew belles lettres by writers such as Bialik and Agnon studied in detail and depth.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD FA: Lit

**L74 HBRW 440 Topics in Rabbinic Texts: Mishnah and Gemara**
The course aims to introduce students to independent reading of selected rabbinic texts in the original language. We focus on a number of topics representing the range of rabbinic discussion, including legal, narrative and ethical issues. At the same time, we study the necessary linguistic tools for understanding rabbinic texts. Prerequisites: HBRW 385D or HBRW 4010 or instructor's permission. Same as L75 JINE 440, L23 Re St 4401.
Credit 3 units. A&S: TH A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD EN: H

**L74 HBRW 444 The Mystical Tradition in Judaism**
What is Jewish “mysticism”? What is its relationship to the category of “religion”? Is Jewish mysticism just one form of a general phenomenon common to a variety of religious traditions or is it a specific interpretation of biblical, rabbinic, and other Jewish traditions? Taking the above questions as a starting point, this course aims at a systematic and historically contextualized analysis of a broad range of Jewish texts that are commonly classified as “mystical.” (All primary texts are read in translation.) At the same time, we explore such overarching themes as: the interplay of esoteric exegesis of the Bible and visionary experiences; the place of traditional Jewish law (halakhah) within mystical thought and practice; the role of gender, sexuality and the body in Jewish mystical speculation and prayer; the relationship between mysticism and messianism; Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions and their mutual impact on Jewish mysticism; the “absence of women” from Jewish mystical movements; esoteric traditions of an elite vs. mysticism as a communal endeavor; and the tension between innovation and (the claim to) tradition in the history of Jewish mysticism. Prerequisite: JINE 208F Introduction to Jewish Civilization or permission of the instructor.
Same as Re St 444

Credit 3 units. A&S: TH, CD, CD A&S: IQ, HUM, LCD BU: ETH, IS

**L74 HBRW 488 Independent Work for Senior Honors**
This course to be taken in the fall semester. Prerequisite: senior standing, eligibility for honors, and permission of the department.
Credit 3 units.

**L74 HBRW 489 Independent Work for Senior Honors**
This course to be taken in the spring semester. Prerequisite: senior standing, eligibility for honors, and permission of the department.
Credit 3 units.

**L74 HBRW 4973 Guided Readings in Hebrew**
Prerequisites: senior standing, and permission of the instructor and the department chair. Same as L75 JINE 4973.
Credit variable, maximum 5 units. A&S: LA

**L74 HBRW 4982 Guided Readings in Akkadian**
Prerequisites: permission of the instructor and the department chair. Same as L75 JINE 4987.
Credit variable, maximum 6 units.

**L74 HBRW 4983 Guided Readings in Hebrew**
Prerequisites: senior standing, and permission of the instructor and the department chair. Same as L75 JINE 4983.
Credit variable, maximum 5 units. A&S: LA

**L74 HBRW 4984 Guided Readings in Aramaic**
Prerequisites: permission of the instructor and the department chair. Same as L75 JINE 4984.
Credit variable, maximum 6 units.

**L74 HBRW 4985 Guided Readings in Biblical Hebrew**
Prerequisites: permission of the instructor and the department chair. Same as L75 JINE 4985.
Credit variable, maximum 6 units.