



Paideia Courses 2013/2014

Intensive Text Courses

August 19 – August 30, 2013

European Jewish Texts and Heritage, 30 hours

Dr. Roni Weinstein (Hebrew University)

Texts that portray the breadth of Jewish life in Medieval Europe, the growth of local Jewish communities and Jewish culture. Exploring themes such as the “Golden Age” in Spain, the pious of Ashkenaz, the controversy over philosophy, between foreign and Jewish cultures.

September 30 – October 11, 2013

Studying the Bible, 30 hours

Prof. Yair Zakovitch (Hebrew University)

Exposing the rich variety of interpretations, the different ideologies they convey and the continuity from pre-biblical traditions to the inter-testamental literature.

October 14 – October 25, 2013

The Midrashic Literature, 30 hours

Prof. Avigdor Shinan (Hebrew University)

Discovering the various ways in which stories are retold in the literature of the Rabbis and the variegated functions they serve therein, starting with texts that belong to the apocrypha and continuing into Midrashic and Targumic literature.

November 4 – November 15, 2013

Medieval Halachah: From Talmud to Shulhan Aruch, 30 hours

PhD Yaakov Z Meyer (Hebrew University)

What is Halachah, and why is it such a central principal in Jewish tradition? Who decides what is legal Halachic law and what isn't?

When did formal codes of Halachah develop, and why? What is the legal weight of rabbinic response written to address specific cases and situation? This course focuses on the various genres of legal writing that appeared during these centuries.

November 25 – November 29, 2013

Christianity and Judaism, 15 hours

Prof. Israel Yuval (Hebrew University)

Identifying the stumbling blocks in Jewish-Christian encounters, from Antiquity over Reformation and the Shoah to the post-war European dialogue between Jews and Christians—characterized by an unsurpassed mutual respect and candor.



December 2 – December 6, 2013

Judaism and Islam: Contact and Conflict in the Qur'an and in Muslim tradition, 15 hours
Prof. Meir Bar-Asher (Hebrew University), 15 hours

A historical and doctrinal outline of the relationships between Judaism and Islam throughout the ages and how these are reflected in the Qur'an and the Hadith, with an analysis of Midrashic influence on Islamic scripture.

January 6 – January 17, 2014

The Hasidic Path: Theory and Society, 30 hours
PhD Cand. Assaf Tamari (Ben Gurion University)

Presenting the central Hassidic ideas by reading excerpts from the vast Hasidic library, and focusing on the relationship between theory and social order in Hasidism.

January 20 – January 31, 2014

The Jewish Society in Modern Era: Between Tradition and Modernity, 30 hours
Prof. Mordechai Zalkin (Ben-Gurion University)

A concentrated look at the main religious, educational, social and economic processes with crucial impact on the Jewish collective consciousness and way of life from the mid 18th century to the Holocaust.

February 3 – February 14, 2014

Kabbalah and Its Place in Late Medieval and Early Modern Jewish Culture, 30 hours
Prof. Boaz Huss (Ben-Gurion University)

Major concepts and historical development of early Kabbalah, examining themes such as theosophy, theurgy, the problem of evil and the structure of the human psyche. Central texts include the Bahir, Abraham Abulafia and the Zohar.

February 17 – 21, 2014

Modern Hebrew Literature, 15 hours
Prof. Anat Feinberg (The Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, Heidelberg)

Identifying the landmarks of modern Hebrew literature during recent generations: the writers of prose and poetry classics who designed the topics, structures, characters and style of Modern Hebrew Literature.

February 24 – March 7, 2014

Maimonides: Theology, Rationality and Cultural Heritage, 30 hours
Dr. Nicham Ross (Ben Gurion University)

Reading Maimonides, the foremost Jewish scholar of all time and one of civilization's greatest minds, portraying his personality and thought as rooted in Jewish tradition and highlighting his legacy and impact on subsequent Jewish generations



March 10 – March 21, 2014

Modern Jewish Philosophy – Can one live after Auschwitz? 24 hours

Yael Lin (Ben Gurion University)

This course examines the effect the Shoah (Holocaust) had on the different realms of philosophy and life: ethics, faith, culture, politics, society etc. The course inquires into the challenges the Shoah poses to ethics, religion, culture and society by focusing on excerpts from the works of Jewish (and partial Jewish) philosophers such as Emmanuel Levinas, Hanna Arendt, Hans Jonas, and Theodore Adorno.

Educators' Courses

August 2013 – March 2014

Educational Beit Midrash, Community Leadership & Project Development with Chaya Gilboa and Anneli Rådestad

This year long course focuses on finding, learning and teaching Jewish text for educational purposes and for programs in communities.

November 18 – November 22

Pedagogics & Building Program, 15 hours

Steve Israel (Jewish Education-training educators)

December 9 – December 13, 2013

Jewish Holidays and Rituals, 15 hours

Noam Zion (Shalom Hartman Institute)



Year Long Paideia Courses

August 2013 – March 2014

Rabbinic literature: Introduction and Selected Texts

Chaya Gilboa (Paideia Scholar-in-Residence)

A survey of the development of the Rabbinic Literature from the oral tradition including selections of the Mishna, Tosephta, Palestinian Talmud, Halachic Midrashim, Aggadic Midrashim and Babylonian Talmud.

August 2013 – March 2014

Bible Hermeneutics: From Midrash to Medieval Commentators

Chaya Gilboa (Paideia Scholar-in-Residence)

Presenting how the Bible was perceived through the generations by its readers and interpreters, from the Second Temple period to classical Rabbinic Literature and subsequently to the authors of medieval commentaries.

August 2013 – March 2014

Modern Hebrew

Frida Schatz (Paideia Senior Lecturer)

Intensive Ulpan studies in Modern Hebrew on three different levels geared towards a deeper understanding of the Hebrew language and its literature.



Paideia Visiting Scholars 2013-2014

Dr. Roni Weinstein (Hebrew University), Medieval European Jewish History

Dr. Roni Weinstein graduated at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at the department of Jewish History. His research focuses on the history of Jews in Italy during the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Early Modern Period.

Prof. Yair Zakovitch (Hebrew University), Bible

Prof. Yair Zakovitch' primary research interests are the Bible as literature, biblical thought and ancient interpretation of the Bible. He has served as Head of the Institute of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University, and also as its Dean of Humanities.

Prof. Avigdor Shinan (Hebrew University), Rabbinic Literature

Prof. Avigdor Shinan is Professor of Hebrew Literature. His fields of research are the Midrashic and Aggadic literature, the Aramaic Translations of the Bible and the Jewish Prayer book. His list of publication contains more than 120 scholarly articles and 8 books.

Dr. Ruth Calderon (Alma College), Rabbinic Literature

Dr. Ruth Calderon received her Ph.D. in Talmudic literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In 1989, she established the first Israeli secular, pluralistic and egalitarian Beth Midrash. In 1996 she founded ALMA which seeks to acquaint secular Israelis with Jewish culture.

Dr. Pinchas Roth (Hebrew University), Medieval Jewish Law

Dr. Pinchas Roth received his PhD from the Talmud Department at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He wrote about Halakhic literature from 13th century Southern France. His research combines methodologies of Talmudic philology, medieval history and manuscript studies.

PhD Cand. Rani Jaeger (Bar-Ilan University), Modern Jewish Culture

Rani Jaeger is the Director of the Shalom Hartman Institute School for Teachers' Education educating Jewish Studies teachers in Israeli state schools. He is also a PhD Candidate at the Bar Ilan University at the department of Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies.

Prof. Israel Yuval (Hebrew University), Medieval European Jewish History

Prof. Israel Yuval is a professor of Jewish History at the Hebrew University. He is the Director of the Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and has served as Academic Head of the Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Institute in Jewish Studies.

Prof. Meir Bar-Asher (Hebrew University), Islam and Judaism

Prof. Meir Bar-Asher teaches at the department of Arabic Language and Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he has been the director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies. Prof. Bar-Asher is an expert on Quranic Studies and Shi'i Islam.



Noam Zion (Shalom Hartman Institute), Jewish Education

Noam Zion is a senior faculty member, researcher, teacher educator and curriculum writer at Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem with a specialty in Biblical narratives, Rabbinic ethics, and Jewish holidays. His latest publication is called “Comparative Jewish Giving”.

PhD Cand. Assaf Tamari (Ben Gurion University), Kabbalah and Chassidism

Assaf Tamari is a PhD Candidate at the department for Jewish thought in Ben-Gurion University. His main field of expertise is sixteenth-century Lurianic Kabbalah, and his research is focused on the Lurianic Body Discourse.

Prof. Motti Zalkin (Ben-Gurion University), Modern European Jewish History

Prof. Motti Zalkin is an associate professor of economic history of the Jews in Eastern Europe, mainly in Lithuania, and the history of Jewish modern Jewish history at Ben-Gurion University. His special fields of interest are the social education in Eastern Europe.

Prof. Boaz Huss (Ben-Gurion University), Kabbalah

Prof. Boaz Huss teaches Kabbalah at the Goren-Goldstein Department of Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University. He is an expert of various areas of Kabbalah, including the Zohar and contemporary Kabbalah.

Prof. Anat Feinberg (The Hochschule für Jüdische Studien), Modern Hebrew Literature

Prof. Anat Feinberg received her PhD in English literature from London University and has been a lecturer in Literature and Theatre studies at Ben Gurion University and Tel Aviv University. She is now Professor in Hebrew and Jewish literature at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, Heidelberg.

Dr. Nicham Ross (Ben Gurion University), Jewish Philosophy

Dr. Nicham Ross is a lecturer in the Department of Jewish Thought at Ben Gurion University specializing in researching identity and tradition in Jewish literature from the beginning of the 20th century. He is also the Director of the Gandel Institute for Adult Jewish Learning

PhD Cand. Oded Horezky (University of Haifa), Jewish Philosophy

Oded Horezky writes his PhD at the University of Haifa. The topic of his dissertation is “Maimonides & Gersonides: Philosophy, Conservatism and Radicalism; Theological Method vs. Humanist Method”. His research interests include Medieval Jewish Philosophy as well as Modern Jewish Philosophy.