

JEWISH STUDIES COURSES AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY



SPRING 2020
CENTER FOR
JEWISH STUDIES

This publication is for informational purposes only. The listing of a course in this booklet does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Center for Jewish Studies, nor does the absence of a course necessarily imply the lack of endorsement. The goal of this publication is to aid the process of course selection by students interested in Jewish studies, and we apologize for inadvertent inclusions and exclusions.

Course listings as of January 7, 2020. Course offerings and times may change. Please check the Website of the Registrar's Office of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for updated information. <https://courses.my.harvard.edu>

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SPRING SEMESTER

GENERAL EDUCATION

[GENED 1095 Is War Inevitable?](#)

Class Number: 20318 Course ID: 214413

Spring 2020

Derek Penslar

MW 10:30am-11:45am

Why is there war? Will there always be war? This course tackles these questions through a historical overview of human conflict that incorporates approaches from International Relations, Psychology, Ethics, and Comparative Literature. The course begins by discussing the socio-biological roots of human aggression and altruism, and pre-modern justifications for war and attempts to place limits on its conduct. We will then move on to a series of case studies of modern wars, divided into six types - interstate, revolutionary, civil, colonial, separatist, and global. We will examine each type of war's effects on fighters and non-combatants alike and repercussions for post-war society. We will see how each type of war has fostered different approaches - ranging from international humanitarian law, organizations like the League of Nations and United Nations, and anti-war protest movements - to the prevention, mitigation, or resolution of conflict. We will conclude with two final case studies: the Cold War (1947-1991) and "War on Terror" (2001 -), which have reduced war's intensity but rendered it more difficult to eradicate and more potentially destructive.

Our readings will combine textbook overviews of wars and their aftermath, in-depth studies of specific topics, and primary sources such as works on military

strategy and just war theory, representations of war in literature and cinema, and diaries and memoirs. Course requirements include a take-home midterm, a final examination, and two short papers based on the primary sources.

Related Sections: Discussion TBA

GENED 1149 ONE BOOK, TWO RELIGIONS, MANY TRUTHS

Class Number: 16738 Course ID: 120880

Spring 2020

Shaye Cohen

MW 10:30am-11:45am

The Hebrew Scriptures, what Christians call the “Old Testament” and Jews call the “Bible,” are the basis of both Judaism and Christianity, and stand behind many debates in our contemporary culture wars. In this course we shall survey how this work of literature, through interpretation and re-interpretation, spawned and spawns a wide variety of truths. Implicit themes: What is truth? How do we know it when we see it? Can a text written long ago contain truths for contemporary society?

Related Sections: Discussion TBA

BIBLICAL AND ANCIENT

ANE 120B INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT 2: LATTER PROPHETS AND WRITINGS

Class Number: 19919 Course ID: 126065

Spring 2020

Andrew Teeter

TTh 10:30am-11:45am

A critical introduction to the literature and theology of the Hebrew Bible, considered in light of the historical contexts of its formation and the interpretive contexts of its reception within Judaism and Christianity. The course, the second part of a divisible, year-long sequence, will focus on the Latter Prophets and the Writings.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 1103.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1103

HDS 1300 STUDIES IN THE FORMER PROPHETS: SEMINAR

Class Number: 19119 Course ID: 203962

Spring 2020

Andrew Teeter

T 3:00pm-5:00pm

A close examination of select passages within the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings, with particular attention to large-scale compositional strategies and principles of organization, to analogical patterns, to inner-scriptural relationships, and to the nature and function of allusion within these texts. This course will also serve as a prerequisite for the spring seminar, *Rewriting Scripture in Jewish Antiquity*, which focused on the book of Chronicles in Spring 2016. The course presumes proficiency with Biblical Hebrew. Two years of Hebrew (or equivalent) required.

RELIGION 1290 ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF ISRAEL/PALESTINE FROM THE SECOND TEMPLE TO THE EARLY ISLAMIC PERIOD

Class Number: 20813 Course ID: 214627

Spring 2020

Giovanni Bazzana

Th 3:00pm-5:00pm

The course will focus on the history of Israel/Palestine in the span of time of almost a millennium that witnessed the emergence of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Specific attention will be devoted to the changing landscape of the region and, by way of case studies, to archaeological excavations as evidence for cultural, religious, and socio-economic trajectories. The study of history and archaeology will be connected with the current religious and political situation of the region in order to highlight the ways in which the memory of the past shapes the present and is in turn shaped by present ideological concerns.

Course Notes: Participation in the course includes participation to a three-weeks trip to Israel/Palestine that will take place in May before graduation and will include a week of excavation on the Magdala site.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1834

RELIGION 1399 THE TRIAL AND DEATH OF JESUS

Class Number: 20804 Course ID: 214624

Spring 2020

Giovanni Bazzana and Shaye Cohen

T 12:00pm-2:30pm

The seminar will examine the accounts of Jesus's trial and death in order to address the historical and interpretive issues connected to this important and mysterious episode. Prominent attention will be given to primary sources and to their contextualization within early Judaism. Working knowledge of Greek and/or Hebrew is required. This course is jointly offered with Harvard Divinity

School as HDS 1565.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1565

CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

COMPLIT 143 THE JEWISH LIBRARY: FOUR JEWISH CLASSICS

Class Number: 20396 Course ID: 214504

Spring 2020

David Stern

Th 3:00pm-5:45pm

Judaism is a famously text-centric religious culture, founded not only on a single book, the Hebrew Bible, but profoundly involved in the study and ritual use of other classic texts like the Babylonian Talmud, the Prayerbook, Biblical commentaries like that of Rashi, and the Passover Haggadah. This course will study the development of these four books and their transformation from texts into books with distinct physical and material features. In the case of each book, the text will be studied historically-- “excavated” for its sources and roots, and its subsequent development over the centuries—and holistically, as a canonical document in Jewish tradition. Class time will be devoted primarily to learning to read the primary sources in translation; supplementary secondary readings will provide historical and cultural context. The seminar will also include regular visits to Houghton Library to look at manuscripts, early printed editions, and facsimiles of these books in order to study the changing shapes these books have taken as a key to understanding how they were studied and used, and to consider the relationship of materiality to textuality. While each book will raise its own set of issues, we will repeatedly deal with three basic questions: What makes a “Jewish” text? How do these books represent different aspects of Jewish identity? What can these books tell us about the canonical books of other religious traditions?

No previous background in either Judaism or Jewish history is required. All readings in English translation. While this course is not a formal introduction to Judaism, it does aim to introduce students to Judaism and Jewish culture from inside its classic texts.

Jointly Offered with: Faculty of Arts & Sciences as HEBREW 131
Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1456

COMPLIT 167 PRAYER AND PRAYERBOOK (TEFILLAH AND SIDUR)

Class Number: 20961 Course ID: 215117

Spring 2020

David Stern

T 12:45pm-3:30pm

The institution of organized prayer—*Tefillah be-Tzibbur*—is one of the most complex phenomena in Judaism because it has served historically not only as a medium for worshipping God but also for expressing communal religious identity. In the first half of this course, we will study the development of prayer from the Bible until the medieval period through reading primary sources--select passages from the Bible, Talmud and midrash, Geonic literature and other rabbinic texts—as well as secondary works for historical and literary background. We will also trace the development of *piyyut*, Hebrew liturgical poetry, and what it can tell us about the character of Jewish prayer. In the second part of the course, we will study the history of the prayerbook as a physical, material object from the early medieval period into the modern. Special attention will be paid to the great illustrated Ashkenazi and Italian *mahzorim* (holiday prayerbooks) and *siddurim*, and to the place of the visual imagination in Jewish religious culture. One class will also be devoted to the development of the synagogue and sacred space. The course will also include visits to Houghton Library to view original editions and rare facsimiles of manuscripts.

While the class itself will be conducted in English, all primary sources will be read in Hebrew. Students should be able to read unpointed Hebrew texts

Jointly Offered with: Faculty of Arts & Sciences as HEBREW 167

Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1453

MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

COMPLIT 106 THE YIDDISH SHORT STORY: FOLK TALES, MONOLOGUES, AND POST-APOCALYPTIC PARABLES

Class Number: 16409 Course ID: 212720

Spring 2020

Saul Zaritt

W 9:00am-11:00am

Who are the storytellers of Yiddish literature? Where did their stories come from? Why did the short story become the central genre of modern Jewish literary culture? This course explores the genealogy of the Yiddish short story from

the hasidic folk tale to the modernist sketch, from the monologues of Sholem Aleichem and Isaac Bashevis Singer to the haunting narratives of David Bergelson and Der Nister. Stretching from the nineteenth century to the present, we follow the short story in its comparative contexts from Eastern Europe to Western Europe, Palestine/Israel, and the US. Note: All texts will be taught in translation; optional reading section for those with Yiddish knowledge.

Jointly Offered with: Faculty of Arts & Sciences as YIDDISH 115

COMPLIT 166 JEWS, HUMOR, AND THE POLITICS OF LAUGHTER

Class Number: 16401 Course ID: 205045

Spring 2020

Saul Zaritt

TTh 1:30pm-2:45pm

By mistake some thieves found their way into Hershele's house late at night while he was sleeping. They searched and searched but found nothing. Meanwhile, Hershele heard their rummaging and slowly crept up behind one of the thieves. He grabbed him by the arm and the thief, naturally, tried to run away. Hershele held him close, whispering, "Be still. Maybe together we'll actually find something." Beginning with jokes like this one, this course will examine the question of Jewish humor, exploring the concept of therapeutic joking, the politics of self-deprecation, and strategies of masking social critique behind a well-timed joke. Rather than reach some essential definition, we will instead investigate literature, stand-up comedy, film, and television of the twentieth and twenty-first century in order to 1) think together about the theory, mechanics, and techniques of comedy and humor and 2) ask how and when a text or performance gets labeled Jewish, by whom and for what purposes. Texts, films, and performers include: Freud, Kafka, Sholem Aleichem, the Marx Brothers, Belle Barth, Mel Brooks, Joan Rivers, Larry David, Sarah Silverman, Broad City, and Rachel Bloom.

Jointly Offered with: Faculty of Arts & Sciences as YIDDISH 166

Harvard Divinity School as HDS 2025

Related Sections: Discussion TBA

RELIGION 1525 THE HOLOCAUST: RELIGION AND REPRESENTATION

Class Number: 19609 Course ID: 135951

Spring 2020

Kevin Madigan

F 12:00pm-2:00pm

This undergraduate seminar (intended mainly for concentrators) will focus the issue of representation of religion in filmic, literary and memorial representations of the Holocaust. After a brief historical overview of the history of the Holocaust, we will turn our attention to the following issues and themes: philosophical and theological reflections on the issues of representation,

especially on the limits of traditional media to represent extremes of human evil and suffering; literary texts and films that are recognized as classics in attempting to mediate the experience of the Holocaust; issues of memory and postmemory; the aestheticization of trauma; God and evil; and the reception of cultural artifacts in Germany, Israel and the United States, particularly among religious communities.

RELIGION 1256 GENDER AND JUDAISM IN MODERN AMERICA

Class Number: 20808 Course ID: 214625

Spring 2020

Ann Braude

T 3:00pm-5:30pm

Both demographic and cultural reproduction pose critical challenges to minority religions, placing pressure on personal decisions, group dynamics, religious practices, and intergroup relations. This course follows the navigation of these pressures by American Jews, and explores the formations of gender and sexuality that result. Topics include marriage, dating and family formation, synagogue life and Jewish ritual, as well as social and political movements that have become vehicles of American Jewish identity: civil rights, second-wave feminism, and Zionism. Readings include works by Riv-Ellen Prell, Lynn Davidman, Joyce Antler and Sarah Imhoff as well as fiction by Philip Roth and Anita Diamant.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 2050

SOCIOL 98BF JUNIOR TUTORIAL: RACE AND BUREAUCRACY

Class Number: 16478 Course ID: 212661

Spring 2020

Yael Berda

T 9:45am-11:45am

We usually think of issues of race, racism and racialization as separate from organizations: corporate firms, departments of the federal government, and even schools. Yet organizations are major sites where racial categories and classifications have an impact on the lives of people and communities. Race and bureaucracy have a long history that begins with imperial and colonial practices and continues to shape the way organizations recruit employees, create different legal practices to different kinds of populations, distribute visas or prevent entry based on race and ethnicity and even decide who gets loans and credit cards. Using Hanna Arendt's work on race and bureaucracy in the shaping of totalitarian regimes as a starting point, we will explore how racial categories and classifications are constructed, maintained, manipulated and resisted within formal organizations and particularly state bureaucracies.

Following the review of the relevant literature in the first four weeks, students will design and complete their own research projects. To aid in this process, we

will have workshops throughout the course on the various steps of the research process, from formulating the question to collecting and analyzing data. We will provide brief overviews of both qualitative methods (interviews and ethnographic observations) and historical approaches (analysis of archival data).

Course Notes: Required of and limited to Sociology concentrators. Junior Tutorials are by lottery only.

Recommended Prep: Prerequisite: Sociology 97 AND Sociology Concentrators

SOCIOL 1138 THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN CONFLICT: CONTEMPORARY SOCIO-LEGAL ASPECTS

Class Number: 19017 Course ID: 212817

Spring 2020

Tally Amir

M 12:00pm-2:45pm

The decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict has attracted significant international attention and is perceived as an international threat. This seminar offers a nuanced and safe discussion of the conflict's socio-legal context and its implications for Palestinian and Israeli society, through exploring the works of scholars from diverse backgrounds and views. We will take a closer look at some of the main controversies, and how these impact the lived experiences of people in both societies, including Israel's control over and settlements in the West Bank; the separation wall and policy; concepts of citizenship, migration and refugee-hood; Palestinian and Israeli statehood; and more. Readings for the course include court decisions, international law instruments, and domestic legislation, as well as sociological analyses.

Class Notes: Course will typically end by 2pm but may run until 2:45.

CLASSICAL HEBREW (BIBLICAL AND MODERN), AND YIDDISH LANGUAGE

CLAS-HEB AB ELEMENTARY CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 11717 Course ID: 159881

Spring 2020

Andrew Teeter

MTW 9:00am-10:00am

Continuation of Classical Hebrew AA. A thorough and rigorous introduction to Biblical Hebrew, with emphasis on grammar in the first term, and translation

of biblical prose in the second. Daily preparation and active class participation mandatory. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4010B. Classical Hebrew AA/AB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4010B

CLAS-HEB 120B INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 11605 Course ID: 123873

Spring 2020

Andrew Teeter

MWF 10:30am-11:30am

Readings in prose and poetic books; review of grammar. Prerequisite: Classical Hebrew 120a or the equivalent. Jointly offered as HDS 4021.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4021.

Recommended Prep: Classical Hebrew 120a or equivalent.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4021

CLAS-HEB 130BR RAPID READING CLASSICAL HEBREW II

Class Number: 11611 Course ID: 122693

Spring 2020

Andrew Teeter

Th 12:00pm-2:00pm

Advanced reading in selected biblical poetic texts and intensive review of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew.

Recommended Prep: Classical Hebrew 130a or equivalent. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1626.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1626

MOD-HEB BB ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 11774 Course ID: 159988

Spring 2020

Irit Aharony

MTWThF 9:00am-10:00am

The course introduces students to the phonology and script as well as the fundamentals of morphology and syntax of Modern Hebrew. Emphasis is placed on developing reading, speaking, comprehension and writing skills, while introducing students to various aspects of contemporary Israeli society and culture. This is an indivisible course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as HDS 4015B. Not

open to auditors. Cannot be taken pass/fail. This is an indivisible course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit. In specific cases the instructor will consider approval of enrollment in MOD-HEB BB and MOD-HEB 120A as fulfillment of the one-year language requirement, depending on the student's proficiency level.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4015B

MOD-HEB 120B INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 10717 Course ID: 111756

Spring 2020

Irit Aharony

MTWThF 10:30am-11:30am

Continuation of Hebrew 120a.

Course Notes: Conducted primarily in Hebrew. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4041. Not open to auditors.

Recommended Prep: Modern Hebrew 120a

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4041

MOD-HEB 130B ADVANCED MODERN HEBREW II

Class Number: 11513 Course ID: 126531

Spring 2020

Irit Aharony

MW 12:00pm-1:30pm

This course is a continuation of Hebrew 130a. Texts, films, and other materials expose students to the richness and complexity of the contemporary sociolinguistics of Israeli society.

Course Notes: Conducted in Hebrew. Not open to auditors. Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 4043.

Recommended Prep: Modern Hebrew 130a, or equivalent level of proficiency.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 4043

YIDDISH AB ELEMENTARY YIDDISH II

Class Number: 11710 Course ID: 159871

Spring 2020

Sara Feldman

MTWThF 10:30am-11:45am

Continuation of Yiddish AA. Introduction to Yiddish language, literature, and culture. In the course of the year, students will acquire a thorough grounding in Yiddish grammar and will develop strong foundational reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills. The course will introduce students to the 1000-year history of Yiddish culture in Eastern Europe, the United States, and around

the world. Students will learn about the past and present of this culture through exposure to Yiddish literature, music, theater, film, radio, oral history, and the Yiddish internet—an introduction to the dynamic world of Yiddish culture and scholarship that exists today. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Course Notes: For students with little or no knowledge of Yiddish. Additional sections at different times may be added as needed. Yiddish AA/AB is an indivisible year-long course. Students must complete both terms of this course (parts A and B) within the same academic year in order to receive credit.

Recommended Prep: No prerequisites.

YIDDISH BB INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH II

Class Number: 11216 Course ID: 119875

Spring 2020

Sara Feldman

MTWThF 1:30pm-2:45pm

Continuation of Yiddish BA. Students will further develop their Yiddish reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension skills. Focus will be on working with a wide variety of textual and cultural materials spanning the Yiddish-speaking world in the modern era. Course materials include selections from Yiddish fiction, poetry, drama, film, music, the press, and historical documents. Students will become familiar with the language's dialects, writing conventions, and historical development. Course activities will introduce students to the latest developments in online Yiddish publishing and digital humanities scholarship.

Recommended Prep: Yiddish BA or permission of the instructor.

YIDDISH CB ADVANCED YIDDISH II

Class Number: 20579 Course ID: 124883

Spring 2020

Sara Feldman

MTWThF 3:00pm-4:15pm

Continuation of Yiddish CA. The emphasis of this course is on gaining ease in reading, speaking, writing, and listening comprehension. Students will be guided in exploring their individual areas of interest in Yiddish culture, and will be encouraged to begin producing their own research, creative projects, and translations; taking part in the latest developments in online Yiddish publishing and digital humanities scholarship. Continued exposure to a wide variety of textual and cultural materials, including literature, journalism, folklore, music, film, and theater; with a special focus on the diversity of Yiddish in terms of dialects, vocabulary, historical development, and writing conventions. Ample use of audiovisual and digital materials.

Recommended Prep: Yiddish CA or permission of the instructor

JEWISH LAW (HARVARD LAW SCHOOL)

ADVANCED TOPICS IN JEWISH LAW AND LEGAL THEORY

Professor Noah Feldman
Spring 2020 reading group
Th 7:00pm-9:00pm
1 classroom credit

Prerequisite: This seminar will be by permission of the instructor, who strongly prefers that students have a background in advanced study of Jewish legal material. To apply please send a short statement of interest including background in Jewish legal studies to nfeldman@law.harvard.edu with a copy to swhalen@law.harvard.edu.

Exam Type: No exam.

The group will examine sociological questions of the Yeshiva world as well as theoretical/textual ones regarding what is studied, and how, and by whom.

Note: The reading group will meet on the following dates: TBD.

Subject Areas: International, Comparative & Foreign Law, Disciplinary Perspectives & Law

ADDITIONAL COURSES RELEVANT TO JEWISH STUDIES

HDS 3081 GOD'S NATIONS: RELIGION, NATIONALISM AND MODERNITY

Class Number: 19678 Course ID: 208357
Spring 2020
Jocelyne Cesari
W 1:00pm-3:00pm

The religious dimension of nationalism has been infrequently analyzed by historians and even less so by social scientists who have operated under the influence of theories of modernization and hence perceived nationalism and religion as incompatible. In the last three decades however, with the growth of religious claims in diverse national and international contexts, scholars have started to explore the connection between religion and nationalism. The course will address the historical evolution of religion and nationalism in Great Britain,

France, Germany and the USA from the rise of the nation-state until today. It will also analyze the diffusion of the nation-state to non-western regions and its consequences on the politicization of religion in Turkey, India, and Israel as well as atypical forms of religious nationalism like ISIS. This broad scope of religions and national cultures will allow us to look at specific topics like state and religion relationships, religiously based political parties and movements, populism, anti-Semitism and islamophobia.

HIST 1049 NAZI GERMANY AND THE HOLOCAUST

Class Number: 16575 Course ID: 207696

Spring 2020

Brandon Bloch

TTh 1:30pm-2:45pm

This course examines the history of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust against the backdrop of global trajectories of antisemitism, colonialism, racial science, and economic crisis. Major themes include the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany; the sources of Nazi antisemitism; the role of race, gender, and disability in the Nazi state; the origins of World War II; the decision to annihilate European Jewry; collaboration and resistance during the Holocaust; the relationship between statelessness and genocide; and postwar legacies. Special attention will be paid to primary sources and methods of analyzing testimonies by Holocaust perpetrators and victims.

Course Notes: No prior college level History is required or assumed. Students seeking to fulfill their Social Sciences distribution requirement and freshmen welcome.

Related Sections: Discussion TBA

RELIGION 1400 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Class Number: 13360 Course ID: 113956

Spring 2020

Karen King

MW 10:30am-11:45am

The course will address the questions: What is the New Testament? What work does the New Testament do? We will examine various approaches including scripturalizing, minority Biblical criticism, and historical criticism. Topics include teachings of/by/about Jesus, Jews and Christians, empire and colonialism, the roles of women, Roman and US slavery, the politics of storytelling and canon formation, heresy, and sexualities/masculinities/gender.

Course Notes: Offered jointly with the Divinity School as 1202. Additional hour to be arranged.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 1202

RELIGION 1529 THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES, 1933-45

Class Number: 20913 Course ID: 124910

Spring 2020

Kevin Madigan

F 9:00am-11:00am

This seminar will approach the Nazi persecution of European Jewry from several disciplinary perspectives. Initially the seminar will explore the topic historically. In these weeks, the seminar will use a variety of historical materials dealing with the history of European anti-semitism, German history from Bismarck to the accession of Hitler, the evolution of anti-Jewish persecution in the Third Reich, and the history of the Holocaust itself. Sources to be used will include primary sources produced by the German government 1933-1945, by Jewish victims-to-be or survivors, documentary films, and secondary interpretations. The aims of this part of the seminar will be to understand the basic background to and narrative of the Holocaust, to introduce students to the critical use of primary historical sources, and to familiarize them with some of the major historiographical debates. Then the members of the seminar will ponder religious and theological reactions to the Holocaust. The seminar will also consider the historical question of the role played by the Protestant and Catholic churches and theologies in the Holocaust. The seminar will conclude with an assessment of the role played by the Holocaust in today's world, specifically in the United States. Throughout the seminar, participants will use various literary and cinematographic sources and test their limits in helping to understand and to represent the Holocaust.

Jointly Offered with: Harvard Divinity School as HDS 2293

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