

SPRING 2017 CLASSES

Deena Aranoff

HSHR-4502 Jewish Mysticism

This course will examine the ideas, narratives, theologies and practices that have been part of Jewish mysticism through the ages. We will proceed chronologically and thematically, exploring the variety of Jewish mystical trends as well as themes such as language, hermeneutics, gender, sexual imagery, nomian and anti-nomian emphases, messianism, symbolism and ritual practices. We will consider the relationship between Jewish mysticism and surrounding religious systems as well as relationships between Jewish mysticism and other Jewish communal and rabbinic structures.

Thursdays, 9:40am-12:30pm. GTU Hedco Room, 2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley CA 94709.

Leigh Ann Hildebrand

HSHR-4122 : Inventing Jewish Ritual

This seminar examines Jewish rituals and ritualization both historically and through the lens of ritual studies. Using scriptural source texts, ritual rubrics, ritual criticism and commentary, the course explores what makes rituals Jewish and how those rituals have evolved and endured over time. Students will gain insight into how rituals function within Judaism and in other religious contexts. A project option gives students the opportunity to practice 'ritual competence,' which is useful in pastoral and community contexts. This course is taught by PhD student Leigh Ann Hildebrand with a Newhall Award, under the supervision of Naomi Seidman.

Mondays, 2:10pm-5:00pm. GTU Hedco Room, 2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley CA 94709.

Francisco Spagnolo

HRHS-4320 : The Culture of the Synagogue

Synagogue rituals are both structured communal performances dictated by religious authority, and arenas for the public display of variegated social issues, such as power relations, aesthetic sensibilities, and attitudes towards the "other," often well outside the synagogue and the Jewish communal sphere. This seminar offers a multidisciplinary approach to the many dimensions of synagogue life, focusing on Jewish liturgy as the interaction of verbal texts, sounds, objects, architectural spaces, and body language. Throughout the semester, we will analyze select primary sources and create a platform that combines literature and linguistics, musicology and ethnomusicology, the study of visual and material cultures, anthropology and the investigation of everyday life as a means to understand the complex cultural politics of Jewish ritual in the global diaspora.

Monday, 5:30pm-08:20pm. Mudd 204, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley CA 94709.

Bernie Steinberg

HSST-2024 : Modern/Contemporary Jewish Thought

This course will examine Jewish intellectual history from the beginnings of the modern era until our own time, setting each intellectual development into its appropriate historical or cultural context. Topics we will cover include Haskalah, Hasidism, Zionism, Holocaust theology and feminism. Figures we will cover include Spinoza, Mendelssohn, Glöckl of Hameln, Maimon, Herzl, Buber, Heschel, Levinas, and Plaskow. This course fulfills the requirement for a survey course in modern Jewish history or thought.

Thursdays, 2:10pm-5:00pm. GTU Hedco Room, 2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley CA 94709.

