

# FALL 2016 CLASSES

Deena Aranoff

## HSST-2022: Ancient/Medieval Jewish Civilization

This seminar will examine ancient and Medieval Jewish history as well as the historical-critical methodology that often shapes such an inquiry. We will explore Jewish civilization from its beginnings in ancient Israel through the medieval period and will conclude the seminar with a discussion of more recent attempts to characterize Judaism in light of modern historicist critique. This course is required for all MA and certificate students at CJS.

Thursdays, 9:40am-12:30pm. Room to be assigned. Please check Colleague.

Deena Aranoff/Munir Jiwa

## HRRS-1400: Texts/Contexts in Judaism and Islam

This course will consist of five day-long seminars in which participants will explore sacred texts and contexts from the Jewish and Islamic traditions. Classes will include intensive beit midrash/madrassa method of study using primary texts and secondary sources. Each week will introduce and engage themes such as: approaches to the Torah and the Qur'an, religious law and authority, sacred spaces and practices; monotheistic and non-monotheistic traditions; race and gender; community and identity; and social justice. Each day of learning will conclude with a public lecture. Participants will have an opportunity to study with instructors and practitioners from each tradition. Course will meet from 9am to 6:30pm on five consecutive Sundays: September 18 & 25, October 2, 9, & 16, at the GTU Dinner Board Room.

Sundays, 9:00am-6:30pm, GTU Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley CA 94709

Shmary Brownstein

## HRHS-2032: Hasidism

This course provides an introduction to Hasidism: the rise, impact, and legacy of the Hasidic movement. Termed by some the most important religious movement of the modern era, Hasidism brought fundamental changes and had lasting impacts on Jewish life, beginning in the eighteenth century. What is Hasidism? What were some of its revolutionary ideas? In what ways did it shape the way people are Jewish today? These are issues which we will explore throughout this course. We will learn about the historical setting of the rise of Hasidism, study some of its primary texts, and discuss the ways Hasidism is still lived in contemporary Judaism. We will also focus on thinking critically about the subjects we are studying. No linguistic or other prerequisites, just curiosity and an interest to explore.

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

Todd Whelan

## HSHR-3800 : The Jewish Atlantic

In recent decades, the field of Atlantic History has been experiencing an academic boom, ushering in new historiographical concerns and academic literature. This course is designed to provide an introduction to contemporary historical literature that applies an Atlantic lens to the study of Modern Jewish History. Modern Jewish history is typically read with a focus on central Europe and the struggle for political and economic rights amidst the rise of the modern nation state and the breakdown of rabbinic authority. This seminar examines the periphery of that map, exploring ways Jewish populations throughout imperial holdings structured unique communities in Europe's geographic and ideological hinterlands. From Jewish plantations in Surinam to the sugar markets of Jamaica and the abolition societies of New England, students will encounter social, economic, and cultural histories of Jewish life in the Atlantic World to better understand how disparate Jewish communities in varied colonial settings constructed notions of citizenship, migration, diaspora, slavery, gender, and race. This course is taught by PhD student Todd Whelan with a Newhall Award, under the supervision of Naomi Seidman.

Friday, 9:40am-12:30pm. Hedco Room, Second Floor, 2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley CA 94709.