

Hebrew studies

Hebrew was first taught at the University of Melbourne in 1946. The program in Hebrew studies continues to be a significant influence on scholarly thought and the teaching of Hebrew in Jewish schools and communities throughout Australia. It is the only program in Australia that teaches Hebrew language from beginners' to advanced levels. The study of Hebrew at the University of Melbourne places great emphasis upon it as both the language of the Bible and the language of modern Israel today. Students are able to explore a variety of topics that draw on some of the most comprehensive Hebrew and Jewish archival resources available in Australia. Hebrew studies maintains formal international arrangements with universities that provide students with the opportunity to complete some of their study overseas. The program leads to an articulated structure of higher degree study and provides graduates with highly valued and transferable skills in their vocational pursuits. Hebrew studies runs special seminar and public lecture programs that seek to promote discussion of issues relevant to the Jewish community in Melbourne and Australia today.

Hebrew studies incorporates sequences of language subjects targeted at all levels of speaker proficiency, from those with no prior knowledge of Hebrew to more advanced-level speakers. Study of the language is complemented by subjects that explore Jewish culture, literature and society. Through the study of modern authors and poets, these subjects aim to provide students with knowledge of the language in contemporary contexts and to equip them with skills to undertake critical literary analysis in both Hebrew and English.

Students interested in exploring the Jewish experience in more depth are encouraged to undertake Hebrew studies as part of the interdepartmental *Jewish studies* (p.1) program.

Honours in Hebrew is only available to students as a component of combined honours in Jewish studies.

Language study streams

The School of Languages offers two streams of Hebrew language study:

beginners

The beginners stream is for students who have little or no knowledge of Hebrew. It is available to students at both first and second year although students intending to complete a major will need to commence their language study in their first year.

intermediate

The intermediate stream is for students who have some knowledge of Hebrew, but who have not studied Hebrew at VCE level.

post-VCE

The post-VCE stream is usually only available to students who have obtained a pass in VCE Hebrew, or its equivalent.

The School of Languages determines the language stream in which a student is to enrol. Placement is based on VCE results, other language study record or a placement test.

Stream enrolment remains provisional until confirmed or, alternatively, altered according to the student's needs as determined by the department during the first two weeks of teaching. As far as possible, the school will notify students of any change to their stream enrolment during the first two weeks of semester. Where a change is made in the third or fourth week of semester it will be reported to the Associate Dean (Academic Programs).

Diploma in Modern Languages (Hebrew)

The Diploma in Modern Languages (DML) enables students to gain a diploma in language study while completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne.

The DML usually involves a three-year sequence of language study, totalling a minimum of 100 points. It adds one year to the duration of an ordinary degree course.

The DML (Hebrew) is offered in the beginners, intermediate and post-VCE streams. Hebrew subjects are taken alongside degree subjects in an integrated sequence of study. This must be approved by a faculty course adviser and the Head of Program, Hebrew studies. See *Diploma in Modern Languages* (p.12).

Attendance requirement

A threshold requirement for the acceptance of work for evaluation is attendance at all classes. This is a minimum of 75 per cent attendance.

Requirements for a major

A major in Hebrew studies usually consists of 125 points comprising:

- three first-year subjects in Hebrew (37.5 points); and
- three second-year subjects in Hebrew (37.5 points); and

- four third-year subjects in Hebrew (50 points).

A major must include the following subjects:

first or second year:

- 109-130 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4)

second or third year:

- 109-011 Jewish National Thought (p.4); and
- 109-210 The Modern Jewish World and Israel (p.5); or
- 109-211 Israeli Film: Society through the Movies (p.5); or
- 109-012 Reading the Holocaust (p.4); or
- 109-013 Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.4); or
- 109-021 Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.5)

third year:

- 109-455 Special Study Research Project (Hebrew) (p.6) (or an approved alternative).

Structuring a major

A major in Hebrew studies usually takes one of the following forms.

Beginners stream

First year		Sem.
109-128	Hebrew 1A (p.2)	1
109-129	Hebrew 1B (p.2)	2
109-130	Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4)	1
Second year		Sem.
109-131	Hebrew 2A (p.2)	1
109-132	Hebrew 2B (p.2)	2
<i>or</i>		
109-113	Hebrew 2C (p.3)	N/A
109-114	Hebrew 2D (p.3)	N/A
<i>and</i>		
109-011	Jewish National Thought (p.4) or	N/A
109-210	The Modern Jewish World and Israel (p.5)	2
Third year		Sem.
109-006	Hebrew 3A (p.3)	1
109-007	Hebrew 3B (p.3)	2
<i>or</i>		
109-008	Hebrew 3C (p.3)	N/A
109-009	Hebrew 3D (p.3)	N/A
<i>and</i>		
109-012	Reading the Holocaust (p.4)	N/A
<i>or</i>		
109-013	Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.4)	1
<i>or</i>		
109-021	Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.5)	2
<i>or</i>		
109-211	Israeli Film: Society through the Movies (p.5)	2

Intermediate stream

First year		Sem.
109-131	Hebrew 2A (p.2)	1
109-132	Hebrew 2B (p.2)	2
<i>or</i>		
109-113	Hebrew 2C (p.3)	N/A
109-114	Hebrew 2D (p.3)	N/A
<i>and</i>		
109-130	Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4)	1
Second year		Sem.
109-006	Hebrew 3A (p.3)	1
109-007	Hebrew 3B (p.3)	2
<i>or</i>		
109-008	Hebrew 3C (p.3)	N/A
109-009	Hebrew 3D (p.3)	N/A
and one of the following:		
109-011	Jewish National Thought (p.4)	N/A
109-012	Reading the Holocaust (p.4)	N/A
109-013	Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.4)	1
109-021	Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.5)	2
109-210	The Modern Jewish World and Israel (p.5)	2
109-211	Israeli Film: Society through the Movies (p.5)	2

Third year

109-400	Hebrew 4A (p.3)	Sem.	1
109-401	Hebrew 4B (p.3)		2
<i>or</i>			
109-402	Hebrew 4C (p.3)	N/A	
109-403	Hebrew 4D (p.4)	N/A	
and two of the following not completed at second-year level:			
109-012	Reading the Holocaust (p.4)	N/A	
109-013	Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.4)		1
109-021	Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.5)		2
109-210	The Modern Jewish World and Israel (p.5)		2
109-211	Israeli Film: Society through the Movies (p.5)		2

Post-VCE stream**First year**

109-006	Hebrew 3A (p.3)	Sem.	1
109-007	Hebrew 3B (p.3)		2
109-130	Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4)		1

Second year

109-011	Jewish National Thought (p.4) <i>or</i>	Sem.	N/A
109-210	The Modern Jewish World and Israel (p.5)		2

and either

109-008	Hebrew 3C (p.3)	N/A	
109-009	Hebrew 3D (p.3)	N/A	

or

109-400	Hebrew 4A (p.3)		1
109-401	Hebrew 4B (p.3)		2

Third year (option A)

109-400	Hebrew 4A (p.3)	Sem.	1
109-012	Reading the Holocaust (p.4)	N/A	
109-013	Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.4)		1
109-401	Hebrew 4B (p.3)		2
109-021	Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.5)		2
109-211	Israeli Film: Society through the Movies (p.5)		2

Third year (option B)

109-402	Hebrew 4C (p.3)	Sem.	N/A
109-403	Hebrew 4D (p.4)	N/A	
109-012	Reading the Holocaust (p.4)	N/A	
109-013	Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.4)		1
109-021	Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.5)		2
109-210	The Modern Jewish World and Israel (p.5)		2
109-211	Israeli Film: Society through the Movies (p.5)		2

Honours

There is no formal honours program in Hebrew. However, students may undertake Hebrew as a component of combined honours in Jewish studies and another area of study.

Students must satisfy the prerequisites for entry to honours in *Jewish studies* (p.1). However, some prerequisites may be waived with the approval of the Jewish studies honours convenor.

Students must also meet the prerequisites for honours in the combined area of study.

Studying overseas

For information about Hebrew programs at overseas institutions, see *Studying overseas* (p.1) in the Jewish studies entry of the Handbook.

Career opportunities

Graduates who have majored in Hebrew studies have found employment as teachers, academics, translators, interpreters, writers, journalists, editors and in various areas of the public service and professions serving local Jewish communities.

For more information

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Language subjects**109-128 Hebrew 1A**

Note: Students commencing a major in Hebrew studies with this subject must also complete 109-130 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4) at first year.

Availability: 1st and 2nd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr D Abramovich

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject covers the basic grammar and syntax of Modern Hebrew, as well as reading, writing and simple conversation. Students who complete the subject should have a sufficient grasp of Modern Hebrew grammar, vocabulary and syntax to be able to read simpler modern texts; and an ability to conduct basic conversation and write short assignments.

Assessment: Written work totalling 2000 words and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: L Unveeler & N M Bronznick, *Ha-Yesod*, New Revised Edition Feldheim, 1998. • S Zilberman, *The Up-to-date English-Hebrew/Hebrew-English Dictionary*, 1996. • A Tarmon & E Uval, *Hebrew Verb Tables*, Tamir Publishing, 1991.

109-129 Hebrew 1B

Availability: 1st and 2nd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr D Abramovich

Prerequisites: 109-128 Hebrew 1A (p.2).

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject covers the basic grammar and syntax of Modern Hebrew, including reading, writing and simple conversation. On completion of the subject students should have a sufficient grasp of modern Hebrew grammar, vocabulary and syntax to be able to read simpler modern texts; and an ability to conduct basic conversation and write short assignments.

Assessment: Written work totalling 2000 words and a 2-hour examination.

Prescribed texts: As for 1A 109-128 Hebrew 1A (p.2).

109-131 Hebrew 2A

Note: Students commencing a major in Hebrew studies with this subject must also complete 109-130 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4) at first year.

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr D Abramovich

Prerequisites: 109-129 Hebrew 1B (p.2).

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour practical class per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject includes an advanced study of the fundamentals of Hebrew. The subject involves the enrichment of vocabulary; reading of simplified literature; and conversational and written communication. Grammatical features of Modern Hebrew are explained and reinforced by drills and exercises. Students should end the semester with a sufficient grasp of modern Hebrew grammar, conjugations of tenses, declensions and syntax to be able to read and understand simplified Hebrew newspapers or literary texts and write about them; and an ability to conduct conversation and write short assignments.

Assessment: Written work totalling 1500 words, an aural/oral test and dictation equivalent to 500 words, a 2-hour examination, attendance and class participation.

109-132 Hebrew 2B

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr D Abramovich

Prerequisites: 109-131 Hebrew 2A (p.2) or an approved equivalent.

Contact: Three hours of lectures and a 1-hour practical class per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject includes an advanced study of the fundamentals of Hebrew, focusing on enrichment of vocabulary and conversational and written communication. Grammatical features of Modern Hebrew are explained

and reinforced by drills and exercises. Students should complete the subject able to read simplified Hebrew literature and write about it.

Assessment: Written work totalling 1500 words, an aural/oral test and dictation equivalent to 500 words, a 2-hour examination, attendance and class participation.

109-113 Hebrew 2C

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 109-128 Hebrew 1A (p.2) and 109-129 Hebrew 1B (p.2) or equivalent approved by subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject focuses on developing the skills of reading, writing and conversing in Hebrew, with emphasis on grammatical structure and expansion of vocabulary. It features advanced work on speaking and creative writing, through reading of contemporary newspapers, magazines, short stories and poetry and enables students to build their vocabulary. On completion students should have an in-depth knowledge of the verb systems, and a sufficient grasp of the language to allow them to read and understand simplified Hebrew newspapers and literary texts. Students should also be able to conduct conversation and compose short assignments.

109-114 Hebrew 2D

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 109-128 Hebrew 1A (p.2) and 109-129 Hebrew 1B (p.2) or equivalent approved by subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject focuses on developing the skills of reading, writing and conversing in Hebrew, with emphasis on grammatical structure and expansion of vocabulary. It features advanced work on speaking and creative writing, through reading of contemporary newspapers, magazines, short stories and poetry and enables students to build their vocabulary.

109-006 Hebrew 3A

Note: Formerly available as 150-143/243/343/443. Students who have completed 150-143/243/343/443 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. Students commencing a major in Hebrew studies with this subject must also complete 109-130 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4) at first year.

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: 109-132 Hebrew 2B (p.2) and a corequisite cultural subject or VCE Hebrew or an approved equivalent.

Contact: Two hours of lectures and two hours or practical classes per week (Semester 1).

Description: This subject involves the study of modern Hebrew literary texts and modern conversational idiom and grammar. Students should gain an enriched knowledge of the language through the use of modern Hebrew literature, and of the modern idiom spoken in Israel today, including its vocabulary, grammar and syntax. The subject should prepare students for a broader range of expertise.

Assessment: Written work of 1000 words, aural/oral testing equivalent to 1000 words, a 2-hour examination, and class participation.

109-007 Hebrew 3B

Note: Formerly available as 150-144/244/344/444. Students who have completed 150-144/244/344/444 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: 109-006 Hebrew 3A (p.3) or an approved equivalent.

Contact: Two hours of lectures and two hours or practical classes per week (Semester 2).

Description: This subject involves the study of modern literary texts and modern conversational idiom and grammar. Students should complete the subject with an enriched knowledge of the language through the use of modern Hebrew literature; of the modern idiom spoken in Israel today, including its vocabulary, grammar and syntax. The subject should prepare students for a broader range of expertise.

Assessment: Written work of 1000 words, aural/oral testing equivalent to 1000 words, a 2-hour examination, and class participation.

109-008 Hebrew 3C

Note: Students commencing a major in Hebrew studies with this subject must also complete 109-130 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4) at first year.

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 109-132 Hebrew 2B (p.2) and a corequisite cultural subject or VCE Hebrew or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: In this subject students will study modern Hebrew literary texts, conversational idiom and grammar. At the completion of this subject students should have an enriched knowledge of the language through the use of modern Hebrew literature, the modern idiom spoken in Israel today, including its vocabulary, grammar and syntax, and be prepared for a broader range of expertise.

109-009 Hebrew 3D

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 109-008 Hebrew 3C (p.3) or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject focuses on modern Hebrew literary texts, and modern conversational idiom and grammar. At the completion of this subject students should have an enriched knowledge of the language through the use of modern Hebrew literature, of the modern idiom spoken in Israel today and its vocabulary, grammar and syntax, and be prepared for a broader range of expertise.

109-400 Hebrew 4A

Note: Formerly available as 109-015 or 150-347/447. Students who have completed 109-015 or 150-347/447 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Two of Hebrew 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D or any one of Hebrew 4B, 4C or 4D or permission of subject coordinator.

Contact: Three hours or lectures and a 1-hour laboratory class per week (Semester 1).

Description: This subject involves the study of advanced modern literary texts, including the study of contemporary Hebrew writers in prose and poetry, modern conversational idiom and newspaper and academic articles. Creative writing in Hebrew is also introduced. On completion of the subject students should have acquired a knowledge of advanced literary texts in Hebrew. Students' reading skills and understanding of advanced scientific and academic articles and essays are further developed to enrich their knowledge of the modern written and spoken idiom in Israel today.

Assessment: Written work totalling 2000 words for 3rd year, 3000 words for 4th year, a 2-hour examination, and class participation at 3rd year and 4th year.

109-401 Hebrew 4B

Note: Formerly available as 109-016 or 150-348/448. Students who have completed 109-016 or 150-348/448 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Completion of any Hebrew 3 sequence (ie. A & B, C & D) or one of Hebrew 4A, 4C or 4D, or permission of subject coordinator.

Contact: Three hours or lectures and a 1-hour laboratory class per week (Semester 2).

Description: This subject involves the study of advanced modern literary texts, including contemporary Hebrew writers in prose and poetry, modern conversational idiom, and newspaper and academic articles. Creative writing in Hebrew is also introduced. Students should complete the subject with the ability to read and understand advanced scientific and academic articles and essays.

Assessment: Written work totalling 2000 words for 3rd year, 3000 words for 4th year, a 2-hour examination, and class participation at 3rd year and 4th year.

109-402 Hebrew 4C

Note: Formerly available as 109-017. Students who have completed 109-017 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Prerequisites:** Two of Hebrew 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D or Hebrew 4A, 4B, 4D or the permission of the coordinator.**Semester:** Not Offered**Description:** This subject focuses on advanced modern literary texts, including study of contemporary Hebrew writers in prose and poetry, modern conversational idiom and newspaper and academic articles. At the completion of this subject students should have read, and possess an understanding of, selected advanced scientific and academic articles and essays.

109-403 Hebrew 4D**Note:** Formerly available as 109-018. Students who have completed 109-018 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 3rd and 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Prerequisites:** Two of Hebrew 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D or Hebrew 4A, 4B, 4C or the permission of the coordinator.**Semester:** Not Offered**Description:** This subject focuses on advanced modern literary texts, including study of contemporary Hebrew writers in prose and poetry, modern conversational idiom, and newspaper and academic articles. At the completion of this subject, students should have read, and have acquired an understanding of, selected advanced scientific and academic articles and essays.

Optional subjects**First/second-year subjects**

109-130 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture**Note:** Formerly available as 109-003. Students who have completed 109-003 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. This subject is offered as a stand-alone first/second-year subject or in conjunction with Hebrew 1A, 2A or 3A for students commencing a major in Hebrew studies.**Availability:** 1st and 2nd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr D Abramovich**Contact:** Two 1-hour lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** This subject is an intensive introduction to contemporary Jewish culture, with an emphasis on the key events, ideas, figures and movements that have shaped Jewish history and Jewish identity. The course presents students with a wide ranging survey of topics, including the traditional sources of Judaism, the formation of Jewish identity, the origins of anti-Semitism, the birth and impact of Zionism, Aliyah and the Jewish community in Palestine, the revival of the Hebrew language, the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust, the establishment of the state of Israel and the social and political factors that shaped early Jewish statehood. Students will encounter a selection of short stories, poems, songs, newspaper articles, critical documents and audio-visual materials to gain a better sociological, cultural, political and literary understanding of the topics explored.**Assessment:** A seminar paper of 1000 words, two essays of 1500 words each, and class participation.**Prescribed texts:** Materials prepared by the department.

922-126 MCD-Introduction to Biblical Hebrew**Note:** This subject is offered by the United Faculty of Theology (UFT) and the Evangelical Theological Association (ETA) as part of the Melbourne College of Divinity and special entry conditions apply. This subject is offered as part of a two subject sequence, the second being 922-127 MCD-Biblical Hebrew: The Book of Ruth (*p.4*). Students should approach the teaching institution of the coordinator for further details.**Availability:** 1st and 2nd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr H Wallace & Dr M Brett**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** This subject is an introduction to Biblical Hebrew. It covers some essential elements of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew and introduces some basic vocabulary. It introduces students to aspects of translation of Biblical Hebrew as well as the main lexical aids. On completion of the subject students should be able to translate basic nominal and verbal sentences; have mastered about 150 basic words in Biblical Hebrew; and be able to read Hebrew script well.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words, comprising weekly exercises and vocabulary tests, and a 2-hour examination.**Prescribed texts:** P Broughton, *Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, Whitley College, 1991.

922-127 MCD-Biblical Hebrew: The Book of Ruth**Note:** This subject is offered by the United Faculty of Theology (UFT) and the Evangelical Theological Association (ETA) as part of the Melbourne College of Divinity and special entry conditions apply. Students should approach the teaching institution of the coordinator for further details.**Availability:** 1st and 2nd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr H Wallace & Dr M Brett**Prerequisites:** 922-126 MCD-Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (*p.4*) or equivalent.**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).**Description:** This subject continues the introduction to Biblical Hebrew begun in Semester 1. It covers further elements of grammar and vocabulary and consolidates translation skills by focusing on the *Book of Ruth*. On completion of the subject students should be able to translate basic prose texts of the Hebrew Bible; have mastered about 500 basic words in Biblical Hebrew; be able to read the Hebrew script well; and be able to discuss elementary points of grammar and textual criticism.**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words, comprising weekly exercises and vocabulary tests, two 150-word papers on grammatical and translational aspects of a text and a 2-hour examination.**Prescribed texts:** P Broughton, *Biblical Hebrew Grammar*, Whitley College, 1991.

Second/third-year subjects

109-011 Jewish National Thought**Note:** Formerly available as 150-188. Students who have completed 150-188 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Prerequisites:** Any two arts subjects or permission of the subject coordinator.**Semester:** Not Offered**Description:** This subject will trace the development of Jewish national thought through the writings of Jewish national thinkers, from the impact of Theodore Herzl in the 19th century to the development of three streams of Jewish national thought in the first half of the 20th century. These streams include labour (to be studied through the works of A D Gordon); revisionism (to be studied through the works of Ze'ev Jabotinsky); religion (to be studied through the works of Rav Kook). Students should become familiar with issues of the status of the Hebrew language in the Jewish national renaissance; shifts in Jewish national writing following the establishment of the State of Israel; war and peace; the Rabin assassination; Israel-diaspora relations; and future directions in Jewish national thought, including post-Zionism.

109-012 Reading the Holocaust**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Prerequisites:** Any two arts subjects or permission of the Head of the Department. This subject does not presuppose knowledge of Hebrew.**Semester:** Not Offered**Description:** This subject will explore the ways in which fiction and poetry have confronted the Holocaust through the various complex responses to the Holocaust by both Israeli and diaspora authors. Students will read a collection of texts as a means to understanding the techniques, strategies, language, symbolism and perspectives that have dominated Shoah memories. Students will also examine second generation literature through the work of young writers determined to continue the legacy of literary reflection that began with the survivors. On completion of the subject students should have an understanding of the impact of the Holocaust on various genres of literature including contemporary writers; and be familiar with modes and methodologies of literary analysis.

109-013 Exploring the World of Jewish Literature**Note:** Formerly available as 150-252/352. Students who have completed 150-252/352 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr D Abramovich**Prerequisites:** Any two arts subjects or permission of the subject coordinator.**Contact:** A 2.5-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).**Description:** This subject involves a review of Jewish literature from the Enlightenment to the present, featuring a variety of authors, genres and texts. One of the themes of the subject is the exploration of the role of metaphor,

biblical and modern, within Jewish literature, with particular attention to the sacrifice of Isaac and other biblical metaphors. Students will also explore issues of Jewish literary bilingualism, and the representation of women and of non-Jewish figures in Jewish literature. Students should complete the semester with an understanding of the development of modern Hebrew and Jewish literature.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, and class participation.

109-021 Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Any two arts subjects or permission of the subject coordinator.

Contact: A 2.5-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject introduces students to the basic concepts underlying the Jewish mystical tradition, using Kabbalistic and Hassidic source materials and commentaries, and contemporary analytical writings. It covers the historical development of the tradition over 3500 years featuring both personalities and major trends/concepts and describes a cosmological structure of the nature of the universe and the function of the human being. The psycho-social implications of various mystical movements of the past and present will be analysed. Reasons for the resurgence of the Kabbalah spiritual tradition in the Western world will be explored. Students will also examine the way techniques drawn from such mystical traditions might provide the modern-day persons with insight and ways of managing stress.

Assessment: An essay of 2500 words and a seminar paper of 1500 words.

Prescribed texts: G Scholem, *Kabbalah*, Meridian, 1978. • L Wolf, *Practical Kabbalah*, Random-Three Rivers, 1999. • J I Schochet, *Mystical Concepts in Chassidism Society*, 1988. • A Steinsaltz, *The Thirteen Petalled Rose*, Basic Books, 1980.

109-210 The Modern Jewish World and Israel

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr D Abramovich

Prerequisites: Any two arts subjects or permission of the subject coordinator.

Contact: Two hours of lectures and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This course will examine and focus on Israel's politics, society and culture, with special attention to Jewish communities beyond Israel and their ethnic and religious diversity. Among the topics considered will be assimilation, secular-Orthodox tensions, the Law of Return, the evolution of the orthodox, reform and conservative religious movements, the Ashkenazi and Sephardi dispute, the Rabin assassination, post-Zionism and Holocaust denial. Also considered will be the implications of these events and factors for Judaism and Israel in the 21st century. The course will engage a number of significant Jewish thinkers and their critical and theoretical reflections on present and future perspectives, as well as short stories, prose, poetry newspaper and magazine articles, films and music. At the end of the course students should possess a critical understanding of current cultural, social and political trends and issues.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words and class participation.

Prescribed texts: Materials supplied by the department.

109-211 Israeli Film: Society through the Movies

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Dvir Abramovich

Contact: A 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: Through the medium of film, this subject examines the history and contemporary trends of Israeli cinema as they reflect both social and cultural issues in the country. By screening Israeli films, the course aims to introduce students to this genre that reflects many aspects of political and social life in Israel, including the difficulties and conflicts within this society. An introductory lecture will precede each viewing and following the film a discussion will be held regarding the content of the film and the issues it raises. Some of the themes for discussion include the individual, gender, ethnicity, Israeli Arab relations, Holocaust representations, masculinity, the Israeli ethos of collectivism and unity in the pioneer community and the army, the re-evaluation of national myths in the 1970's and the 1990's, coming of age, the desire for peace during the Rabin era and following his assassination.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words and class participation.

Prescribed texts: Nitzan S Ben-Shaul, *Mythical Expressions of Siege in Israeli Films*, Edwin Mellen, 1997. • Yosefa Loshitzky, *Identity Politics on the Israeli Screen*, University of Texas, 2002. • Amy Kronish, *World Cinema: Israel*, N J Madison, 1996.

109-260 Beginners Aramaic

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject involves the study of selected portions of the Old Testament in Aramaic, and an Aramaic translation of the latter (in the Targum). Students who complete the subject should have a reading knowledge of early and biblical Aramaic texts; and have an understanding of the place of Aramaic within the context of ancient Western Semitic languages.

109-261 Beginners Syriac

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is an introduction to the Syriac language and its literature. It examines the vocabulary, syntax and accidence of Syriac and provides students with a reading knowledge of classical Syriac prose, referring particularly to translations of the New Testament into Syriac from Greek. Students should complete the subject with a reading knowledge of classical Syriac prose texts, in particular translations of the New Testament from Greek; and have an understanding of the place of Syriac in the family of Aramaic and the wider family of Western Semitic languages.

109-262 Beginners Akkadian A

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject studies the basic grammar and syntax of Akkadian and the reading of simple texts illustrative of various aspects of Babylonian culture. On completion of the subject students should have acquired the basics of Akkadian grammar; and have an initial understanding of the problems of Akkadian epigraphy (in the cuneiform script).

109-263 Beginners Akkadian B

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Beginners Akkadian A or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject involves the study of literary and historical texts illustrating aspects of Babylonian culture and an introduction to Akkadian epigraphy. On completion of the subject students should have acquired a knowledge of Akkadian grammar; an initial knowledge of the principles of Akkadian philology and epigraphy; and have been introduced to essential aspects of ancient Mesopotamian and Near Eastern culture through the reading of genuine texts of various kinds.

109-264 Beginners Semitics A

Note: Formerly available as 115-003. Students who have completed 115-003 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is an introduction to the study of ancient Semitic languages. It moves between the general and the specific, investigating the major features of this language family as well as features specific to the north-western Semitic languages. Lectures will discuss the particular skills and techniques used to read Semitic languages, including historical reconstruction. A major focus of this subject is the core grammar, vocabulary and syntax of the reconstructed Canaanite language with a view to the further study of Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, Ugaritic, Ethiopic and/or other related languages. Students will read a collection of inscriptions and poetic texts.

109-265 Beginners Semitics B

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 115-003 Beginners Semitics A or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is designed to take students from a knowledge of core western Semitic, gained in 115-003 Beginners Semitics A to a working knowledge of one of the Semitic languages introduced in Semester 1. Students should extend their vocabulary in the relevant dialect; be able to discuss texts in their historical, literary and linguistic contexts; and will study the development of the corpus of relevant texts from the perspective of literary

canons. The subject will focus on historical (rather than literary or ideological) aspects of the ancient linguistic task.

109-266 Intermediate Semitics A

Availability: 2nd, 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 115-004 Beginners Semitics B or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a reading course in Semitic literary texts and inscriptions, with particular emphasis on one of the Semitic languages. On completion of this subject students should have a reading knowledge of the language dealt with, and a broad knowledge of the place of that language within the Semitic language family.

109-267 Intermediate Semitics B

Availability: 2nd, 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: 115-005 Intermediate Semitics A or an approved equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a continuation of Semester 1, with an emphasis on another Semitic language. The focus of the subject is also on detailed linguistic analysis and interpretation of selected texts and inscriptions from a wide range of literatures and especially on the literature of the language on which the class will focus. Students should complete the subject with a developed reading knowledge of the Semitic language dealt with, and a general knowledge of the grammar of the Semitic languages.

109-268 Ancient Language in Literary Context

Availability: 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: A year of intermediate study in the relevant language or equivalent.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is designed to allow students the opportunity to integrate their linguistic skills into their approach to reading texts. In particular, issues of semantics, syntax and accident are addressed explicitly and the problems researching ancient languages discussed. The subject provides the opportunity to address these questions directly to students who have completed at least two years of preparation in the relevant language. Some aspect of the application of computer technologies to the teaching of texts may be pursued where relevant.

922-128 MCD-Advanced Biblical Hebrew Reading

Note: This subject is offered by the United Faculty of Theology (UFT) as part of the Melbourne College of Divinity and special entry conditions apply. Students should contact the UFT for further information.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Morag Logan

Prerequisites: 922-127 MCD-Biblical Hebrew: The Book of Ruth (*p.4*) or equivalent.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture per week (*Year long*).

Description: This subject is designed to build upon a year's study of the grammar of Biblical Hebrew and introduce students to a range of texts in the Hebrew Bible from simple prose to poetry. More complex points of grammar will be discussed as they arise in the texts studied. Students should complete the subject with confidence in the translation of a variety of types of texts from the Hebrew Bible; an increase in their vocabulary; the ability to discuss more complex points of grammar and textual criticism; and a basic understanding of aspects of Hebrew poetry.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words, comprising weekly exercises and vocabulary tests and two 2-hour examinations.

Prescribed texts: K Elliger & W Rudolph (eds), *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, Stuttgart.

Third/fourth-year subjects

109-455 Special Study Research Project (Hebrew)

Note: Formerly available as 109-014. Students who have completed 109-014 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. Students are *not* permitted to enrol in this subject at both third year and fourth year.

Availability: 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Completion of 37.5 points of second/third year Jewish studies for third year. Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year combined honours in Jewish studies for fourth year. Approval of the subject coordinator is also required.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: This is a special research project based on a subject taken previously or concurrently. It gives third-year students with a strong interest in a particular field the opportunity to pursue that interest in the form of a research project. This option will suit committed and highly motivated students who wish to pursue an independent research project before fourth year.

Assessment: A research essay of 4000 words for 3rd year, 5000 words for 4th year, in Hebrew or English on a prescribed topic.

Fourth-year subjects

109-507 Hebrew and Jewish Studies Thesis

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year combined honours in Jewish studies. Prospective students should contact the coordinator by September in the previous year.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Year long*).

Description: A topic in Hebrew language, literature or another appropriate topic in Hebrew/Jewish studies selected in consultation with the supervisor.

Assessment: A 10 000-word thesis in Hebrew or a 12 000-word thesis in English on an approved topic.

109-508 Hebrew and Jewish Studies Thesis (MYE)

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Mid-year admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year combined honours in Jewish studies. Prospective students should contact the coordinator at the beginning of Semester 1.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: A topic in Hebrew language, literature or another appropriate topic in Hebrew/Jewish studies selected in consultation with the supervisor.

Assessment: A 10 000-word thesis in Hebrew or a 12 000-word thesis in English on an approved topic.

109-453 Literature of Destruction

Note: Formerly available as 109-019 or 150-453. Students who have completed 109-019 or 150-453 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Z Shavitsky

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year combined honours in Jewish studies.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject involves the advanced study of Jewish literary texts, classical, medieval and modern, with special concern for the theme of destruction and literary representations of and responses to catastrophe. Attention is also given to major topics in the critical tradition of reading Jewish texts. Contemporary Holocaust literature forms a substantial component of the subject, including the work of writers such as Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel and David Grossman. Students should complete the subject with a deeper and more extensive understanding of the character of Jewish literature through the ages; and have developed critical skills in its analysis and interpretation.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

109-454 Jerusalem in Jewish Literature

Note: Formerly available as 109-020. Students who have completed 109-020 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year combined honours in Jewish studies.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject involves the advanced study of Jewish literary texts - classical, medieval and modern - with special concern for the theme and literary representations in poetry and in prose, of the Heavenly and the Earthly Jerusalem. Attention is also given to major topics in the critical tradition of reading Jewish texts. Students will encounter contemporary authors and poets

such as A Oz, A B Yehoshua and Y Amichai. On completion of the subject students should have acquired a deeper and more extensive understanding of the character of Jewish literature throughout its history; and have developed critical skills in its analysis and interpretation.

