JUDAIC STUDIES

General Courses:
JS 73 Aspects of the Sephardic Tradition
JS 87 Introduction to Talmud
JS 91-01 Ladino Language and Culture
JS 132 The Book of Genesis and Its Interpreters
JS 159-01 Contemporary Jewish Fiction

Special courses:
JS 93/193 Directed Study/Advanced Directed Study
JS 99 Internship
JS 199 Senior Honors Thesis

JS 73 Aspects of the Sephardic Tradition
Ascher L+ TR 4:30-5:45
Introduction to the history and culture of the Sephardic Jews. The life and fortunes of
the Sephardim in Spain and Portugal, their contributions to the exploration, settlement,
and development of America, their folklore, and present attempts to preserve and
promote their heritage will be considered. Focus on prominent and interesting
Sephardic personalities from diverse countries and times, such as Maimonides, Dona
Gracia Nasi, Judah Touro, Haim Isaac Carigal, and Elias Canetti. Cross-listed as REL 73
and ILVS 81.

JS 87 Introduction to Talmud
Braunig H+ TR 1:30-2:45
Selected passages from the Talmud and rabbinic literature, Mishna, Gemara,
Commentaries. Relevance to contemporary moral and ethical issues. Cross-listed as
REL 87.

JS 91-01 Ladino Language and Culture
Ascher F+ TR 12:00-1:15
Introduction to the language known as Ladino and the culture of the Sephardic Jews
who have spoken it for over 500 years. When they were expelled from Spain in 1492,
Jews took this language with them, and it has been enriched through contact with
languages encountered in their various lands of resettlement. Emphasis on the living
language: understanding, speaking, and writing (including creatively). Texts will include
proverbs, stories, and songs from the folk tradition as well as contemporary poems and
songs, films, and basic language materials. Some background in Spanish (or Ladino!) is
helpful, but not essential. Cross-listed as SPN 91-01.

JS 132 The Book of Genesis and Its Interpreters
Rosenberg ARR W 4:30-7:15
A detailed study of the biblical book of Genesis, with special attention to the role the
book played in postbiblical cultural traditions. All texts read in English. No
prerequisites. Cross-listed as ILVS 132, REL 132 and WL 132.

Fall 2016
JS 159-01 Contemporary Jewish Fiction
Bellow  F+        TR 12:00-1:15
An exploration of the novels and short stories of writers whose work has been at the center of literary life for the last half-century and promises to transport us arguing, laughing, and reflecting deeply into this century as well. Fiction by Saul Bellow, Cynthia Ozick, Philip Roth, Bernard Malamud, Anne Michaels, Primo Levi, and others. Cross-listed as ENG 159.