

Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

Course Handbook

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Academic Year 2022-23 (VERSION 2)

Course Co-ordinator - Prof [Judith Olszowy-Schlanger](#) (MT) and Prof [Alison Salvesen](#)
(HT/TT)

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available here (LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN 2022-23 EXAMINATION REGULATIONS PUBLISHED).

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact the Senior Academic Administrator, Chris Mitchell (christine.mitchell@orinst.ox.ac.uk).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at Michaelmas Term 2022; however, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made the faculty will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

THIS HANDBOOK

The handbook sets out the basic framework for the BA in Japanese. You should consult the current edition of the Examination Regulations (LINK TO BE ADDED WHEN 2022-23 EXAMINATION REGULATIONS PUBLISHED) for information regarding your course. The information in this handbook should be read in conjunction with:

- the Faculty's general Undergraduate handbook;
- the Examination Regulations;
- the [University Student Handbook](#)
- your college handbook.

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination regulations, then you should follow the Examination regulations.

Comments and criticism of the handbook are always welcome; they should be sent to the [Director of Undergraduate Studies](#) or the Senior Academic Administrator, [Chris Mitchell](#).

Version history

1	October 2022	Original publication
2	April 2023	Reference to 'Exam schools' removed from deadline table on p10 (2 nd last row)

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Introduction and History

Oxford has been an important centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies since the sixteenth century. Outstanding scholars have held a number of different positions in Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the University and students from all over the world come to Oxford for both undergraduate and graduate studies. We boast unrivalled collections of Hebrew manuscripts and printed books in the Bodleian Library. The Leopold Muller Memorial Library of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, housed in the Clarendon Institute Building, also contains invaluable Hebraic and Judaica collections. Additionally, the archaeology and material culture of the land of Israel are strongly represented in the Ashmolean Museum.

Over the centuries the study of Hebrew and Jewish Studies has evolved to take account of new developments, most obviously the growth of literature in Modern Hebrew and major discoveries such as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Our courses therefore cover all the main phases in the long history of the Hebrew language in its historical, literary and cultural contexts. (It is also possible to study for a separate BA in Jewish Studies.) As the disciplines of Hebrew and Jewish Studies have developed, different approaches and fields of study have evolved, from the study of classical Hebrew and the Hebrew Bible to all other aspects of medieval and modern Jewish culture and society. The University's posts in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies reflect that diversity, with expertise ranging from the study of Classical Hebrew, the Hebrew Bible, Second Temple and early Rabbinic periods, through rabbinical literature and medieval to early modern history and literature, to modern Hebrew and other Jewish literatures and modern Jewish history.

Outline

First year (First Public Examination)

For those taking Hebrew or Jewish Studies, the first three terms of the course comprise intensive class instruction in the Hebrew language in all its main periods (Classical/Biblical; Rabbinic and Medieval; Modern). The aim is to cover basic grammar in the first term and to consolidate this information in the second and third terms, when simple texts in each form of the language are also taught. This demanding objective is essential in order to achieve a level of reading proficiency that will stand you in good stead for the rest of the course. There are three class hours a week in both Classical (Biblical) and Modern Hebrew. Readings in Rabbinic, Medieval and Modern Hebrew texts are introduced in the second and third terms.

Students also prepare for a general paper which provides an introductory framework for the rest of the course. Outline surveys are given in lectures through the year, but the main form of teaching is in tutorials, for which there is recommended reading and an essay to be written.

Four papers are set for Prelims, taken at the end of the third term.

1. Hebrew Texts I: Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew.
2. Hebrew Texts II: Medieval and Modern Hebrew.
3. Grammar and Translation into Hebrew.
4. General Paper.

Candidates who perform exceptionally well in Biblical Hebrew in Prelims are eligible for the Junior Pusey and Ellerton Prize. In the unlikely event of failure, it is possible to resit the paper(s) in question later on. You must pass Prelims in order to proceed to Finals. All examinations are held at the end of Trinity Term.

Final Honour School

Upon completing your Prelims, it is necessary to make a final choice about whether you wish to study Hebrew or Jewish Studies. If you are still unsure about which choice to make, any member of the teaching staff will be happy to provide guidance.

Years 2 and 3

Students will study one out of Biblical, Rabbinic and Medieval Hebrew, Modern Hebrew, or Yiddish. Students should refer to the papers for Hebrew and Yiddish as subsidiary languages in the conventions for FHS examinations. **Students should note that teaching for some language options may not be available every year.**

Students will take the same core essay paper, History, Culture, and Society, as those taking the BA in Hebrew. They will also select 5 options from the [Jewish Studies options](#). At least 3 must be chosen from papers that require a study of set texts in the original language, at least 1 paper from each of Sections I, II, and III, and not more than 1 paper may be chosen from Section V.

Jewish Studies options (Students should note that they may not take more than 1 option from Section V. Not all options may be available in a given year, and some options require adequate knowledge of the relevant language.):

- Section I
 - Biblical History
 - Biblical Archaeology
 - Biblical Narrative
 - Biblical Prophecy
- Section II
 - Second Temple Judaism
 - Second Temple History
 - History of the Talmudic Period
 - Medieval Jewish History
 - Jewish Aramaic Literature
- Section III
 - Israel: History, Politics, and Society
 - Modern Hebrew Literature
 - Yiddish Literature
- Section IV
 - History of Jewish-Christian Relations
 - History of Jewish-Muslim Relations
 - History of Jewish Bible Interpretation
 - Orthodox Judaisms
- Section V
 - Biblical Religion
 - Modern Jewish Thought
 - Modern Jewish History
 - Modern Judaism

Papers for FHS

Compulsory Papers

History, Culture and Society

Lecturers: Prof. Judith Olszowy-Schlanger; Dr Benjamin Williams; Prof. Adriana Jacobs

The aim of this paper is to draw together the whole course in Hebrew studies, giving you the chance to relate one aspect of the subject to another and/or to reflect on wider issues arising from the detailed study of the particular periods which interest you most.

The paper is currently in four sections (ancient, medieval, modern, and a final section which cuts across all periods), with about six questions in each section. You are required to answer four questions, selecting questions from at least two sections.

Dissertation

The subject of your dissertation must be submitted for approval very early at the start of your third year, so that in practice it is sensible to discuss it with your teachers from the middle of the second year. Some tutorial guidance is available, but you should research and write up a topic that you find to be of particular interest; you are required to sign a statement indicating that it is your own work. The detailed regulations about how and where to do this are included in the Examination Regulations. Remember to write your candidate number and not your name on the dissertation. Also refer to the dissertation section in the General Handbook.

An Optional Special Subject

You may offer an optional 3-hour paper on a special subject. The subject must be approved at the start of your final year. Provided your choice of subject falls within the broad range of Hebrew and Jewish studies, no reasonable proposal is likely to be refused. If you are considering this, please discuss it with your teachers during the previous year. They will also make suggestions as to how you can use the summer vacation to do some of the necessary reading and research. Tutorial teaching will be made available to help you prepare.

Recommended Patterns of Teaching (RPT)

Below is an indication of the type and number of teaching hours on this course. **BA**

in Jewish Studies

Summary:

Each student receives to FHS:

Language instruction: 278 hours (maximum)

University lectures/classes: 67 hours (minimum)

Tutorials: 52 (maximum)

Dissertation supervision: 6 hours

Over 3 years this is an average of 134 hours teaching per year, or c. 5.60 hours per week.

BA Hebrew/Jewish Studies (Year 1 is combined)

YEAR 1: FPE 4 Papers

- (i) Hebrew Texts I: Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew
- (ii) Hebrew Texts II: Medieval and Modern Hebrew
- (iii) Grammar and Translation into Hebrew
- (iv) General Paper

Teaching arrangements for the year per Student:

Language instruction: 182 hours

Lectures/Classes: 67 hours

Tutorials: 12 hours

BA Jewish Studies: Years 2 and 3 FHS:

7 Papers (includes a. language paper; b. paper on History, Culture and Society; c. five optional papers) plus dissertation

Papers:

1. Language paper
2. History, Culture and Society
3. Optional paper 1
4. Optional paper 2
5. Optional paper 3
6. Optional paper 4
7. Optional paper 5
8. Dissertation

Each optional paper: 8 hours of tutorials

Paper on History, Culture and Society: 4 tutorials

Dissertation: 6 hours of supervision

Language paper: 96 hours of language instruction (2 hours per week for 6 terms)

Teaching arrangements for FHS per student:

Language instruction: 96 hours

Lectures/classes: may be provided for optional papers with set texts

Tutorials: 40 hours

Dissertation supervision: 6 hours

Paper	Language Instruction		Lectures/Classes		Tutorials		Supervision	
	Year 2	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3
1	48	48						
2						4		
3					8			
4					8			
5					8			
6						8		
7						8		
8							2	4

Teaching Staff

- Dr [Miri Freud-Kandel](#), Lecturer in Modern Judaism (Wolfson College)
- Professor [Adriana X. Jacobs](#), Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature (St. Cross College)
- Dr Dorota Molin, Instructor in Classical Hebrew
- Professor [Judith Olszowy-Schlanger](#), Director of the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, President of OCHJS (Corpus Christi College)
- Professor [Alison Salvesen](#), Professor of Early Judaism and Christianity (Mansfield College) (on leave in MT22)
- Dr Harald Samuel, Departmental Lecturer in Classical Hebrew
- Professor [David Taylor](#), Associate Professor in Aramaic and Syriac (Wolfson College)
- Dr [Zoe Waxman](#), Departmental Lecturer in Modern Jewish History
- Dr [Benjamin Williams](#), Departmental Lecturer in Jewish Studies; Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
- Mr [Gil Zahavi](#), Instructor in Modern Hebrew

Examinations and Assessment

Please refer to the [Examination Regulations](#).

In Trinity Term of Year 1, students will sit 4 written examinations. Students must pass all papers to proceed into Year 2 of the course.

Please refer to the conventions for Prelims examinations, available on Canvas towards the end of Michaelmas Term.

In Trinity Term of Year 3, students will take 9 written and/or take-home examinations. Students will also submit their dissertations. Please refer to the conventions for FHS examinations for the papers to be taken, available on Canvas towards the end of Michaelmas Term.

Deadlines

Date	Year of Course	Event	How
Monday 9th Week Trinity Term	1	Provisional start date of the First Public Examinations.	
Friday 4 th Week Michaelmas Term	3	Deadline for exam entry.	Via student self-service
Monday Week 0 Hilary Term	3	Deadline for applications for approval of Special Subjects and dissertation titles.	Form to be sent to Academic Administration undergraduate.administrator@orinst.ox.ac.uk
12 noon, Friday 10th Week Hilary Term	3	Deadline for submission of dissertation.	Via Inspira
10am, Monday 2nd Week Trinity Term	3	Release of essays titles for Papers in Section V (refer to Examination Regulations)	tbc
12 noon, Monday 3rd Week Trinity Term (term in which final exam is offered)	3	Deadline for submission of Papers in Section V (refer to Examination Regulations)	Via Inspira
Monday 7th Week Trinity Term	3	Provisional start date of the Final Honour School	

Canvas

Click [here](#) for the BA Jewish Studies Canvas page.

Examination Regulations

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/> If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations.