

Brandeis University
 Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture Program
 Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
 Lown Center for Judaica Studies
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Student Information Questionnaire

Welcome to the Hebrew Program at Brandeis University! In order to best place you in the right level course, we ask that all interested students complete the below questionnaire in addition to completing the Placement Exam.

1. Date: _____
2. Name: _____
3. Cell number: _____
4. E-mail address: _____
5. Home address: _____
6. List names of Hebrew programs you have attended and dates from most recent:

| Date of Attendance | Name & Location of School or Program | Type of Program (high school, afternoon religious school) | Number of Hours per Week |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
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7. Have you had other opportunities to speak or listen to Hebrew? Please specify where, when, and how long (e.g. spent time on kibbutz, have Israeli parents, etc.)

8. Have you taken the Jerusalem, SAT subject, or AP test in Hebrew? Yes ____ No ____.
 If yes, when? _____. What was your score? _____
9. Are you taking the placement for (check one or more):
 Placement in the Fall ____
 Placement in the Spring ____
 Exemption from the university language requirement ____

10. After reviewing our course offerings below, please check those you find of interest.

Note: Many of the courses meet the university fundamental literacies requirement.

Brandeis University Hebrew Course Offerings

❖ **HBRW 10a, Beginning Hebrew**

For students with no previous knowledge and those with a minimal background. Intensive training in the basics of Hebrew grammar, listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing.

❖ **HBRW 19a, Beginning Hebrew: Honors**

A beginner course for those students with some previous exposure to Hebrew. Builds upon the initial exposure, continuing to teach the basics of grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and writing.

❖ **HBRW 20b, Intermediate Hebrew**

Continuation of HBRW 10a, employing the same methods. Intensive training in Hebrew grammar, listening, comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing.

❖ **HBRW 34a, Intermediate Hebrew II: Aspects of Israeli Culture**

A continuation of HBRW 20b. A beginner-intermediate level course that helps students strengthen their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Contemporary cultural aspects will be stressed and a variety of materials will be used.

❖ **HBRW 41a, Intensive Conversations about Israeli Culture**

An Advanced Intermediate Hebrew course for students who have acquired an intermediate level of Hebrew and who wish to develop greater fluency in conversation with emphasis on aspects of Israeli Culture. Four class hours per week with additional half an hour to practice speaking skills.

❖ **HBRW 44b, Advanced Intermediate Hebrew: Israeli Culture and Media**

Reinforces the acquired skills of speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing at the intermediate level. Contemporary cultural aspects are stressed; conversational Hebrew and reading of selections from modern literature.

❖ **HBRW 121a, Life Challenges and Post Trauma of an Israeli Family through a TV Series**

An advanced-intermediate conversation course for students who wish to improve their speaking skills. Role playing, vocabulary building, and guided speaking activities develop conversational skills for various situations. Reading and discussion of contemporary texts, based on popular Israeli television series, assist in vocabulary building.

❖ **HBRW 121b, Life Challenges of an Israeli Family through a TV Series**

An advanced-intermediate conversation course for students who wish to improve their speaking skills. Role playing, vocabulary building, and guided speaking activities

develop conversational skills for various situations. Reading and discussion of contemporary texts, based on the popular Israeli TV series, "Yellow Peppers", assist in vocabulary building.

- ❖ **HBRW 124a, Hebrew for Business, Doing Business in Start-Up Nation**
Provides students with tools and competence to deal with the Israeli business community. For advanced-intermediate Hebrew students who wish to gain cultural understanding and business language speaking skills.
- ❖ **HBRW 144a, Plays and Drama in Israeli Society**
Focuses on critical reading and analysis of authentic and contemporary Israeli short plays and studying the comparison between plays in Israel and those in the U.S. We will examine theories in aspects of drama and implement drama techniques including improvisation, movement, and creative expression. Readings cover topics such as social diversity and justice, as well as human rights and awareness of world identities. The course culminates in the writing of an original scene or one-act play in Hebrew.
- ❖ **HBRW 146a, The Voices of Jerusalem**
For advanced-intermediate students who wish to enhance their language proficiency and work toward improving fluency and communication through analysis of selected materials covering literature, poetry, history, politics, and art that depict the unique tradition and culture of Jerusalem.
- ❖ **HBRW 161b, What's Up in Israel Today? Diverse Perspectives in Film and Media**
In this course, Israeli films, media, TV shows (e.g., "Srugim"), and online resources will be used to promote discussion, enhance oral communication skills, and also broaden cultural awareness and understanding of diverse societal perspectives.
- ❖ **HBRW 164b, Israeli Theater Within the Framework of U.S Cultures**
Promotes cultural awareness and global understanding through the reading and analysis of plays. Student creativity develops through participation in acting and creative writing assignments.
- ❖ **HBRW 167b, The Sleeping Beauty: The Revival of Modern Hebrew**
An advanced course that surveys the origins of the Hebrew language and its development throughout the centuries, focusing on its major stages (biblical, rabbinic, medieval, and modern). Explores the unique phenomenon of its revival as a spoken language and its adaptation to the modern world.
- ❖ **HBRW 170a, Take I: Israeli Cinema and American Culture**
Introduces students to various aspects of Israeli society as portrayed in Israeli films and television. In addition to viewing films, students will be asked to read Hebrew background materials, to participate in class discussions, and to write review and criticism about the films. The course prepares students to deepen their analytical skills in

order to gain broader understanding and intercultural knowledge as well as transform their personal and global thinking.