



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON

Binghamton, New York 13901

MAY 22

Judaic Studies Program
Telephone (607) 798-3070

ANNUAL REPORT 1977-78

INTRODUCTION

The Judaic Studies Program enjoyed a year of healthy growth during which many new courses were added to the curriculum and many new students joined the Program. All four of the core courses enjoyed large enrollments and there was significant student interest in many of the topics courses. As students joined the program, a new feeling of community between students and faculty has begun to develop.

CERTIFICATE AND MAJOR PROGRAMS

The certificate program continued to attract students. At the beginning of the year, 13 students were enrolled in the program and the number has now risen to 19. Five of the certificate students graduated this year.

The most dramatic increase has been in the number of students desiring to take a major in Judaic Studies through the Innovational Projects Board. While one student had chosen this option at the beginning of the year, our files indicate a total of 15 at present. One IPB major in Judaic Studies will be awarded this year.

In light of the marked interest in the major as opposed to the certificate, the Judaic Studies Committee has gone ahead with plans to apply for a regular major in Judaic Studies. A series of provisional guidelines for a major were drafted and have been put into effect in advising IPB majors. A letter of intent has been sent to SUNY-Central indicating our desire for a major. If the letter is favorably received, we will submit our proposal in the fall and, hopefully, be able to award bachelor's degrees in Judaic Studies by next spring.

COURSES

Enrollments in Judaic Studies courses have generally increased in the past year. New courses included "Messianism," "Modern Jewish Thought," "Women in Jewish Law," and "Jewish Folk Music." We hope to be able to repeat at least some of these courses next year.

During the academic year 1977-78, the following undergraduate courses were offered in Judaic Studies.

Fall 1977

<u>COURSES</u>		<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
<u>Core Courses</u>			
Jud. St. 125 (also Hist. 152A)	Jewish Civilization: Biblical Period	D. Biale	47 9
History 153A	Medieval Jewish History	N. Stillman	80
<u>Topics Courses</u>			
Jud. St. 182F	Topics in Jewish Thought & Society (Messianism)	D. Biale	20
Jud. St. 182G (also German 290Y)	Seminar on the Holocaust	M. Gottlieb	15 1
Jud. St. 188 (also Soc. 188)	Sociology of Jews	A. Liebman	10 30
English 150A	Jewish Literature from Old World to New	M. Falk	19
History 198P	Modern Antisemitism	H. Rivlin	16
Phil. 128A	Philosophy in Old Testament Religion	L. Goldstein	13
Pol. Sci. 125	Middle East	D. Peretz	31
Pol Sci. 270G	Comparative Foreign Policy-Middle East	D. Peretz	18
Jud. St. 182H (also German 180T)	Kafka-The Absurd Human Condition	R. Morewedge	3 8
Jud. St. 182Z/NE291Z (also Hist. 196C)	Zionism & the Labor Movement in Israel	Y. Goldstein	3
<u>Language Courses</u>			
Hebrew 101	Elementary Hebrew I	Y. Stillman	78
Hebrew 103	Intermediate Hebrew	S. Morell	22
Hebrew 260	Topics in Biblical Literature	M. Falk	8
Hebrew 291A	Journalistic Hebrew	S. Morell	19
Yiddish 101	Elementary Yiddish I	I. Friedland	54
Yiddish 103	Intermediate Yiddish	I. Friedland	8

Total: 512

		<u>Spring 1978</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
<u>Core Courses</u>				
Jud. St. 126 (also Hist. 152B)	Jewish Hist.-2nd Temple Period		D. Biale	23 26
Hist. 153B	Modern Jewish History		C. Fink	80
<u>Topics Courses</u>				
Jud. St. 182J (also Hist. 196F)	Modern Jewish Thought: From Rationalism to Existentialism		D. Biale	7 4
Jud. St. 182E (also Hist. 196M)	Rebirth of Israel		H. Rivlin	12 45
Jud. St. 182L (also IPB 113)	Women in Jewish Law		R. Biale	21 11
Jud. St. 182M (also IPB 131)	Jewish Folk Music		D. Skuse	17 2
Jud. St. 182N	Seminar in American Jewish History		M. Gottlieb	9
Jud. St. 199	Independent Study		Staff	3
History 296C	Ancient Near East Mythology		G. Kadish	19
Pol. Sci. 129	Politics of Israel		D. Peretz	37
<u>Language Courses</u>				
Hebrew 102	Elementary Hebrew, II		Y. Stillman	70
Hebrew 104	Readings in Hebrew Literature		S. Morell	8
Hebrew 261	Medieval Hebrew Poetry		S. Morell	3
Hebrew 262	Alienation in Modern Hebrew Literature		S. Morell	10
Yiddish 102	Elementary Yiddish, II		I. Friedland	14
Yiddish 104	Intermediate Yiddish		I. Friedland	6
				Total: 427

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

During the academic year 1977-78, the following persons served on the Committee :

David Biale	Faculty (Coordinator)
Stanley Ferber	Faculty (Art & Art History)
Carole Fink	Faculty (History - Spring 1978)
Sheldon Grebstein	Administration
Arthur Liedman	Faculty (Sociology)
Norman Stillman	Faculty (History - Fall 1977)
Yedida Stillman	Faculty (Classical & Near East Studies)
Michael Gold	Student
Paula Marcus	Student
Steven Sheinwald	Student

CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

The following students qualified for the Judaic Studies Certificate:

Michael B. Gold (Recipient of Jacob and Sarah Piaker Award for Excellence in Judaic Studies.)
Steven A. Levine
Gayl E. Selkin
Steven B. Sheinwald
Wanda P. Stollop
Shari L. Miller (I.P.B. Major)

LECTURE SERIES

1. Professor S. D. Goitein, "Changing Patterns in the Jewish Family from the Bible to the Time of Maimonides," November 15, 1977. Attendance: 250
2. Rabbi Herbert Weiner, "Jewish Mysticism and Meditation," December 5, 1977. Attendance: 40
3. Professor Richard Hecht (U.C. Santa Barbara), "Why the High Priest Burned His Underwear," December 16, 1978. Attendance: 20
4. Mr. Steve Zipperstein (YIVO Institute), "The First Years of Jewish Odessa: Cultural Characteristics of a Jewish Community 1794-1840," February 6, 1978. Attendance: 50 (included History 153B)
5. Professor David Jacobson (University of Michigan), "Modern Midrash: Interpretations by Israel Poets of Biblical Stories," March 6, 1978. Attendance: 35

The Judaic Studies Program also cosponsored a lecture by Professor Stanley Ferber of blessed memory on the indexing of Hebrew illuminated manuscripts, a poetry reading by Professor Marcia Falk, a lecture by Professor Esther Benaim (Universite de Montreal) on "Moroccan Jews of Quebec" and a lecture by Professor Terence des Pres on the Holocaust.

FACULTY-STUDENT GATHERINGS

An effort was made this year to bring faculty and students together on an informal basis with some educational or cultural program as the focus. A faculty-student mixer, cosponsored with the Jewish Student Union, was held at the beginning of the year. On February 4, 1978, a gathering at the home of Professor David Biale featured a talk by our visitor from Haifa University, Professor Yaakov Goldstein and folk singing. On April 28, 1978, a gathering was held in the President's House at which David Skuse, who taught the Jewish Folk Music course, played Yiddish and Israeli music with the ensemble formed from the class.

Judaic Studies students also met twice during the year with the coordinator to discuss problems and possible new programs.

FRIENDS OF JUDAIC STUDIES

The Friends of Judaic Studies were quite active this year and faculty members from the Program participated in a number of their activities. In the beginning of the year, the Friends held a reception for the new coordinator. In October, David Biale gave a lecture to the Friends on "Intermarriage in the Biblical Period" and in March, Rachel Biale gave a slide lecture on Ketubot. In April, David Skuse presented a musical offering from his class's ensemble.

The Friends helped support the two IPB courses in Judaic Studies: "Women in Jewish Law" and "Jewish Folk Music." Without their assistance, the courses would probably not have taken place. The Friends have also indicated willingness to buy a copy of the Encyclopedia Judaica for a Judaic Studies reading room, should the University give us a room on the 13th floor of the Library Tower.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

1. The Judaic Studies Committee felt that while our course offerings are quite diversified, they are not governed by any master plan for what a truly comprehensive Judaic Studies program should look like. We will devote part of next year to developing guidelines for an ideal program and try to identify where we are weak and where we are strong.
2. The History Department has expressed an interest in developing a field in Jewish history and the Judaic Studies Program will assist in the formulation of criteria.
3. A comprehensive proposal was submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a pilot grant to renovate the Biblical History course and create a new interdisciplinary course on the Holocaust. We will know whether we will receive the grant by early September.
4. A proposal was submitted for a conversation in the discipline on the topic of "Jewish Marriage and the Family." The Conversation would take place next spring if the grant is awarded.

Humbly submitted,

David Biale

David Biale, Coordinator