Spring 2014 News

Please welcome two new members of the KU faculty, Vitaly Chernetsky, in Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Eric Welch in Jewish Studies. Vitaly has a major interest in Jewish Studies and will be teaching courses on Russian literature and film; Eric is leading a course this Spring on the Archaeology of Ancient Israel. Speaking of courses, Eric and I will be conducting the first KU Archaeological Tour of Ancient Israel this summer, May 20/21 to June 13; come tramp with us around Israel for 4 weeks!

Starting this Spring we now sponsor study abroad programs in Israel and in other countries. Learn more at the Office of Study Abroad! (studyabroad.ku.edu - there's a special page just for Jewish Study programs in Israel and elsewhere.)

We have also begun the process of planning for a Jewish Studies major! Enthusiasm for this new program is high and we may be able to offer a BA in Jewish Studies by 2016.

John Younger
Professor of Classics and Academic Director for Jewish Studies

Mission Statement:
The Jewish Studies Program explores the culture, history, languages, and religion of the Jewish people and their global role in the shaping of human experience.

You’re Invited!
Jewish Studies Spring Party
Wednesday, May 7th, 2014
4:00-5:30
Kansas Union
4th Floor Traditions Area

Above: Paul Nahme, Paul Mirecki, John Younger and Rabbi Zalman Tiechtel at Program gathering.
Study Abroad

Summer archaeological tour of Israel, May 20-June 13, led by John Younger and Eric Welch: people.ku.edu/~jyounger/Israel. We visit Bronze Age (like Megiddo), Classical cities (Beit She’an), Roman-period catacombs (Beit She’arim), hike up Masada at sunrise, and tour Jerusalem for days on end!

Studying in Israel is now possible and easy! Choose programs at Haifa, Hebrew University, or Tel Aviv! Visit Study Abroad (studyabroad.ku.edu). A few fellowships are also available.

Faculty

We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members to our Jewish Studies program. Vitaly Chernetsky joins our Faculty with research focusing on the representation of Jewish life in Russian and East European literature and film, as well as the cultural dialogue and collaboration between Jews and their Slavic neighbors. Eric Welch is a lecturer with Jewish Studies and his interests lie in the reconstruction of Ancient Near Eastern history using text and archaeology.

At left: Vitaly Chernetsky, Associate Professor Slavic Languages & Literatures

At right: Eric Welch, Lecturer in Jewish Studies

How can you help?

We need your financial support! It’s easy and convenient to donate online via our website: jewishstudies.ku.edu/support-program. We need funds to establish fellowships for Jewish Studies students, study abroad scholarships, faculty and program support, and new faculty lines. We are happy to speak with you about how your generosity will benefit students at KU.