Summer School for Graduate Students in Jewish Studies

Jerusalem  July 8–17, 2012

The Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Pennsylvania announce a new summer school for doctoral students in their first three years of graduate study in all fields of Judaic studies.

The summer school will be held alternately in Jerusalem and Philadelphia, beginning in Jerusalem in 2012. The objective of the school is to expand the academic horizons of the participants by exposing them to new approaches and new areas of study in Jewish civilization. In small seminar settings focused on specific textual readings with senior faculty and with some of the best and brightest students from around the world, we hope to create a sense of social and intellectual connection among all participants, enhancing their relationships with each other and with other fields beyond their specific areas of specialization.

The summer school will also take advantage of the rich scholarly resources of both Jerusalem and Philadelphia by arranging visits to libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions. The school will be jointly directed by Professor Israel Yuval of the Hebrew University and Professor David Ruderman of the University of Pennsylvania who will be joined by a faculty carefully chosen to enhance the intellectual ambiance the school hopes to foster.

Mingled Identities: Rethinking The Notion of Identity in Jewish Culture

The 2012 summer school will probe the meaning of Jewish identity across the sweep of Jewish history. Recent scholarship on the history of Judaism as well as the history of western religions in general has moved away from the narratives of religious conflict and separation. Instead of border maintenance, scholars increasingly speak of border crossings, socio-cultural mixing, hybridity, and mingled identities when examining the histories of interaction between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Such explorations have challenged the meaning of Jewish culture itself. What elements in specific Jewish cultures can we speak of as enduring or internal, and how are these ideas themselves created and disseminated? Is it not more productive to examine Jewish cultures at their borders, at their sites of cultural contact and exchange with other cultures, rather than merely to study them in isolation in search of their essential nature?

Through an intense seminar format, students will explore these questions with a faculty of distinguished scholars representing variegated fields and approaches to Jewish studies, as they emerge from close readings in original languages and open discussion. While all teaching and discussion will occur in English, a strong reading knowledge of Hebrew will be required of all participants.

Applying

For more details and information, or to find the application, please go to http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/site/Mandel Jewish Studies

or contact

Ms. Maya Sherman at jewishsummerschool@huji.ac.il

Applications should be submitted to jewishsummerschool@huji.ac.il and are due by November 15, 2011. Successful candidates will be notified by February 15, 2012.