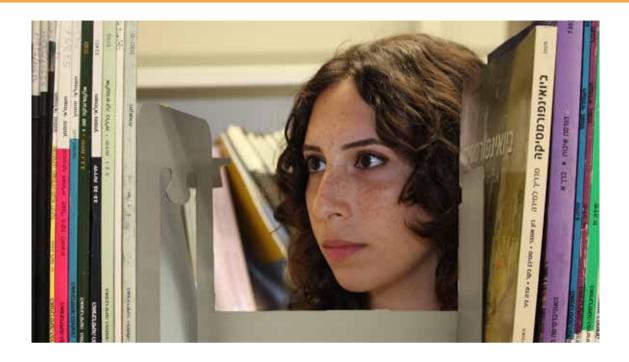# Academic Development

Developing study materials adapted to distance teaching is at the heart of the OUI academic endeavor. Academic development functions within the framework of the Office of the Dean of Development and Educational Technology, Prof. Sarah Guri-Rosenblit. The development process is lengthy, complex and demanding. This endeavor involves OUI faculty members and editors with knowledge and experience in preparing materials for independent study, together with academics from other universities who are experts in the field.

The Open University's classic textbooks serve as the basis for courses studied at most of Israel's higher education institutions. They are developed especially for OUI students and include various didactic aids, such as questions, summaries, comments and references. In addition to this traditional model, a wide range of course models have been developed in recent years, each unique in the way it presents academic content and pedagogical aids. Most of the courses are based on texts and printed learning materials, but the scope of digital materials grows yearly and includes recorded lectures, digitized anthologies and e-books. Publishing professionals are involved in the production of all print materials, and experts in learning technologies are involved in the production of computer-based materials.

Courses Approved for Development this Year

Dept. of Literature, Language, and the Arts

Traversing Sounds: Critical Discourses of Music
Art in Israel: 1948-1988
Bialik's Long Poems
The Visual Arts in Jewish Society
Basic Editing Workshop
Basic Directing Workshop
Basic Cinematography Workshop
Basic Scriptwriting Workshop
Literature and Ethics – Readings in Twentieth Century
   Hebrew Prose

Dept. of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies

Texts in Arabic: History of the Middle East and its Cultures
The Jewish Diaspora in the Hellenistic-Roman Period (revision)

Dept. of Management and Economics

Contemporary Theories of Economic and Social Justice
Principles of Business Law (revision)
Planning, Analysis and Design of Information Systems (revision)
Emotions in Organization (MA)

Dept. of Sociology, Political Science and Communication

The European Union: History, Institutions, and Policy
Middle Eastern Societies from a Comparative Perspective
Local Government Law in Israel

Dept. of Education and Psychology

Individual Differences (MA)
Psychological Aspects of Communication in Cyberspace (MA)
Theory and Practice of Questionnaire Development (MA)
Diversity in Education - Theory and Practice
Judgment and Evaluation under Conditions of Uncertainty for Students of Management and Economics (revision)
History of Psychology (revision)
Selected Issues in Social Psychology I (MA)
Selected Issues in Social Psychology II (MA)
Selected Issues in Social Psychology III (MA)
Selected Issues in Social Psychology IV (MA)
Cognition and Threat (MA)
Social Cognition (MA)
Research Seminar I (MA)
Research Seminar II (MA)
Personnel Selection

Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science

Database Systems (revision)
Database Systems Implementation (revision)
Advanced Topics in Database Systems (revision)
Game Theory (revision)
Software Project Management (MSc)

Dept. of Natural Sciences

Advanced Organic Chemistry
Critical Reading of Scientific Papers and Research Planning
Introduction to Medical Thought (MA)
Biochemistry I for Chemists

Courses Based on Recorded Lectures

Recorded lectures, as a replacement for course books, offer faculty a faster alternative for course development (4-6 months of filming and editing), making it more convenient to update or expand course material. The following courses are either in the final stages of development, or have been completed during the past year: War and Strategy; Ergonomics; Religious Knowledge, Authority, and Charisma in Islam; Computational Models in Cognitive Science; Advanced Statistics and Research Methods I; The Human Commodity: Slavery and Slave Trade in and from Africa; Evolution and Creationism; Literature and Culture; and Democracy and Mass Communication.

Academic Development Management System

The Academic Development Management System supports all OUI course development and revision processes, including course proposals, editing, copyright and production. The system is designed to serve both operational and managerial personnel, providing tools for the coordination of various course development features, including timetable, content, and production.

Book Translations

- This year, the following books were translated into Hebrew: the second volume of *Social Psychology*, the first and second volumes of *Discourse Analysis*, *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*, and the second volume of *Introduction to Genetic Analysis*.
- As part of the Arabic translation project, the following books were published in their final editions this year: Five volumes of the *Introduction to Social Thinking* course, and volume 1 of the *Middle East Between the World Wars* course book. Additional volumes of the *Middle East Between the World Wars* course books were published in a provisional edition. Translation of the final edition is underway.

English as a Foreign Language

This year, course books were published for Level A English for Social Sciences and Level A English for Education and Psychology.

New Titles Produced by the Open University

Type	Title	Pages
Textbooks, final edition	53	16,958
Textbooks, provisional edition	65	10,269
Readers and study guides, final edition	81	22,835
Readers and study guides, provisional edition	32	5,264