

Academic Development.....

The development of academic courses is the focal point of Open University activity. It is a unique process that stems from the fact that we are a distance learning institution. The Academic Committee sets development policy and decides on development of courses, programs of study and other academic projects. Course development is a lengthy process. It involves the participation of Open University faculty who are experts in the specific field and are knowledgeable in preparing self-study material, together with scholars from various universities who are authorities on the topic of the course. Most courses are based on printed material; some also include computerized materials.

The Open University currently offers about 600 courses in a wide variety of fields. Each course is a component of studies toward a degree. The development of new courses requires a heavy investment of financial resources and time, as well as significant effort on the part of faculty members. For this reason our current approach is to develop new courses according to a deliberate policy and to revise and update existing courses. Particular efforts are being made to identify courses requiring immediate revision or the development of alternative courses to replace them. The development of eight courses was put on hold this year, following a decision to halt the development of courses in which significant changes have not been made over the past three years.

Development of Courses

Dept. of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies

Courses continuing to be developed this year:

The Age of Chivalry: Western Europe in the 12th and 13th Centuries
American Jewry: 1820-1950*
The Book of Genesis
The Contemporary Middle East
The Development of the Zionist Armed Forces in Palestine: 1917-1948
Early Christianity
Early Modern Europe: 1350-1600
From 'National Home' to a 'State in the Making': The Jewish Community in Palestine between the World Wars**
History of Israel during the First Temple Period **Revised**
The Holy Land between Christianity and Islam: 324-1099
Introduction to Logic
Islam: Introduction to the History of the Religion**
Jewish Mystical Literature: Historical Introduction
Jews Among Moslems: Introduction to the History of the Jews in

Moslem Lands in the Modern Era (1750-1914)**
The Jews of Yemen: History, Culture, Society**
Medieval Jewish Political Thought
Messianism, Faith and Heresy: The Sabbatian Movement and Jewish Society in the 18th and 19th Centuries
Philosophy of Mind
Pilgrimage: Jews, Christians, Muslims
Problems in Moral Philosophy **Revised**
Prophecy in the Bible
The Rise and Fall of the Chinese Empire
Rome: Imperialism and Empire**
Selected Chapters from the Talmud **Revised**
Skills for Study of the Babylonian Talmud
Spanish Jewry in the Middle Ages
Where To? New Trends Among Jews of Eastern Europe
Women in Jewish Society in Palestine: 1882-1948

* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will be taught in 2004-2005.

** Course which is already being taught and whose development is about to be completed.

Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science – Mathematics Division

Courses continuing to be developed this year:

Functional Analysis **Revised**
Mathematics for Students of Social Sciences **Revised**
Symmetry (Topics in Mathematics)

Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science – Computer Science Division

Courses approved for development this year:

Advanced Topics in Database Systems
Constraint Processing Techniques and Applications [MSc]*
Introduction to Computer Science Using Java*
Introduction to Cryptography

Courses revised this year:

Seminar: Topics in Computer Science Education
Simulation Modeling and Analysis [MSc]*
Software Testing [MSc]
Workshop: C++
Computer Graphics

Courses adapted to new editions of textbooks:

Advanced Programming with Java
Computer Networks I
Computer Networks II
Database Systems
Security in Software Systems [MSc]
Workshop: Computer Networks [MSc]

Dept. of Education and Psychology

Courses approved for development this year:

Alternatives in Assessment [MA]
Approaches to Curriculum Planning and Evaluation [MA]
Curriculum Development and Implementation [MA]*
Evaluation in Education: Theory and Practice [MA]*
Heuristics and Biases: The Psychology of Intuitive Judgment

Issues in Psychology of Internet Users [MA]
Research Methods in Education [MA]
Sleep and Sleep Disorders in Children
Technology and Learning [MA]
Theories of Learning and Instruction [MA]*

Courses continuing to be developed this year:

Cognitive Psychology
Distance Teaching Universities: The Democratization of Higher
Education [MA]
Factors Affecting Identification with Groups
Instructional Design and Evaluation of Computer
Environments [MA]
Reading Disabilities
Research Methods in Social Sciences: Unit 6
Guide to SPSS – Addition to Introduction to Statistics for Students
of Social Sciences II

Dept. of Sociology, Political Science and Communication

Courses approved for development this year:

Christian Democracy: Parties, Thinkers, Constituency and Religion
in Europe [MA]
Citizenship: Theory and Politics
Introduction to Political Science **Revised**
Palestinian Society since 1948: Selected Issues
Racism: Educational Challenges [MA]
Social Movements and Political Protest **Revised**
The United States in the International Arena Since 1945

Courses continuing to be developed this year:

Arab Society in Israel
Art and Politics in the Modern and Postmodern Age
Art in Totalitarian and Democratic Regimes
Canonic Texts in Media Research
Civil Society [MA]
Democracy and Feminism: Selected Topics [MA]
Democratic Regimes

* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will be taught in 2004-2005.

Democratization in East Asia [MA]
 Dictatorships in the 20th Century
 Families: Sociological and Anthropological Perspectives
 Genocide
 Growing Up with Television **Revised**
 Human Rights in International Relations
 Introduction to Gender Studies
 Introduction to Urban Sociology
 Jewish Ethnicity in Israel
 Jewish Identities: Past and Present
 Political Economy and Democratic Government:
 The Case of Israel [MA]
 Political Sociology **Revised**
 Selected Topics in Israeli Foreign Policy **Revised**
 Sport and Society
 Stereotype and Prejudice in Multicultural Societies [MA]

Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts

Courses continuing to be developed this year:

The Art of Interpretation
 The Classical Style **Revised**
 Fundamental Issues in Translation
 Harmonic Structures
 History of the Cinema II: From the Appearance of Sound to the
 French New Wave
 Myth and Ethos in History and Cinema
 Palestinian Cinema
 Still-Life: From Depicted Objects to Real Objects
 Theorizing Film: Spectator and Screen
 The Total Work of Art (*Gesamtkunstwerk*) in the Twentieth Century
 Visual Representations of Zionist Ideology in Israeli Culture

Dept. of Natural Sciences

Courses approved for development or revision this year:

Bioinformatics: Analysis of Sequences and Genomes
 Chemical Kinetics **Revised**

Courses continuing to be developed this year:

Biochemistry I: Proteins – Structure and Function **Revised**
 General Chemistry **Revised**
 Introduction to Electricity and Electronics **Revised**
 Introduction to Geophysics

* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will be taught in 2004-2005.

Introduction to Microbiology **Revised**
 Laboratory: Meteorology
 Molecular Reaction Dynamics
 Nutrition
 Quantum Theory II: The Chemical Bond
 Selected Topics in Molecular Biology
 Spectroscopy of Minerals
 Waves and Optics

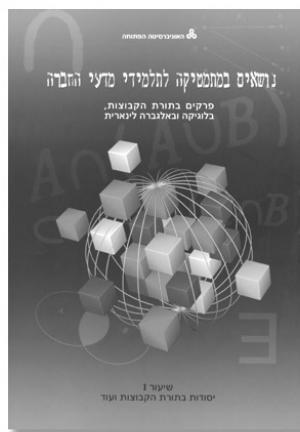
Dept. of Management and Economics

Courses approved for development this year:

Capital Markets and Financial Intermediaries [MBA]
 Information Product Economics [MBA]*
 Introduction to Mechatronics
 Participation Programs in Work Organizations [MBA]
 Project Management for Business Administration [MBA]
 Strategic Information Systems **Revised**
 Thinking Strategically: Game Theory with Economics and Business
 Applications

Courses continuing to be developed this year:

Auditing
 Auditing in Computerized Accounting Systems
 Computer Integrated Manufacturing
 Corporate Law for Managers [MBA]
 Data Communication for Industrial Engineering and Management*
 The Economy of Israel
 Ergonomics
 Facility Layout and Associate Systems Design
 Financial Accounting I
 Financial Accounting II
 Financial and Managerial Accounting*



Fundamentals of Decision Theory and Operations Research for
Students of Accounting
Industrial Organization [MBA]
Introduction to Law and Foundations of Business Law
Introduction to Macroeconomics **Revised**
Introduction to Macroeconomics for Non-Economists
Introduction to Microeconomics
Labor Economics

Managerial Economics
Operations Management II*
Quality and Productivity Management
Simulation for Business and Industrial Engineering
Social Security in Israel
Taxation I
Taxation II
Theory of Work Measurement

English Unit

This year, production of the final editions of the A level (academic) English Reading Comprehension courses in the Humanities was completed.

A special course, **Workshop for Bridging English Proficiency**, was developed to meet the needs of students whose English proficiency level is lower than the entry level required for the E level course. A series of CD-ROMs was developed for the A, B and C level courses in lieu of face-to-face meetings, enabling students to prepare for the exams independently. We have begun the development of an online version of the D level course.

Copyright

The Open University pays considerable attention to copyright issues and invests significant resources in them. With the development of digital media, intensive debate, centered on the copyright of digital materials, has led to renewed discussion of rights to printed materials, primarily for teaching purposes. Deliberations concerning a new copyright law are currently underway in Israel. This year, the Open University was party to these discussions along with the other universities and the Ministry of Justice.

