

Project Russia

Open University Studies in the CIS

Through Project Russia, the Open University offers academic level courses to students who live in the former USSR. For this purpose, the University relies on its unique distance learning capabilities. The courses are taught throughout the CIS in a format as similar as possible to that used in Israel. Most of the courses are in the fields of Judaic Studies, History of the Jewish People, and Land of Israel Studies. The project is financed by various sources: donations from the Yad Hanadiv Foundation, the Keren Keshet Foundation, the Rochlin Foundation, the "Avi Hai" Fund (that finances the Russian radio broadcast project), and the Jewish Agency (that finances acquisition of our textbooks and is responsible for running the study centers in the CIS).

For this unique project, we translate existing Open University courses from Hebrew into Russian, and make the necessary adaptations. In 2003-2004, more than 7,000 students in 280 cities studied 13 different courses.

This year the Academic Committee and the Faculty Council considered the supervision of development and teaching in the project. It was decided that students in the project who accumulated the total number of credits required for a degree would be eligible for an Open University degree. If they accumulate 48 credits or more for courses in Hebrew, the diploma they receive will not indicate the language of study.

Development

Nine courses for the project are currently in advanced stages of development. Due to budget difficulties, we have delayed the pace of publication and postponed the printing of many units.

Teaching

Four additional courses will be offered in the fall semester of 2004-2005: **Jews and Christians in Western Europe** (units 6-11); **History of Zionism: 1881-1914**; **Jews in an Era of**

Открытый университет Израиля
РУССКИЙ ПРОЕКТ

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Публикации и ссылки

НОВОСТИ ПРОЕКТА

Перечень курсов, преподаваемых в 2004 году на русском языке:

Главы из истории и культуры евреев Восточной Европы
Катастрофа европейского еврейства
Введение в Устную Тору

Программа курса повышения квалификации для тьюторов и студентов по ПОЛИТОЛОГИИ

Школа тьюторов

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Transition; and **Ethiopia: Christianity, Islam, Judaism** (an advanced course with a seminar paper option).

A virtual school for tutors was opened this year on our website, through which we are training new tutors for Project Russia.

This year Open University course coordinators again participated in seminars organized by the Jewish Agency in the CIS. A large proportion of the seminar participants were OU students.

Course coordinators from Israel participated in summer schools for Judaic studies in Rostov, Moscow and Kharkov, in a winter school in Bukhara, and in seminars on Jewish identity in Kiev.