

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 The materials include appendices, illustrations and sections from articles, books, historical documents, etc., and the University makes every effort to obtain permissions from the holders of the rights. The Open University currently offers 625 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 a significant effort on the part of faculty members. For this reason, our current approach is to develop courses according to a deliberate policy and to revise and update existing courses. Particular efforts are made to identify courses requiring immediate revision or the development of alternative courses to replace them.

Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies

Courses approved for development this year

Classical Greece **Updated**

Rome: Space, Monument, Art and Memory *

Courses continuing to be developed this year

The Age of Chivalry: Western Europe in the 12th and 13th Centuries

The Book of Genesis *

The Development of the Zionist Armed Forces in Palestine, 1917-1948

Early Christianity *

Early Modern Europe: 1350-1600

History of Israel during the First Temple Period **Updated** *

The History of the Middle East in the Modern Era

Introduction to Logic

Introduction to the History of Jewish Mystical Literature

The Jews of Yemen: History, Culture, Society

Medieval Jewish Political Thought

Palestine between Christianity and Islam, 324-1099

Philosophy of Mind

Pilgrimage: Jews, Christians, Muslims

Problems in Moral Philosophy **Updated**

The Rise and Fall of the Chinese Empire

Selected Chapters from the Talmud **Updated**

Skills for Study of the Babylonian Talmud

Women in the Jewish Society in Pre-State Palestine

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science - Computer Science Division

Courses approved for development this year

Biological Computation

Introduction to Computer Networks *

Models and Specification Methods for Concurrent and Reactive Systems (MSc) **Updated**

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Introduction to Cryptography *

Seminar: Parallel Systems

Advanced Topics in Database Systems (MSc) *

Research Seminar: Algorithms for Communication Networks (MSc)

Research Seminar: Information Security and Privacy (MSc)

* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will be taught in 2005-2006.



Department of Mathematics and Computer Science – Mathematics Division

Courses continuing to be developed this year

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

Department of Literature, Language and the Arts

Courses approved for development this year

- The History of Jazz
- Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics
- Music and Ideas of Democracy
- The Music of Johann Sebastian Bach **Updated**
- Narrative: A Multidisciplinary Approach
- The Thriller: Genres in Cinema

Courses continuing to be developed this year

- The Art of Interpretation
- The Classical Style **Updated**
- Fundamental Issues in Translation *

- Harmonic Structures
- History of the Cinema: From Classical Hollywood to Italian Neorealism *
- 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 *

Department of Education and Psychology

Courses approved for development this year

- Mathematical Disabilities: Cognitive Perspectives
- Honors Research Seminar in Psychology
- Approaches and Models in Designing Computer-Based Instructional Systems (MA) *
- Developing Curricula in Various Subject Matters: Theory and Practice (MA) *
- From Information Search to Knowledge Construction in Technology-Rich Environments (MA) *
- Integrating Learning Technologies in Various Disciplines (MA) *
- Varieties of Learning Technologies: Principles and Applications (MA) *

Courses continuing to be developed this year

- Cognitive Psychology **Updated**
- Heuristics and Biases: The Psychology of Intuitive Judgment **Updated**
- Sleep and Sleep Disorders in Childhood
- Alternatives in Assessment (MA) *
- Approaches to Curriculum Planning and Evaluation (MA) *
- Instructional Design and Evaluation of Computer Environments (MA) *
- Issues in the Psychology of Internet Users (MA) *

Department of Management and Economics

Courses approved for development this year

- Advanced Managerial Accounting for Accounting Students *
- Consolidated Financial Statements *
- Dynamics of Negotiation **Updated**
- Project Management for Industrial Engineering
- Stochastic Models in Operations Research
- Advanced Managerial Accounting (MBA)
- Global Strategic Alliances (MBA) *
- Labor Relations in Globalization (MBA)
- Multinational Financial Management (MBA)
- Performance Appraisal at Work: Evaluation and Change (MBA)

- Principles of Income Tax (MBA)
- Public Policy: Theory to Practice (MBA)

Courses continuing to be developed this year

- Computer-Integrated Manufacturing
- Corporate Law *
- The Economy of Israel *
- Facility Layout and Associate Systems Design *
- Intermediate Financial Accounting II *
- Introduction to Mechatronics

* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will be taught in 2005-2006.

Labor Economics *
Managerial Economics
Quality and Productivity Management
Taxation I *
Taxation II *

Theory of Work Study
Thinking Strategically – Game Theory with Economics and
Business Applications
Corporate Law for Managers (MBA) *
Industrial Organization (MBA)

Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication

Courses approved for development this year

Communication: Technology, Society and Culture **Updated**
Media Law and Ethics in Israel
Public Policy
Sociology of Organizations
Methodological Seminar for Democracy Studies (MA) *

Courses continuing to be developed this year

The Arab Society in Israel
Art and Politics in the Modern and Postmodern Age
Canonical Texts in Media Research
Citizenship: Theory and Politics
Democratic Regimes
Dictatorships in the 20th Century
Families: Sociological and Anthropological Perspectives *
Genocide *
Growing-up with Television **Updated** *
Human Rights in International Relations
Introduction to Gender Studies

Introduction to Theories and Methods in Political Science *
Introduction to Urban Sociology *
Jewish Ethnicity in Israel
Jewish Identities in an Era of Multiple Modernities *
Palestinian Society since 1948: Selected Issues
Selected Topics in Israeli Foreign Policy **Updated**
Social Movements and Political Protest **Updated**
Sport and Society
State and Society: The Sociology of Politics **Updated** *
The United States in the International Arena Since 1945 *
Christian Democracy: Parties, Thinkers, Constituency and
Religion in Europe (MA)
Civil Society (MA)
Democracy and Feminism: Selected Topics (MA)
Democratization in East Asia (MA)
Political Economy and Democratic Government – The Case of
Israel (MA)

Department of Natural Sciences

Courses approved for development this year

Chemical Communication in Animals **Updated**
Laboratory: Biotechnology
Organic Chemistry

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Biochemistry II: Carbohydrates, Lipids, Nucleic Acids
Bioinformatics: Analysis of Sequences and Genomes
General Chemistry *

Introduction to Geophysics *
Introduction to Microbiology **Updated**
Laboratory in Meteorology - Observations and Synoptic Analysis *
Quantum Theory II: The Chemical Bond
Spectroscopy of Minerals *
Waves and Optics
The World of Electricity and Electronics *



* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will be taught in 2005-2006.

The Russian-Language Academic Program of the Open University

Due to budget difficulties, we have delayed the pace of publication of study materials in Russian. This year we completed the development of the following courses: **History of Zionism: 1881-1914**; **History of the Jewish Community in Palestine Between the World Wars (Part I)**; **The Pain of Knowledge: Reflections on Holocaust and Genocide Issues in Education** (advanced course); **Jews in an Era of Transition**; **Ethiopia: Christianity, Islam, Judaism** (advanced course); and **Jews and Christians in Western Europe**. The following courses are currently in advanced stages of development: **Introduction to Biblical Literature (Part II)**; **Midrash and Aggadah**; and **Ashkenazi Hasidism in the History of Jewish Thought**.