

Academic Development



Developing study material adapted to distance teaching is the apex of the OUI academic endeavor. The development process is lengthy, complex and demanding. Involved in this endeavor are OUI personnel – academic faculty members and editors with knowledge and experience in preparing self-study materials, together with academics from other universities, experts in the field of the course.

The OUI's classic textbooks are the essence of OUI activity. They constitute the basic study materials used by OUI students and are widely renowned and used by students and lecturers at all universities in Israel. An OUI textbook in its classic format replaces the traditional face-to-face course and exercise format and is learner-friendly. The text and the illustrations conduct a dialog with the learner by including thought-provoking questions, exercises and answers, summary questions on various levels of difficulty, as well as interim summaries and integrated summaries of discussions and other didactic aids. Hence the OUI motto, "the book is the teacher." In intermediate level courses, the text is usually written specifically for the OUI, whereas advanced course textbooks are for the most part collections of articles accompanied by explanations and guided reading.

The number of courses presented to students in innovative formats has grown in recent years. Some of these courses include, in addition to the written material, courseware or video recorded lessons on CD; other courses are primarily based on lectures recorded in an *Ofek* studio or transmitted to all parts of the country via video conferencing.

The OUI currently offers more than 600 courses in a wide range of fields. To ensure that the books remain up-to-date and to maintain their high academic quality, the OUI has decided to give top priority to updating and replacing outdated courses and is investing efforts to this end.

Department of Literature, Language and the Arts

Courses approved for development this year

Introduction to Modern Art
Arab Music in the Middle East
Language of the Arts
Israeli Prose in the Sixties (update)

Shakespearean Drama (update)
Gender and Feminism in Modern Drama
Hebrew as a Second Language



Courses continuing to be developed this year

- Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics
- The Total Work of Art (*Gesamtkunstwerk*) in the Twentieth Century
- Still-Life: From Depicted Objects to Real Objects *
- The Art of Interpretation
- Harmonic Structures I and II
- Music and Ideas of Democracy
- The History of Jazz
- A History of Western Music I * and II
- The Classical Style
- The Music of Johann Sebastian Bach (update) *
- Narrative: A Multidisciplinary Perspective
- Myth and Ethos in History and Cinema
- Theorizing Film: Spectator and Screen
- The Thriller: Genres in Cinema *
- Memory, Trauma and Fantasy in the Cinema
- East and West in Israeli Cinema (update)
- History of the Cinema: From Classical Hollywood to Italian Neorealism (update) *
- Theater and Society *

Department of Education and Psychology

Courses approved for development this year

- Cognitive Neuropsychology *
- Implementing Innovations in Educational Systems (update)
- Introduction to Special Education (formerly: Fundamental Issues in Special Education) (update)

Courses continuing to be developed this year

- Cognitive Psychology (update)
- The Psychology of Intuitive Judgment (update)
- Research Methods in Social Sciences: Guiding Principles and Research Styles (update)
- Developmental Psychology (update)
- The Didactics of Teaching Social Sciences *
- Practical Training in Teaching Social Sciences

* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will soon be offered.

Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies

Courses approved for development this year

Slavery in Ancient History
 Introduction to History of the Jews in the Medieval Period
 The Jews in Russia in the 20th Century
 Secularism in Modern Jewish Culture and Society
 Methodology of Teaching History *
 Practicum of Teaching History *

Early Modern Europe: 1350-1600
 The Rise and Fall of the Chinese Empire
 The Age of Chivalry: Western Europe in the 12th and 13th Centuries
 Jewish Press: Communication, Identity, Nationalism, 1840-1939

Classical Greece (update)
 From "National Home" to a "State in the Making"
 Political Demography of Arab Countries in the 20th Century *

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Selected Chapters from the Talmud (update)
 Messianism, Belief and Heresy: The Shabtai Tzvi Movement (update)
 The Holy Land between Christianity and Islam, 324-1099
 The Development of the Zionist Armed Forces in Palestine, 1917-1948
 Women in Jewish Society in Pre-State Palestine

The Modern Middle East
 Introduction to Logic
 Contemporary Philosophy of Mind
 Medieval Jewish Political Thought
 Introduction to the History of Jewish Mystical Literature
 Equality and Inequality - A Philosophical Perspective *
 Problems in Moral Philosophy (update)

Department of Natural Sciences

Courses approved for development this year

Management and Evaluation of Technology-Rich Projects
 Genetics (formerly: From Mendelism to Genetic Engineering) (update)
 Nerve Cells: Introduction to Neurobiology (update)

Spectroscopy of Minerals
 General Chemistry
 Laboratory: Inorganic Chemistry
 Biochemistry I and II (updates)
 Laboratory: Biochemistry of Proteins (update)
 Sociobiology and Its Offshoots: Science in Controversy (MA)

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Immunology (update)
 Bioinformatics: Analysis of Sequences and Genomes
 Quantum Theory II: The Chemical Bond *
 Waves and Optics
 Nuclear Physics

The World of Bacteria (update)
 Faunistics of Vertebrates in Israel (update)
 Analysis of Experiments (update)
 Electronics I and II (updates)
 Introduction to Meteorology (update)

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science – Mathematics Division

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Functional Analysis (update) *
 Mathematics for Students of Social Sciences (update)
 Field Extensions and Galois Theory (update)

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science – Computer Science Division

Courses approved for development this year

Logic for Computer Science
 Algorithms (update)
 Data Mining
 Advanced Topics in Database Systems (update) *
 Data Structures and Introduction to Algorithms (update)
 Algorithmics: The Foundations of Computer Science (update)
 Compilation (update)
 Seminar: Online Algorithms (MSc)
 Workshop: Computer Communication *

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Biological Computation *
 Introduction to the Theory of Computation and Complexity
 Numerical Analysis *
 Workshop: Operating Systems (update) *
 Advanced Programming with Java (update)
 System Programming Laboratory (update)
 Principles of Operating Systems (update)
 Security in Software Systems (MSc) (update)
 Constraint Processing Techniques and Applications (MSc)
 Digital Design (update) *
 Principles of Information Systems Development (update)

Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication

Courses approved for development this year

Introduction to Anthropology (update and expansion) *
 Mass Media in Israel (update)
 Culture, Communication and Leisure in Israel (update)
 Diplomatic History of the 20th Century: 1900-1945 (update) *
 Religion and State: Philosophical Aspects (update)
 Religion and State: Philosophical Aspects (MA) (update)

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: From Ashkenazi Hegemony to Negotiation in a Complex Reality
 Social Stratification: Issues in Social Inequality (update) *
 Issues in Sociology of the Internet and On-line Communication *
 Palestinian Society since 1948: Selected Issues
 Sport and Society *
 Introduction to Urban Sociology *
 Sociology of Culture

Citizenship: Theory and Politics
 Social Movements and Political Protest (expansion)
 Genocide
 Democratic Regimes *
 Society, Politics and Economics
 European Colonialism: Theory, Praxis and Resistance
 Dictatorships in the 20th Century
 Selected Topics in Israeli Foreign Policy (update) *
 Public Policy
 The Political Economy of Israel (revised as an undergraduate course)
 Canonic Texts in Media Research *
 Media Law and Ethics in Israel
 Communication: Technology, Society and Culture (update)
 Cultural Policy
 Democracy and Feminism: Selected Topics (MA)
 Christian Democracy: Parties, Thinkers, Constituency and Religion in Europe (MA)
 Equality and Inequality – A Philosophical Perspective (MA) *

* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will soon be offered.

Department of Management and Economics

Courses approved for development this year

Economic History **

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Managerial Economics

Introduction to Macroeconomics for Non-Economists *

Public Economics

Thinking Strategically – Game Theory with Economics and Business Applications *

Non-Linear Optimization Methods *

Ergonomics

Project Management for Industrial Engineering

Introduction to Mechatronics *

Computer Integrated Manufacturing Systems *

Quality and Productivity Management

Theory of Work Study

Marketing Management (update)

Law of Contracts (update)

Taxation II

Consolidated Financial Statements

Introduction to Accounting (update)

Accounting Principles for Students of Accounting (update)

Advanced Financial Accounting

Introduction to Law *

Principles of Business Law

Industrial Organization (MBA)

Competitive Business Strategy (MBA) (update)

International Trade Law (MBA)

Public Policy: Theory to Practice (MBA)

Principles of Income Tax (MBA)

Performance Appraisal at Work: Evaluation and Change (MBA)

Translating Courses into Arabic

Following the recommendations of the Dotan Committee, the University decided to translate into Arabic six introductory courses in order to help Arab-speaking students at their initial stages at the OUI. The translation is funded by an earmarked donation. A steering committee was established to select the courses and manage the translation process. The committee also decided to plan an overall program for supporting Arabic-speaking students.

English as a Foreign Language

The OUI continued the development and rewriting of print and online materials in A-level reading comprehension courses, while pilot teaching them. It also completed the development of written material for B and C level courses and courseware development for online courses.

* Course whose development is about to be completed and which will soon be offered.

** The course will also be taught by the Dept. of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies.