

Academic Development

Developing study materials 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 – faculty members and editors with knowledge and experience in preparing material for independent study, together with academics from other universities, who are experts in the field.

The OUI's classic textbooks are the essence of OUI activity. They constitute the basic study materials used by OUI students, and are well-known and popular with 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 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 for guided reading accompanied by explanations.

The number of courses available to students in innovative formats has grown in recent years. In addition to the written material, some of these include courseware or video-recorded lessons on CD as well as links to relevant websites. In the last year, various models of filmed courses have been developed; among them, courses primarily based on recorded lectures that are combined with a study guide and additional reading materials, or courses in which the filmed lectures replace the study guide, and are accompanied by additional reading materials.

To ensure that the books remain up-to-date and to maintain their high academic quality, this year the OUI continued to give top priority to updating and replacing outdated courses. At the same time, we are developing new courses for the latest undergraduate and graduate degree programs approved by the CHE.

The large number of courses and the wide range of formats necessitated mapping all the study materials and creating a database according to criteria determined for evaluating courses and programs of study. All the data in the various OUI databases was combined into one database, and in the future, all new materials that are developed will be catalogued in this database.

The scope of academic development activity has long necessitated computerization of the development process. Steps were taken this year in this direction.

Dept. of Education and Psychology

Courses approved for development this year

Introduction to Psychology (update)

Teaching: Art, Craft or Profession? (update)

The Effect of Stress and Anxiety in Infancy on Adult Functioning [Lab course, in collaboration with the Academic College of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo]*

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)

Implementing Innovations in Educational Systems (update)

Introduction to Special Education [formerly: Fundamental Issues in Special Education] (update)

Teaching Social Sciences: Practical Training (Practicum)*

Teaching Social Sciences: Methodology*

Psychological Testing: Theory and Practice (update)

Physiology of Behavior (update)

Educational Psychology (update)

Integrating Learning Technologies in Various Disciplines (MA) (update)

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

Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts

Courses approved for development this year

American Romantic Comedy (1934-2000)
 Director or Auteur?
 Jews, Hebrews, Israelis: Cultural Aspects of Jewish
 Identity (MA)*

Theories and Approaches in Cultural Studies (MA)*
 Multiculturalism in Israel (MA)*
 Issues in Spatial Theory (MA)*
 Issues in Intercultural Exchange and Cross-Cultural
 Encounters (MA)*

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Introduction to Modern Art
 The Total Work of Art (*Gesamtkunstwerk*) in the Twentieth
 Century
 Still-Life: From Depicted Objects to Real Objects*
 Renaissance Art in Italy (update)
 The Art of Interpretation
 Harmonic Structures I and II
 Music at First Sight (update)
 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)*
 Arab Music in the Middle East
 Narrative: A Multidisciplinary Perspective

Language of the Arts
 Selected Hebrew Short Stories – Early Twentieth Century
 (update)
 Israeli Prose in the Sixties (update)
 The Fictional World: Mimesis or Artifice? (update)
 Theater and Society*
 Shakespearean Drama (update)
 Gender and Feminism in Modern Drama
 Myth and Ethos in History and Cinema*
 Theorizing Film: Spectator and Screen
 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)
 Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics
 Hebrew as a Second Language

Dept. of Natural Sciences

Courses approved for development this year

Analytical Electromagnetism*
 Wave Transmission and Antennas*
 Animal-Plant Interactions
 Biological Aspects of Industrial Microorganisms

Genetics for Students of Social Sciences and
 Humanities
 Philosophy of Science [with the Dept. of History,
 Philosophy and Judaic Studies]
 The Mediterranean Coast of Israel

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Genetics [formerly: From Mendelism to Genetic
 Engineering] (update)
 Nerve Cells: Introduction to Neurobiology (update)
 Immunology (update)
 The World of Bacteria (update)
 Faunistics of Vertebrates in Israel (update)
 Cell Structure and Function (update)
 Nutrition (update)
 Quantum Theory II: The Chemical Bond*
 General Chemistry
 Laboratory: Physical Chemistry (update)
 Biochemistry I and II [updates]
 Laboratory: Biochemistry of Proteins (update)

Analysis of Experiments (update)
 Waves and Optics
 Nuclear Physics
 Electronics I and II (updates)
 Introduction to Meteorology (update)
 Spectroscopy of Minerals
 Introduction to Earth Sciences (update)
 Oceanography (update)
 Management and Evaluation of Technology-Rich
 Projects
 Bioinformatics: Analysis of Sequences and Genomes
 Sociobiology and Its Offshoots: Science in Controversy
 (MA)

Dept. of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies

Courses approved for development this year

King, Kingship and Kingdom: Studies in the History and Historiography of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah [formerly: The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah] (update)
 Introduction to Analytic Philosophy
 From Descartes to Hume: Philosophy in the 17th and 18th Centuries [formerly: Philosophy in the 17th and 18th Centuries: Rationalism and Empiricism] (update)
 The Ottoman Empire: History and Selected Topics
 Philosophy of Science (update) [with the Dept. of Natural Sciences]

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Slavery in Ancient History
 Introduction to the History of the Jews in the Medieval Period
 The Jews in Russia in the 20th Century
 Secularism in Modern Jewish Culture and Society
 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
 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
 Classical Greece (update)
 Spanish Jewry in the Middle Ages (1065-1492)
 Jewish Press: Communication, Identity, Nationalism, 1840-1939
 From "National Home" to a "State in the Making"
 Political Demography of the Middle East*
 The Modern Middle East
 Introduction to Logic
 Contemporary Philosophy of Mind
 Problems in Moral Philosophy (update)
 Medieval Jewish Political Thought
 Introduction to the History of Jewish Mystical Literature
 Selected Chapters from the Talmud (update)
 Messianism, Belief and Heresy: The Shabtai Tzvi Movement (update)
 Teaching History: Methodology*
 Teaching History: Practical Training (Practicum)*
 Economic History [with the Dept. of Management and Economics]

Dept. of Sociology, Political Science and Communication

Courses approved for development this year

Qualitative Research Methods
 Workshop: Radio
 Workshop: Editing in the Digital Era
 Religion, State and Politics (update)
 Sub-Saharan Africa in International Relations (update)
 Democracy and Mass Communication (MA)
 Pierre Bourdieu: Taste, Cultural Capital and the Arts (MA)
 Society, Culture and Representation (MA)
 Anthropological and Sociological Approaches to Cultural Studies (MA)

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

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Diplomatic History of the 20th Century: 1900-1945

(update)*

Religion and State: Philosophical Aspects

Palestinian Society since 1948: Selected Issues

Social Movements and Political Protest (update and expansion)

Genocide

Democratic Regimes

Dictatorships in the 20th Century

Society, Politics and Economics

European Colonialism: Theory, Praxis and Resistance

Selected Topics in Israeli Foreign Policy (update)*

Public Policy

The Political Economy of Israel

Cultural Policy (update and expansion)

Sport and Society

Sociology of Organizations

Introduction to Urban Sociology*

Sociology of Culture

Introduction to Anthropology (update)*

Mass Media in Israel (update)

Culture, Communication and Leisure in Israel (update)

Canonic Texts in Media Research*

Media Law and Ethics in Israel

Communication: Technology, Society and Culture (update)

Democracy and Feminism: Selected Topics (MA)

Christian Democracy: Parties, Thinkers, Constituency and Religion in Europe (MA)

Religion and State: Philosophical Aspects (MA)

(update)

Racism – Educational Challenges (MA)

Democracy and Democratization (MA) (update)

Dept. of Management and Economics

Courses approved for development this year

Consolidated Financial Statements

Advanced Financial Accounting

Advertising Management (update)

Survey Methodology [formerly: Surveys and Public Opinion Research] (update)

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Economic History [with the Dept. of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies]

Managerial Economics

Public Economics

Price Theory III (update)

Marketing Management (update)

Consumer Behavior (update)

Human Resource Management (update)

Law of Contracts (update)

Taxation II

Consolidated Financial Statements

Introduction to Accounting (update)

Advanced Financial Accounting

Cost and Managerial Accounting (update)

Managerial Accounting for Students of Accounting (update)

Introduction to Law*

Principles of Business Law

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

Industrial Organization (MBA)

Competitive Business Strategy (MBA) (update)

Principles of Income Tax (MBA)

International Trade Law (MBA)

Public Policy: Theory to Practice (MBA)

Performance Appraisal at Work: Evaluation and Change (MBA)

Financial Modeling (MBA)

Managerial Accounting (MBA)

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

Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science – Mathematics Division

Courses approved for development this year

Ordinary Differential Equations II
History of Mathematics: From Ancient Greece to Euler's Time

Courses continuing to be developed this year

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

Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science – Computer Science Division

Courses approved for development this year

Computer Organization
Numerical Analysis II
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (update)
Randomized Algorithms (MSc) (update)

Courses continuing to be developed this year

Logic for Computer Science
Algorithms (update)
Data Mining
Data Structures and Introduction to Algorithms (update)
Algorithmics: The Foundations of Computer Science (update)
Compilation (update)
Introduction to the Theory of Computation and Complexity
Advanced Programming with Java (update)
System Programming Laboratory (update)
Principles of Operating Systems (update)
Digital Design (update)*
Operating Systems
Principles of Information Systems Development (update)
Models and Specification Methods for Concurrent and Reactive Systems (MSc)
Security in Software Systems (MSc) (update)
Advanced Topics in Database Systems (MSc) (update)

Translating Courses into Arabic

This year, following the recommendations of the Dotan Committee, we began the translation of three introductory courses into Arabic. All the books in "The Middle East Between the World Wars" have been translated and a provisional edition of the course is expected to be published this year. In "Introduction to the Social Sciences," the translation of the text of four books has been completed and a fifth will be completed shortly. In "Educational Psychology," the textbook has been translated and translation of the reader is under way.

English as a Foreign Language

Development of updated materials for the A-level reading comprehension course for students of Psychology and Education was completed, and materials from the course for students of Social Sciences were adapted for the online course offered to students from all disciplines. In addition, an InterWise group option was developed for the A-level reading comprehension courses for students of Humanities.

In the MA course in Education, "Curriculum Development and Implementation," a 3-day workshop on reading academic materials in English was added. On the lower levels, the development of materials for B, D and E level courses was completed. For the online B-level course, materials were rewritten and courseware was developed. Instruction in Arabic was added to the courseware for the online D-level course. Materials were rewritten for the workshop "Bridging the Gap in English," delivered online via InterWise.

Course development in Russian

New Russian translations were published in the following courses: "Midrash and Aggadah," "Ashkenazi Hasidism in the History of Jewish Thought," "Jews in an Era of Transition," and "National Security and Democracy in Israel."