

Academic Development



Developing study materials adapted to distance teaching is the apex of the OUI academic endeavor. Academic development functions within the framework of the Office of the Dean of Development and Educational Technology, Prof. Yoav Yair. The development process is lengthy, complex and demanding. This endeavor involves 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 Open University's classic textbooks serve as the basis for courses studied at most of Israel's higher education institutions. They are developed especially for OUI students and include various didactic aids, such as questions, summaries, comments and references. In addition to this traditional model, a wide range of course models has been developed in recent years, each unique in the way it presents academic content and pedagogical aids. Most of the courses are based on texts and printed learning materials, but the scope of digital materials grows yearly and includes recorded lectures, digitized anthologies and e-books. Publishing professionals are involved in the production of all print materials, and experts in learning technologies are involved in the production of electronic materials.

Courses Approved for Development this Year

Dept. of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies

- Jews in an Era of Transition (in Russian) (revision)
- Jews in a World of Nation-States
- The Roots of European Fascism: Changing Approaches
- Metaphysics and Epistemology
- The Jews of Southern France: Renaissance in the Shadow of the Church
- Person, Society and Place in the Cultures of the Jews (MA)

Dept. of Literature, Language and the Arts

- Introduction to Art in Islamic Countries
- Popular Music in Israel
- Introduction to Film Theory
- Advanced Film Theories
- Linguistics and Cognition

Dept. of Education and Psychology

Typical and Atypical Language Development From Infancy to Adolescence

Feelings, Emotions and Information Processing (MA)

Learning and Education in the Information Society (MA)

Dept. of Sociology, Political Science and Communication

War and Strategy (revision)

Conflict Resolution in International Relations (revision)

Introduction to Public Administration (revision)

Government and Politics in Israel (revision)

Regulation: From theory to Practice

Israeli Administrative Law

Policy Analysis (MA)

Dept. of Natural Sciences

Vegetation of Israel (revision)

Plant Physiology(revision)

Biological Clocks (revision)

Solid State Physics

Thermodynamics

Thermodynamics for Physicists

The World of Plants

Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science

Advanced Computer Applications

Courses Based on Recorded Lectures

Courses in the form of recorded lectures as a replacement for course books offer the academic faculty a relatively fast alternative for course development (4-6 months of filming and editing), making it easy and convenient to update or expand course material as necessary. In the past year, eleven courses were developed and produced on the basis of recorded lectures, five of which are currently in the final stages of completion. These include: "Introduction to Art in Islamic Countries," "War and Strategy," "Ergonomics," "History of Mathematics: From Ancient Greece to Euler's Time," and "Human Genetics: Medical and Ethical Aspects (for Non-Biologists)."

Book Translations

Contracts for the translation of books into Hebrew for the OUI have been signed with Cambridge University Press (*The Ottoman Empire*); Cengage Learning (*General Biology I and General Biology II*); and McGraw Hill Companies (*Mechanics*).

Translation of OUI Books into Arabic

As part of the project to translate OUI textbooks into Arabic, the following books have been published in their final editions: the textbook and reader for "Educational Psychology," three volumes for "Introduction to the Social Sciences," and Volume I of the "Middle East Between the World Wars" textbook. Three additional volumes of the "Middle East Between the World Wars" textbooks were published in a provisional edition, as well as two volumes of the "Introduction to Social Thinking" textbooks.

Academic Development Management System

Development of the Academic Development Management System was completed this year, allowing advanced supervision and tracking capabilities for all OUI course development processes. The system is designed to serve both operational and managerial personnel. There are also plans to expand it further for use by senior personnel in the academic and publishing departments.

English as a Foreign Language

Writing was completed last year on an e-course entitled "English for Academic Purposes" (Elementary Level), and work continues on software for learning academic vocabulary in English.

New Titles Produced by the Open University

| Type | Title | Pages |
|---|-------|--------|
| Textbooks, final edition | 54 | 18,453 |
| Textbooks, provisional edition | 65 | 13,886 |
| Readers and study guides, final edition | 95 | 24,089 |
| Readers and study guides, provisional edition | 31 | 4,935 |