Course Development and Learning Technologies

Developing study materials adapted to distance teaching is at the heart of the OUI academic endeavor. Course development takes place within the framework of the Office of the Dean of Development and Educational Technology, Prof. Sarah Guri-Rosenblit. The development process is lengthy, complex and demanding. This endeavor involves OUI faculty members and editors with knowledge and experience in preparing materials 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 have 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 computer-based materials. This year, in recognition of the contribution of OUI editors in this constantly developing initiative, the Academic Development Unit held the symposium *Editors as Agents of Culture*.

Courses Approved for Development this Year

Dept. of Literature, Language, and the Arts

S.Y. Agnon: "Agunot" and "Edo and Enam"(revision)
Trends and Movements in Modern Art: The 19th Century
Introduction to Linguistics (revision)
Introduction to Poetry

Dept. of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies

The Holocaust: Days of Reckoning (revision)
The Archeology of Ancient Israel
   in the Biblical Period (revision)
Introduction to Jewish Thought
Classical Greek Constitutions

Dept. of Management and Economics

Leadership in Organizations (revision) (MA)
Strategic Management (revision) (MA)
Management of Information Systems
   and E-Business (revision)
International Management (revision)

Dept. of Education and Psychology

Field Experience in Psychology (MA)
Field Experience: Ethical and Practical Aspects (MA)
Meta-Cognition: Thinking about Thinking
Thesis Seminar A & B (MA)
Group Processes (MA)
Topcs in School Management (MA)

Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science

Supplements in Integral Calculus
Research Seminar: Topics in Software Engineering (MA)

Dept. of Sociology, Political Science, and Communication

Israeli Constitutional Law
Strikes and Lockouts in a Democratic Perspective (revision) (MA)
Trends in Israeli Society (revision)
Introduction to International Relations (revision)
Government and Politics in Israel
Workshop: Writing a Policy Paper
Introduction to Globalization Studies (MA)
Communication: Technology, Culture, and Social Change (revision)

Dept. of Natural Sciences

Advanced Electronics
Cell Structure and Function (single-semester format) (revision)
Cell Structure and Function (year-long format)
Introduction to Oceanography
Overview of Nano-materials
Selected Topics in Neurobiology
The World of Chemistry (revision)
Philosophy of Science (revision)
Modern Physics (revision)
Laboratory: Physics III
Introduction to Medical Thought (MA)
Critical Reading of Scientific Papers and Research Planning

Filmed Courses

Filmed lectures are sometimes offered instead of course books. So far, sixty video courses have been produced. Content is presented in a visual and dynamic manner and the presence of a lecturer creates the feeling of a personal study session. The format makes it more convenient to develop or update course material. The following courses are either in the final stages of development, or have been completed during the past year:

- Introduction to Globalization Studies
- Leadership in Organizations
- Epistemology and Metaphysics: Fundamental Questions on the Knowledge and Nature of Reality
- Operations Management II
- Challenges of School Management
- The Human Commodity: Slavery and Slave Trade in and from Africa
- Introduction to Jewish Thought
- Introduction to Oceanography
- Education – Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Education
- Introduction to Art in Islamic Countries
- Middle Eastern Societies from a Comparative Perspective - Egypt, Israel, Syria and Lebanon

Digital Books

Over 400 books have been published thus far in digital format. Digital books are identical to their print equivalents and are available to OUI students on course websites. Development also began this year on an interactive e-book which includes extensive film content, questions, and references to online sources.

English as a Foreign Language

Rewriting of the Level A Interdisciplinary English course was completed and now includes texts on communications, accounting, and business. The Level A English Humanities course was also rewritten. Translation into Hebrew and Arabic continues on various sections of the course books and study materials for online levels A, B, C, D and E.

Menifa

The Course Development Administration System (*Menifa*) supports development processes and the revision of courses in the Academic Development Unit, from first proposal to production. The system helps manage all aspects of development, including scheduling, study materials, and operational issues. Although the system is still undergoing integration, it has already provided an initial response to multi-year course development planning, and operational reports have been defined for the different sections.

New Titles Produced by the Open University

Type	Title	Pages
Textbooks, final edition	59	20,798
Textbooks, provisional edition	36	8,911
Readers and study guides, final edition	3	1,078
Readers and study guides, provisional edition	96	25,923