



7th September 2022

Bar Ilan University, General History Department

Committee Recommendation	Steps toward implementation (including timetable)
MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION	
1. Encourage co-teaching, namely, the design of joint inter-disciplinary courses led by members of different departments	<p>The Department of General History (henceforward DGH) will be happy to plan two pilot courses (semestrial) with the Department of Jewish History (henceforward DJH). The courses will be taught by two teachers, from each of the departments. The courses suggested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nazism and the Holocaust: introduction 2. Jews' and Christians' urban life in the late Middle Ages. <p>TT (timetable): year 2023/24. One course in each of the two semesters.</p> <p>As for courses involved with other departments of the two faculties: this is a matter that should be decided by the two deans.</p>
2. Cross-list a greater number of courses among the various history departments.	Addressed in the previous clause.
3. Introduce curriculum changes that would require history students in one department to enroll in at least two introductory courses in another history department.	<p>The DGH is willing to offer its students participation in a limited number of courses (2 max=4 hours) suggested by other departments in the Jewish studies, as long as the other departments will offer their students courses from DGH. However, since this matter is beyond the scope of responsibility of a specific head of department, it should be agreed first by the two deans.</p>
4. Merge forces and resources across departmental boundaries at the graduate level, and particularly in MA studies.	<p>The DGH will be happy to hold researchers' seminar (for MA and Ph.D students) of both history departments. Two senior researchers from the two departments will guide the seminar.</p>

	TT: annual seminar for 2023/2024
5. Expand general history course offerings. The current curriculum is insufficient to support a basic program of study	The DGH cannot expand courses offerings as the number of teaching hours is limited because of lack of resources and declining student enrolment. That affects the availability of staff members too. However, we can enrich the course offering by cross-listing history courses from other departments in the university. We will discuss this possibility over the next year.
6. Offer a shared set of introductory courses to be required of all history majors which then might include extra weekly sessions	Pending the outcomes of the two pilot courses suggested above, the DGH is willing to consider an introductory course about the modern period together with the DJH. TT: annual course 2024/2025
7. Establish a cross-faculty committee to explore changes and collaborations that can also reach beyond the formal bounds of history to include programs in Asian studies, the interdisciplinary program, government, and politics, among others.	The DGH will surely collaborate with such a committee if established. However, this is not given to department's decision, but to that of the deans.
8. Design distinct tracks of study with respective emphases on Jewish, General, or Middle Eastern history but with a strong "minor" field in one of the other tracks.	In the DGH there is a track for major in general history, but it does not focus on a specific theme, though it could offer courses from other disciplines. The department might consider such a track, but it has to be discussed thoroughly within the department, since especially for undergraduate (or new) students such themes might seem unfamiliar. TT: to be discussed within the DGH during 2022/2023.
9. Provide necessary funds to invite guest scholars from abroad to come to the campus and give condensed mini-courses of two to three weeks duration in fields of study that are currently not covered by the university's faculty.	This is especially desired by the DGH, but it requires specific budget (even if not especially high) from the faculty/university.
10. Design year-long courses that are divided by semester between lecturers from the respective departments, but which offer an integrated survey of the subject under study.	This matter could be addressed as part of the steps mentioned in section 1 (it is possible to divide also courses which last only one semester). TT: 2023/24
QA & SELF EVALUATION PROCESS	
11. Expand library hours significantly.	The DGH will ask the faculty to secure budget for librarian who will work another

	<p>2 hours every day from the first semester of 2022/2023. If it will prove useful, the DGH will ask for 2 additional hours in 2023/2024.</p> <p>TT: First semester 2022/2-23</p>
12. Categorize publications according to their refereed status and provide corresponding page numbers or lengths.	<p>Publications in journals are refereed. The DGH will make sure that author will provide information regarding publication in collections. Pages number will be added.</p> <p>TT: December 2022</p>
13. Consider involving all faculty at all stages of planning, drafting and writing the Report and also consult students with regard to passages concerning the study program and teaching	<p>Adjunct instructors, junior (un-tenured) faculty, and senior (tenured) faculty were consulted/participated in the preparation of the report. The DGH agree that students should be consulted as well (concerning specific parts about program and teaching).</p> <p>TT: December 2022</p>
14. Discuss more systematic strategies and tools for increasing enrollments.	<p>This process takes place on a constant basis, usually with members of the BIU marketing department.</p>
STUDY PROGRAM	
15. Count cross-listed courses towards requirements to facilitate students and departments who, respectively, want to take and offer such courses.	<p>This might be relevant to students who don't study General History and Jewish History as double major anyway. Each of the two departments can offer 2 courses for students of the other historical department.</p> <p>TT: October 2023</p>
16. Create a centralized source of information for graduate students about professional opportunities, funding and scholarships for travel, research...	<p>Although there are some differences in sources of funding between the two faculties, there are still other funding that can support students of the two departments/faculties.</p> <p>TT: October 2022</p>
17. Encourage co-teaching, namely, the design of inter- disciplinary courses led by members of different departments across Jewish Studies and the Humanities (and perhaps beyond them).	<p>The DGH has created an annual course about global history taught by members of the department, as well as of those of other departments in the university.</p> <p>We can offer a pilot annual course by teachers of both departments (topic has to be decided together).</p> <p>TT: October 2023</p>
18. Introduce curricular changes that would require history students in one department	<p>That can be addressed as part of the answer to paragraph 15 above.</p>

to enroll in at least two introductory courses in another history department.	
19. Merge forces and resources across departmental boundaries at the graduate level, and particularly in MA studies. This should entail at the very least a joint seminar in methodology.	See answer to paragraph 4 above.
20. Expand general history course offerings. The current curriculum is insufficient to support a basic program of study.	See answer to paragraph 5 above.
21. Make foreign language study available as part of the graduate curriculum rather than requiring extra payment.	There is no additional payment for foreign language courses if these are determined by the department as essential for the research student's study program. For non-thesis MA students, there is also no extra charge for such courses, as long as they do not exceed the number of courses required for the MA studies. This policy is in line with the instructions of the CHE.
22. Specify possible measures to internationalize the teaching program in order to enhance its success and visibility and to attract international students.	For the last three years the DGH has been teaching courses in English, opened to the department's students as well as to international ones, who joined these courses. Such a joint course (i.e. with the DJH) could be considered in the future. TT: October 2023
23. Design year-long courses that are divided by semester between lecturers from the respective departments, but which offer an integrated survey of the subject under study.	This could be part of the answer to paragraph 17 above.
TEACHING AND LEARNING	
24. Increase the number and amount of writing assignments at all levels of study, beginning with undergraduate introductory courses.	Number of assignments are gradually increasing, also as part of the university's instruction in this matter. From 2022/23 almost all courses will have at least two assignments. TT: October 2022
25. Keep the number of online courses to a minimum. These offerings are no substitute to the classroom learning experience, as the students themselves attest,	Such courses are meant to meet the needs of students who – especially because of their work – cannot attend the courses regularly. In the DGH we think this matter should be discussed with the deans. The department, however, prefers the teaching in the university campus rather than online. TT: 2023/2024

FACULTY	
26. Implement plans to strengthen the position of untenured faculty and to facilitate their full participation in departmental committee and decision-making processes.	Untenured faculty are well informed about the requirement for promotion, and were involved in the discussion regarding the evaluation report. They are all involved in the meetings of the department. However, following the university's instructions, there are certain discussions (like consultation about promotion of staff members) in which only the tenure holding faculty could participate.
27. Adopt strict, straightforward, and uncompromising measures to ensure that faculty members are active researchers.	As mentioned above (nr. 26) members of the faculty are well informed about the criteria for promotion. All know that publications in highly reputed journals, and winning research grants are essential in this process. All know the number of articles and/or books required for the initiation of promotion procedures. In case of doubt, they can consult with the head of the department and/or the dean. An untenured faculty member who doesn't produce sufficient high-quality research within the allotted time for tenure discussion, will be dismissed from the university.
28. Make joint appointments of new faculty who are able to satisfy the needs of more than one department, for instance, an expert in American Jewry who has earned a PhD in the general field of American history, and a Holocaust scholar who can teach Eastern European history.	The DGH will try to hold specific appointment with the DJH, or at least joint meeting of the two heads of the department, in which they will share such information. TT: October 2022
29. Take into consideration gender balance when recruiting faculty in both departments.	In the DGH the first criterion for recruiting new faculty is academic excellence. In case there are candidates with similar abilities and background, then the DGH will surely take gender balance into consideration.
30. Hire adjuncts on multi-year contracts, which will increase job security and, in turn, provide enough stability to enhance the quality of their courses.	Employment of adjuncts is according to university's instructions, and these are bound to employment laws. Therefore, in this matter we must follow strict rules.
RESEARCH	
31. Enhance the support for younger scholars provided by the university's research authority.	The research authority offers support for young as well as senior scholars in submission for grants. This includes:

	preparing of research budget and language editing of the proposal.
32. Encourage faculty to apply for competitive international research grants.	We will make additional efforts in this matter. TT: 2022/2023
33. Provide opportunities and funding to promote international research collaborations.	Faculty initiate international collaboration (like the INIRE project). A beginning of collaboration has started with the Bayreuth University in Germany and was suspended because of the pandemic. The DGH is trying to resume the collaboration. TT: 2022/2023
34. Mitigate the bureaucratic hurdles to the spending of grant monies.	The DGH has raised this issue in discussion with the faculty and the research authority. Hope the authority will take the necessary measures.
STUDENTS	
35. Strengthen or undertake initiatives to better integrate the study of Jewish history with that of general history as well as with other departments and fields.	See responses in paragraphs 1 and 10.
36. Strengthen foreign-language instruction through creative uses of electronic media and cooperation with other institutions.	The matter is most important – the DGH will consult with the Unit of Foreign languages to see how it could work practically from next year. TT: 2023/2024
37. Provide funding to support graduate student research and travel.	The Faculty and the DGH do not have special funding for graduate students. However, members of faculty who win research grants support students' travels and research abroad, especially if they are employed as research assistants.
38. Enhance inclusivity by recruiting non-Jewish students, especially Israeli Arabs and international students from various backgrounds.	This is done constantly by the Bar Ilan International School in regard to foreign students. Israeli Arabs students participate in the DGH's courses, although not many of them. One of the reasons is that many reading assignments in the DGH are in English, and it seems that they are too difficult for them.
INFRASTRUCTURE	
39. Update the university internet infrastructure to provide reliable internet.	The DGH is working with the university management to improve internet access, although it should be noted that in each of the researchers' offices, and in all classes, there are wall sockets for Internet access, from which excellent connection is

	provided, in case the Wifi connection is not sufficient.
40. Until renovations can be made, provide updated and functional office furniture to faculty.	The DGH has called the attention of the faculty and administration concerning this need, and hopes that improvements can be made.
41. Provide a shared printer and copy machine in the secretariat's office and give faculty a key so they can access that section of the secretarial offices to print or make copies after hours.	Above 40.
42. Renovate the bathrooms so they are functional and have toilet seats.	The DGH is working with the university management to implement this recommendation.
43. Provide a kitchen area with a refrigerator, coffee maker and sink.	Above 40.
44. Provide staff members with individual offices.	There are not enough offices in the current building, and some faculty members, even those with offices, prefer to work at home.
45. Renovate the rest of the Jewish Studies library.	Not relevant to the DGH.
46. Close the present location of the General History library rather than renovate it and move the collection in its entirety to the Jewish Studies library structure.	The DGH supports the implementation of this recommendation, but this is a matter that should be discussed with the Dean, the Vice Rector, the Rector, and the Bar Ilan library's administration.
RECOMMENDATIONS	
47. Encourage co-teaching, namely, the design of joint inter-disciplinary courses led by members of different departments across Jewish Studies and the Humanities (and perhaps beyond them).	Above 1.
48. Cross-list a greater number of courses among the various history departments.	Above 4, 17, 19.
49. Introduce curriculum changes that would require history students in one department to enroll in at least two introductory courses in another history department.	Above 3, 5, 18, 20.
50. Merge forces and resources across departmental boundaries at the graduate level, and particularly in MA studies.	Above 4, 19.

51. Expand general history course offerings. The current curriculum is insufficient to support a basic program of study.	Above 5, 20.
52. Offer a shared set of introductory courses to be required of all history majors which then might include extra weekly sessions led by graduate students offering a more specific thematic focus for undergraduates in, for instance, Jewish or general history.	Above 6, 18.
53. Establish a cross-faculty committee to explore changes and collaborations that can also reach beyond the formal bounds of history to include programs in Asian studies, the interdisciplinary program, government, and politics, among others.	Above 7.
54. Expand library hours significantly.	Above 11.
55. Categorize publications according to their refereed status and provide corresponding page numbers or lengths.	Above 12.
56. Count cross-listed courses towards requirements to facilitate students and departments who, respectively, want to take and offer	Above 15.
57. Create a centralized source of information for graduate students about professionalization opportunities, funding and scholarships for travel, research, and study that may be available to them.	Above 16.
58. Implement plans to strengthen the position of untenured faculty and to facilitate their full participation in departmental committee and decision-making processes.	Above 26.
59. Adopt strict, straightforward, and uncompromising measures to ensure that faculty members are active researchers.	Above 27.
60. Make joint appointments of new faculty who are able to satisfy the needs of more than one department, for instance, an expert in American Jewry who has earned a PhD in the general field of American history, and a Holocaust scholar who can teach Eastern European history.	Above 28.
61. Enhance the support for younger scholars provided by the university's research authority.	Above 31.

62. Strengthen or undertake initiatives to better integrate the study of Jewish history with that of general history as well as with other departments and fields.	Above 35.
63. Update the university internet infrastructure to provide reliable internet.	Above 39.
64. Until renovations can be made, provide updated and functional office furniture to faculty.	Above 40.
65. Provide a shared printer and copy machine in the secretariat's office and give faculty a key so they can access that section of the secretarial offices to print or make copies after hours.	Above 41.
66. Renovate the bathrooms so they are functional and have toilet seats.	Above 42.
67. Design distinct tracks of study with respective emphases on Jewish, General, or Middle Eastern history but with a strong "minor" field in one of the other tracks.	Above 8.
68. Consider involving all faculty at all stages of planning, drafting and writing the Report and also consult students with regard to passages concerning the study program and teaching.	Above 13.
69. Discuss more systematic strategies and tools for increasing enrollments.	Above 14.
70. Specify possible measures to internationalize its teaching program in order to enhance its success and visibility and to attract international students. A variety of options could be explored, ranging from introducing a substantial number of English-language courses to establishing an international MA program in Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry. One option would be to internationalize the existing MA in Contemporary Jewry.	Above 22. As mentioned, the DGH offers courses in English, open also to international students. However, more courses in English are likely to prevent local (Israeli) students from participation in such courses, thus classes will lack the minimum number of students required to open a course. Especially undergraduate students face difficulties with English, and prefer the Hebrew courses. Seminars in English might be more relevant to MA students. The DGH will discuss a joint seminar in English with the DJH for MA students. TT: 2023/2024.
71. Increase the amount of writing assignments at all levels of study, beginning with undergraduate introductory courses.	Above 24.

72. Keep the number of online courses to a minimum. These offerings are no substitute to the classroom learning experience, as the students themselves attest, and so should not by any means be made integral to the departments' course offerings.	Above 25.
73. Take into consideration gender balance when recruiting faculty in both departments. Similar efforts should be made in overcoming social inequalities inhibiting access to academic careers.	Above 29.
74. Hire adjuncts on multi-year contracts, which will increase job security and, in turn, provide enough stability to enhance the quality of their courses. At the same time, create a mechanism for the input of adjuncts to departmental life and decision making.	Above 30.
75. Encourage faculty to apply for competitive international research grants.	Above 32.
76. Provide opportunities and funding to promote international research collaborations.	Above 33.
77. Mitigate the bureaucratic hurdles to the spending of grant monies.	Above 34.
78. Strengthen foreign-language instruction through creative uses of electronic media and cooperation with other institutions.	Above 36.
79. Provide funding to support graduate student research and travel.	Above 37.
80. Enhance inclusivity by recruiting non-Jewish students, especially Israeli Arabs and international students from various background.	Above 38.
81. Provide a kitchen area with a refrigerator, coffee maker and sink.	Above 39, 43.
82. Provide each staff member with their own office.	This is much desirable but depends on the number of available office spaces in the building. The university might provide offices in buildings nearby.
83. Renovate the rest of the Jewish Studies library. This should include updated computer stations and dedicated group study rooms.	Up to DJH.

84. Close the present location of the General History library rather than renovate it and move the collection in its entirety to the Jewish Studies library structure. This will effectively extend the hours of access to the general history collection.	Above 39, 46.
85. Provide necessary funds to invite guest scholars from abroad to come to the campus and give condensed mini-courses of two to three weeks duration in fields of study that are currently not covered by the university's faculty.	Above 9.
86. Design year-long courses that are divided by semester between lecturers from the respective departments but which offer an integrated survey of the subject under study.	Above 10.