



Rothberg International School  
בית הספר לתלמידים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים



**Intensive Ladino program- Elementary Level (48801)**

Dr. Ilil Baum, Prof. David Bunis

July 28– August 12, 2024

Various days and times per week, Sunday through Thursday.

90 Academic Hours, 6 Academic Credits

Office hours: Upon appointment.

[ilil.baum@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:ilil.baum@mail.huji.ac.il); [david.bunis@gmail.com](mailto:david.bunis@gmail.com)

**Tentative syllabus**

**Course Description**

The intensive two-week summer program of the Ladino International Summer School is intended to introduce students to Ladino language and to the rich culture of its speakers throughout the centuries. Ladino (Judeo-Spanish, Judezmo or Spanyolit), the traditional language of Sephardic Jews who, following the late-fifteenth-century expulsions from Iberia, resettled throughout the Ottoman Empire, North Africa and Italy. Today it is an endangered language spoken mainly in Israel and Turkey.

The program is divided into three main components. The morning program includes Ladino language classes at two parallel levels: Elementary Ladino and Advanced Ladino (for intermediate/advanced students). Students of both levels will attend the course “Readings in Ladino Printed Texts and in Soletreo” (the Sephardic cursive script). The rich afternoon program will include a seminar on “Sephardic Culture and Research Tools” for students of both levels, featuring guest lectures by leading researchers in Ladino and Sephardic Studies. Students will participate in Sephardic-oriented cultural tours and visits to libraries and archives in Jerusalem holding rich Ladino collections. Participants will acquire hands-on experience documenting Ladino heritage speakers in Israel.

**Language classes: Elementary Ladino (Dr. Ilil Baum, 28-30 academic hours)**

This course provides the linguistic skills and cultural knowledge required to read, write, and speak Ladino at an elementary level. Students will first be introduced to the Ladino

writing systems in the Rashi and Latin alphabets and will practice basic self-presentation in Ladino. Through a graded introduction to Ladino, students will acquire a basic knowledge of the grammar, syntax, and lexicon of the language. Both Elementary and Advanced levels will practice conversation and listening comprehension together.

**Readings in Ladino Printed texts and Soletreo Manuscripts (Prof. David Bunis, 28-30 academic hours)**

After introducing the Soletreo (Sephardic cursive) script, the course will focus on the reading of progressively complex, representative Ladino printed texts in Square and Rashi letters and manuscripts in Soletreo cursive script, from diverse periods of the language. Participants may propose for reading texts related to their own research topics.

**Sephardic Culture and Research Tools (Dr. Ilil Baum and guest lecturers, 28-30 academic hours)**

A lecture series and research forum on diverse aspects of Ladino language and Sephardic history and culture. The course will include an introduction to the tools and methodology needed for working with Ladino archival material and for doing fieldwork to document the language and culture of Ladino speakers. Students will participate in Sephardic-oriented cultural tours and visits to libraries and archives in Jerusalem holding rich Ladino collections. Participants will acquire hands-on experience documenting Ladino heritage speakers in Israel.

**Course Objectives**

- 1) Read simple Ladino texts in Rashi and Latin alphabets.
- 2) Read simple Ladino manuscripts and documents in Soletreo.
- 3) Acquire basic conversation and listening-comprehension skills.
- 4) Become familiar with broad aspects of Ladino language, culture and history.
- 5) Be familiar with the collections and archives of Ladino materials in Jerusalem.
- 6) Conduct fieldwork in documenting Ladino speakers.
- 7) Participate in an international research network of Ladino and Sephardic Studies.

**Course Requirements**

- Students are required to participate in all program components and attend all classes and activities of the Ladino International Summer School.
- Students are required to complete all assignments and final assignment/project.
- Classes will utilize materials prepared by the teaching faculty.

- Students must comply with the policies of the Hebrew University and the Rothberg International School.

### **Final Grade Breakdown:**

- 1) Active participation in class and current preparation of all assignments and weekly quizzes - 50%
- 2) Final assignment / project - 50%

### **Course Outline**

Classroom instruction and Activities.

The course is divided to:

- Morning language classes (parallel for the Elementary and Advanced levels).
- Morning Ladino reading class.
- Afternoon research forum and guest lectures by leading scholars of Ladino and Sephardic Studies.

Visits and field trips include (tentative):

- Visits to the Ladino collections at the Ben Zvi Institute, The National Library of Israel and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People.
- Cultural tours on Sephardic life in historic Jerusalem (the Old City of Jerusalem and Nachla'ot neighborhood)
- Meeting with and documenting Ladino speakers.

### **Course General Readings**

- Materials prepared by the teaching faculty will be distributed in class.