An Introduction to the structure and content of Jewish prayer, this course examines the historic development of the synagogue and the siddur. The course will explore the three daily services and proceeds to Shabbat and hagim (holidays). Prerequisite: Hebrew 4 or its equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

September 30 (HC Monday)- introduction- siddur, nusah, berakha, liturgical poetry
October 12 Kri'at Shema uvirkhoteha morning and evening, shabbat modifications
October 19 Amida first three and last three berakhot; Avot, Gevurot, Kedushat hashem, Avodah, Hoda’a, Shalom
October 26 Amida blessings for Shabbat and Moadim: Kedushat hayom, Tefillat musaf
November 2 Weekday Amida petitionary berakhot, minha, Shabbat and festival modifications for minha
November 9 birkat hamazon, morning preliminaries, v’yavo, al hanisim
November 16 psalms in Jewish worship: pesukei dezimra, kabbalat shabbat, Hallel
November 23 Torah and haftara reading incl Birkat hahodesh, mishberakh, prayers for governments
November 30 barekhu, tahanun, kaddish, alenu, other concluding materials
December 7 rosh hashanah
December 14 yom kippur
December 21 taanit tzibbur, selihot, kinot and hoshanot

Prayer texts (from different nushaot and siddurim) and secondary sources will be distributed through Schoology.

Students will complete two written assignments, thorough comparisons and analyses of different versions of major blocks of prayer texts. The first assignment is to be submitted November 9, the second, on December 7.