

JEWISH STUDIES

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Jewish Studies enables students to develop a broad knowledge of the history, religion, literature, philosophy, languages, and politics of the Jews. Jewish society, texts, ideologies, material cultures, and institutions are studied from a comparative perspective in the context of histories, cultures, and intellectual traditions among which Jews have lived throughout the ages. As an interdisciplinary program, Jewish Studies employs historical, literary, political, social, and philosophical methods of analysis.

The Jewish Studies major—especially as a second major with Economics, Political Science, Comparative Literature, English, Philosophy, or History—offers a broad liberal arts background combined with intensive preparation in the historical and religious experience of Jewish culture from antiquity to contemporary times. The major epochs of Jewish history are the Persian and Hellenistic, classical, medieval, early modern, and modern periods.

Students considering a major in Jewish Studies should contact the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) as early as possible.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

The major in Jewish Studies requires thirteen term courses, including three courses selected from a set of core requirements, a language or literature requirement, three courses selected from each of two areas of focus, and the senior requirement.

Core requirements Each student must elect at least three from the following: (1) a course in Hebrew Bible, such as JDST 110; (2) a course in rabbinic literature or ancient Judaism, such as JDST 235; (3) JDST 200; (4) JDST 201; (5) a course in Jewish thought, such as JDST 281 or JDST 293; (6) a survey course in Hebrew and Jewish literature.

Language or literature requirements Students must complete either HEBR 110 and 120 or two courses in Hebrew literature in translation. Up to three Hebrew language courses may be counted toward the requirements of the major.

Areas of focus Students must select two of the following focus areas: ancient Israel/Hebrew Bible; Judaism and Jewish history of Second Temple and Talmudic times; Jewish history and civilization of medieval and Renaissance times; modern Jewish history and civilization; Jewish/Hebrew literature (which requires the study of literature in Hebrew); and Jewish thought. With the approval of the DUS, students may design their own areas of focus.

In each of the two areas of focus, students choose three courses in consultation with the DUS. These are expected to comprise one introductory course; one seminar taken in the junior year, and one course requiring a final research paper. One relevant course should be in an area outside Jewish Studies, such as a course relating to the larger historical, literary, or philosophical context if the focus area is in a historical period, or a course in the theory or practice of literature if the focus area is in Jewish/Hebrew literature.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

Students are required either to complete a two-term senior essay in JDST 491 and 492 related to both areas of focus or to complete a one-term senior essay in JDST 491 or 492 related to one area of focus and an additional seminar related to the other. The senior essay may build on research conducted for one or both of the student's junior seminar papers.

STUDY ABROAD

Students majoring in Jewish Studies should be aware of the numerous opportunities for study abroad. Those interested in research and language-study opportunities in the Middle East, Europe, and South America should consult the DUS.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites None

Number of courses 13 term courses (incl senior req)

Distribution of courses 3 core courses as indicated; HEBR 110 and 120, or 2 courses in Hebrew lit in translation; 2 areas of focus, with 3 courses in each for a total of 6 focus area courses

Senior requirement Two-term senior essay (JDST 491, 492) or one-term senior essay (JDST 491 or 492) and additional seminar