The academic discipline of Jewish studies is an interdisciplinary field centered on the analysis and investigation of Jewish history, religion, language, and literature. The discipline ranges from the study of Jews and Judaism in antiquity to the present day. It explores Judaism not only as a religion, but as a civilization and culture.

A special concentration in Jewish studies is available for undergraduates and allows students to draw upon classes in a wide range of departments across the University, including History; Sociology; Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies; Germanic Languages and Literature; and Religion. The requirements for the special concentration are designed to provide students with the interdisciplinary knowledge necessary to study Jewish civilization both broadly and deeply.

The roots of Judaism lie deeper than one region, gender, language, or culture; and by studying the interconnectedness of these areas, the depth of understanding across a range of spheres and disciplines greatly increases. The special concentration in Jewish studies enhances the current scholarly programs, adding to current Jewish studies courses' vitality as students come to each course with a deeper understanding and background based on their complementary coursework.

Students wishing to complete a special concentration in Jewish studies work with a program adviser to decide upon course selection and sequencing. The program office provides and keeps on record a planning form to track the fulfillment of requirements for the special concentration.

**Affiliated Faculty**

Beth Berkowitz (Religion, Barnard)
Clemence Boulouque (Religion)
Elisha Carlebach (History)
Yinon Cohen (Sociology)
Jeremy Dauber (Germanic Languages)
Rebecca Kobrin (History)
Agnieszka Legutko (Germanic Languages)
Seth Schwartz (History)
Michael Stanislawski (History)

**Special Concentration in Jewish Studies**

In addition to the requirements of the special concentration, students must complete a major.

For a special concentration in Jewish studies, students are required to complete a minimum of 21 points. Please note:

- At least one course must be taken from each of three of the focus areas listed below.

**Focus Areas**

**Bible and Rabbinics/Ancient Judaism**

- RELI V3512 The Bible and its Interpreters
- RELI GU4637 Talmudic Narrative
- RELI W4520 Patriarchal and Rabbinic Authority in Antiquity
- RELI V3501 Introduction To the Hebrew Bible
- RELI V3508 Origins of Judaism
- RELI V3561 Classics fo Judaism: Ethics of the Fathers
- RELI V2510 Jews and Judaism in Antiquity

**Medieval Judaism**

- HIST W3657 Medieval Jewish Cultures
- RELI V3510 The Thought of Maimonides
- RELI V3870 Inquisitions, New Christians, and Empire
- RELI GU4515 Reincarnation and Technology
- HIST UN3180 Conversion in Historical Perspective

**Modern Judaism**

- HIST W3630 American Jewish History
- RELI V3571 Judaism, Jewishness, and Modernity
- MDES UN3542 Introduction to Israeli Literature

**Israeli Society**

- MDES UN3541 Zionism: A Cultural Perspective
- MDES UN3542 Introduction to Israeli Literature

**Gender and Judaism**

- HIST W3640 Jewish Women and Family, 1000-1800
- RELI V3570 Women and Judaism: Folklore or Religion?
- RELI W4504 Reading the Patriarchal and Matriarchal Stories in Genesis

**Jewish History and Culture**

- MUSI G4125 Jewish Music: Uniqueness and Diversity
- RELI V3585 The Sephardic Experience
- RELI W4503 Readings from the Sephardic Diaspora
- RELI UN2306 Intro to Judaism
- RELI W4511 Jewish Ethics
- HIST UN2657 Medieval Jewish Cultures
- HIST UN3645 Spinoza to Sabbatai: Jews in Early Modern Europe

**Jewish Literature**

- CLYD UN3500 Readings In Jewish Literature: Humor In Jewish Literature [In English]
- YIDD UN3800 Readings in Yiddish Literature: The Family Singer [In English]

- Credits for language courses may constitute at most 10 points, and one year of Hebrew or Yiddish language is strongly recommended.
- A minimum of 18 points must be taken at Columbia or as part of an approved study abroad program (unless equivalent courses are not offered at Columbia, as determined by the faculty adviser).

The focus areas and courses listed below are examples and do not include all the potential courses which may count. Additionally, as new courses are introduced, new focus areas may develop. Some courses may fall under multiple headings. Determination of a course's focus area is at the discretion of the faculty adviser.
Jewish Studies courses are housed in a number of departments throughout the University. For current and past course offerings, please see below.

**Fall 2019 Courses of Interest**

**Comparative Literature**

CLRS GU4037  Poets, Rebels, Exiles: 100 Years of Russian and Russian Jews in America (Comparative Literature)

CLYD GU4250  Memory and Trauma in Yiddish Literature (in English)

**Germanics**

YIDD UN1101  Elementary Yiddish I

YIDD UN1102  Elementary Yiddish II

YIDD UN2101  Intermediate Yiddish I

**History**

HIST BC3651  Jewish Tales from Four Cities: The Immigrant Experience in New York, Buenos Aires, Paris and London

HIST UN2628  History of the State of Israel, 1948-Present

**Middle East, South African, and Asian Studies**

MDES UN1501  First Year Modern Hebrew: Elementary I

MDES UN2501  Second Year Modern Hebrew: Intermediate I

MDES UN2517  Hebrew for Heritage Speakers I

MDES GU4501  Readings in Hebrew Texts I

MDES GU4510  Third Year Modern Hebrew I

**Latin American and Iberian Cultures**

SPJS UN3303  Jewish Culture in Translation in Medieval Iberia

**Music**

MUSI UN2030  Jewish Music of New York

**Political Science**

JWST GU4510  Rules and Reasons: Israeli Law vs. Jewish Law

**Religion**

RELI GU4807  Divine Human Animal

RELI GR9901  Research in Religion I

RELI UN3901  Guided Reading and Research

RELI GU4524  Theories of the Unconscious and Jewish Thought

**Sociology**

SOCI GR6010  ISRAELI SOCIETY: SPEC

**Spring 2019 Courses of Interest**

**American Studies**

AMST UN3931  Topics in American Studies (American Studies)

Section 8: THE HOLOCAUST IN/AND AMERICA

**Film**

JWST GU4145  Topics in Israeli Cinema (Jewish Studies)

**Germanic Languages**

YIDD UN1101  Elementary Yiddish I (Yiddish)

YIDD UN1102  Elementary Yiddish II

YIDD UN2101  Intermediate Yiddish I

**Jewish Studies**

YIDD UN3520  Magic and Monsters in Yiddish Literature [In English]

HIST UN2657  Medieval Jewish Cultures (History)

HIST UN3644  Modern Jewish Intellectual History

**Journalism**

Journalist as Historian [J6002] (Jewish Studies)

**Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies**

MDES UN1502  First Year Modern Hebrew: Elementary II

MDES UN2502  Second Year Modern Hebrew: Intermediate II

MDES UN2518  Hebrew for Heritage Speakers II

MDES GU4502  Fourth Year Hebrew: Readings II

MDES GU4511  Third Year Modern Hebrew II

JWST GU4537  Modernism, Nationalism, Revival: Readings in Modern Hebrew Literature

**Religion**

JWST UN2610  Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought

RELI UN3199  Theory

**Additional Courses, Including Those Not Currently Offered**

**Germanic Languages**

YIDD UN2102  Intermediate Yiddish II

YIDD UN3333  Advanced Yiddish

YIDD UN3520  Magic and Monsters in Yiddish Literature [In English]

YIDD W3550  Twentieth-Century Yiddish Literature and Film [In English]

**History**

HIST UN2611  Jews and Judaism in Antiquity

HIST UN2628  History of the State of Israel, 1948-Present

HIST UN2630  American Jewish History

HIST UN2657  Medieval Jewish Cultures

HIST UN3604  Jews and the City

HIST W4610  The Ancient Jews and the Mediterranean

HIST W4611  Jews and Muslims in the Middle Ages

HIST W4635  Ancient Jewish Texts: Leviticus Rabbah

**Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies**

MDES UN1502  First Year Modern Hebrew: Elementary II

MDES UN2502  Second Year Modern Hebrew: Intermediate II

MDES W1516  Second Year Hebrew: Intensive Grammar Review

MDES UN3541  Zionism: A Cultural Perspective

CLME W3546  Intro to Hebrew Literature

MDES GU4510  Third Year Modern Hebrew I

**Religion (Barnard)**

RELI W4501  Psalms Through the Commentary of the Baal Shem Tov

RELI W4505  The Beginnings of Jewish Mysticism

RELI W4508  Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah

**Religion**

RELI V3501  Introduction To the Hebrew Bible

RELI V3512  The Bible and its Interpreters

RELI UN3315  Readings in Kabbalah

RELI V3571  Judaism, Jewishness, and Modernity

RELI V3585  The Sephardic Experience
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<td>The Second Wave and Jewish Women's Artistic Responses: 1939-1990</td>
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