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 UN2657: Medieval Jewish Cultures
  - HIST W3616: Jews and Christians in the Medieval World
  - RELI W4510: 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]

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*Jewish Studies is offered exclusively as a concentration.*

**Program Office:** Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, 617 Kent Hall; 212-854-2581; http://www.iijs.columbia.edu/

**Program Director:** Prof. Elisha Carlebach, 505 Fayerweather; 212-854-5294; ec607@columbia.edu

**Assistant Director:** Dana Kresel, 619 Kent Hall; 212-854-4006; drk2106@columbia.edu

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.

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- **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]
Jewish Studies courses are housed in a number of departments throughout the University. For current and past course offerings, please see below.

## Fall 2020 Courses of Interest

### American Studies
- **AMST UN3930** Topics in American Studies
- **Sect 3: Immigrant New York**

### Germanics
- **YIDD UN1101** Elementary Yiddish I
- **YIDD UN1102** Elementary Yiddish II
- **YIDD UN2101** Intermediate Yiddish I
- **YIDD UN3333** Advanced Yiddish
- **CLYD UN3500** Readings in Jewish Literature: Humor in Jewish Literature [In English]
- **YIDD GU4675** Yiddish Life Writing: Autobiography, Memoir or Fiction [In English]

### History
- **JWST GU4538** History of Jews in the Islamic World in Modern Times
- **HIST UN2611** Jews and Judaism in Antiquity

### 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

### Jewish Studies
- **JWST GU4990** Topics in Jewish Studies

### Music
- **MUSI UN2030** Jewish Music of New York

### Religion
- **RELI UN1620** Religion and the Movies
- **RELI UN3501** Introduction To the Hebrew Bible
- **RELI UN3199** Theory (Women’s Studies)

### Women’s Studies
- **WMST GU4310** Contemporary American Jewish Women’s Literature: 1990 to Present (Women’s Studies)

## Spring 2020 Courses of Interest

### 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
- **YIDD UN2102** Intermediate Yiddish II
- **CLYD UN3600** Holocaust Literature: A Survey
- **YIDD GU4420** READINGS-YIDDISH LITERATU

### History
- **HIST UN2604** Jews and the City
- **HIST UN3645** Spinoza to Sabbatai: Jews in Early Modern Europe
- **HIST UN3838** Senior Thesis Seminar
- **HIST GU4522** Jews, Magic, and Science in Premodern Europe

### 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

### 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

#### 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

#### Journalism
- **JWST GU4990** Topics in 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 Speaker II
- **MDES GU4502** READINGS IN HEBREW TEXTS II
- **MDES GU4511** Third Year Modern Hebrew II
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