JEWISH STUDIES*

*Jewish Studies is offered exclusively as a concentration.

Program Office: Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, 617 Kent Hall; 212-654-2581; http://www.iijs.columbia.edu/

Program Director: Dr. Isabelle Levy, icl2001@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.

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)
Elishava Carlebach (History)
Yimon Cohen (Sociology)
Jeremy Dauber (Germanic Languages)
Ofer Dynes (Slavic Languages and Literatures)
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 or a full concentration.

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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.
- 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.

Focus Areas

**Bible and Rabbinics/Ancient Judaism**

- RELI V3512: The Bible and Its Interpreters
- RELI GU4537: 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 for 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: American Jewish Literature: A Survey
- YIDD UN3800: Readings in Yiddish Literature: The Family Singer [in English]
- RELI V3561: Classics for Judaism: Ethics of the Fathers
Jewish Studies courses are housed in a number of departments throughout the University. For a full list of courses for the 2022-2023 academic year please visit the Institute website.

**Fall 2022 Courses of Interest**

**Germanics**
- YIDD UN1101: Elementary Yiddish I
- YIDD UN1102: Elementary Yiddish II
- YIDD GU4995: Exploring Yiddishland: Culture in Time and Space

**History**
- AMHS UN3462: IMMIGRANT NEW YORK
- HIST GU4607: RABBIS FOR HISTORIANS
- HIST GU4622: A Global History of Jewish Migration and the State

**Middle East, South African, and Asian Studies**
- MDES UN1501: 1ST YR MOD HEBREW:ELEM 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 GU4145: Topics in Israeli Cinema
- JWST GU4990: Topics in Jewish Studies

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

**Religion**
- RELI UN3318: Humor, Joy, and Happiness in Judaism

**Sociology**
- SOCI UN3285: Israeli Society and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- SOCI GR6010: ISRAEL SOCIETY: SPEC

**Spring 2022 Courses of Interest**

**Germanic Languages**
- YIDD UN1101: Elementary Yiddish I (Yiddish)
- YIDD UN1102: Elementary Yiddish II
- YIDD UN2101: Intermediate Yiddish I

**History**
- HIST UN2100: Early Modern Europe: Print and Society
- HIST UN2611: Jews and Judaism in Antiquity

**Jewish Studies**
- SPJS UN3303: Jewish Culture in Translation in Medieval Iberia
- JWST GU4145: Topics in Israeli Cinema

**Journalism**
- Journalist as Historian (J6002)

**Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies**
- MDES UN1502: 1ST YR MOD HEBREW:ELEM II
- MDES UN2502: 2ND YR MODERN HEBREW 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 UN3501: 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
- RELI W4507: Readings in Hasidism
- RELI W4508: Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah
- RELI GU4637: Talmudic Narrative
- RELI GU4515: Reincarnation and Technology

**Sociology**
- SOCI UN3285: Israeli Society and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- SOCI W3930: Immigration and Ethnicity in Israel

**Women's Studies**
- WMST BC3122: Contemporary American-Jewish Women Writers: 1990 to the Present
- WMST GU4302: The Second Wave and Jewish Women's Artistic Responses: 1939-1990
- WMST GU4310: CONTEM AMER JEWISH WOMEN'S LIT