

JEWISH STUDIES*

*Jewish Studies is offered exclusively as a concentration.

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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)
 Elisheva 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.

- 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 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: American Jewish Literature: A survey
YIDD UN3800	Readings in Yiddish Literature: The Family Singer [In English]

RELI V3561	Classics of Judaism: Ethics of the Fathers
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Jewish Studies courses are housed in a number of departments throughout the University. For a full list of courses for the 2020-2021 academic year please [visit the Institute website](#).

Fall 2021 Courses of Interest

Germanics

YIDD UN1101	Elementary Yiddish I
YIDD UN2101	Intermediate Yiddish I
YIDD UN3333	Advanced Yiddish
CLYD UN3500	READINGS IN JEWISH LITERATURE: American Jewish Literature: A survey
YIDD GU4675	Yiddish Life Writing: Autobiography, Memoir or Fiction" [in English]

History

HIST UN2628	History of the State of Israel, 1948-Present
HIST UN3180	Conversion in Historical Perspective
HIST UN3601	Jews in the Later Roman Empire, 300-600 CE
HIST GU4641	HOLOCAUST GENOCIDE-AMER CULTRE
HIST GU4632	Jews in the Ancient City: Politics and Materiality

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 GU4990	Topics in Jewish Studies
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Music

MUSI UN2030	Jewish Music of New York
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Religion

RELI UN2306	Intro to Judaism
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Sociology

SOCI GR6010	ISRAELI SOCIETY: SPEC
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Spring 2021 Courses of Interest

Germanic Languages

YIDD UN1101	Elementary Yiddish I (Yiddish)
YIDD UN1102	Elementary Yiddish II
YIDD UN2101	Intermediate Yiddish I
CLYD UN3000	Do you read Jewish? From Yiddish, to Yinglish, to Yiddler, in the US
YIDD UN3333	Advanced Yiddish

History

HIST GR8132	The Jewish Book in the Early Modern World
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Jewish Studies

JWST UN3538	Jews in the City in the Islamic Middle East
SPJS UN3303	Jewish Culture in Translation in Medieval Iberia

Journalism

Journalist as Historian (J6002)

Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies

MDES UN1501	1ST YR MOD HEBREW:ELEM I
MDES UN1502	1ST YR MOD HEBREW:ELEM II
MDES UN2501	Second Year Modern Hebrew: Intermediate I
MDES UN2502	2ND YR MODERN HEBREW II
MDES UN2518	Hebrew for Heritage Speaker II

Religion

RELI UN3199	Theory
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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	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 Contemporary American Jewish
Women's Literature: 1990 to Present