

Jewish Studies

Committee Chairman: Philip V. Bohlman, GoH 211, 702-0514

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Program of Study

The B.A. program in Jewish Studies provides a context in which College students may examine the texts, cultures, languages, and histories of Jews and Judaism over three millennia. The perspective is contextual, comparative, and interdisciplinary. The long and diverse history of Jews and Judaism affords unique opportunities to study modes of continuity and change, interpretation and innovation, and isolation and integration of a world historical civilization. Students are encouraged to develop appropriate skills (in texts, languages, history, and culture) for independent work.

Program Requirements

Courses. The major requires twelve courses distributed according to the guidelines that follow.

Language. The twelve courses required for the major typically include three quarters of Hebrew. Students with no AP or placement credit may register for first-year modern Hebrew (or Yiddish or Biblical Hebrew).

If the student's research project requires knowledge of a language other than Hebrew, the student may petition the committee to substitute that language for Hebrew.

Judaic Civilization. The major requires four to six courses in Judaic civilization, including two or three quarters of JWSC 20001-20002-20003 (Jewish History and Society) and two or three quarters of JWSC 20004-20005-20006 (Jewish Thought and Literature). Each of these sequences includes ancient, medieval, and modern components. Students who meet the general education requirement in civilization studies in an area outside of Jewish Studies must also take the courses in Judaic civilization prescribed above. Students who meet the general education requirement in civilization studies with one of the Judaic civilization sequences are required to take, as an elective, one quarter of another civilization sequence pertinent to the area and period of their primary interest in Jewish Studies. These students make their choice in consultation with the Undergraduate Program Adviser.

Other Requirements. A minimum of two and a maximum of six courses in Judaic civilization are counted for the major, depending on whether the student uses one of the Judaic civilization sequences to meet the general education requirement in

civilization studies. Three courses in Hebrew (or another language, by petition) are also required. Three to six elective courses related to Jewish Studies are also needed to meet the requirement of twelve courses for the major. These elective courses would, in part, constitute a specific area of concentration for each student, and are chosen by the student in consultation with the Undergraduate Program Adviser. Students are encouraged to take at least one method or theory course in the College in the area pertaining to their area of special interest.

It is expected that the general education requirements in the humanities or social sciences be completed before students enter the program, typically at the end of their second year. Students who have not completed the general education requirements before admission to the program should do so during their first year of the program.

Each student in the program has an adviser who is a member of the program's faculty (see Faculty section). A worksheet is distributed to students to help them organize their programs.

Summary of Requirements

3	courses in Hebrew or other approved language as described in Language section*
2-3	JWSC 20001-20002-20003 (if not used to meet general education requirement)
2-3	JWSC 20004-20005-20006 (if not used to meet general education requirement)
<u>3-6</u>	elective courses related to Jewish Studies**
12***	

* *Credit may not be granted by examination.*

** *Courses to be chosen in consultation with the student's adviser in Jewish Studies.*

*** *Students who wish to be considered for honors must also register for JWSC 29999 (B.A. Paper) for a total of 13 courses.*

Optional B.A. Paper. Students who choose this option are to meet with their advisers by May 15 of their third year to determine the focus of the research project, and they are expected to begin reading and research for the B.A. paper during the summer before their fourth year. After further consultation, students are to do guided readings and participate in a (formal or informal) tutorial during Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. Credit toward the major is received only for the Winter Quarter tutorial during which the B.A. paper is finally written and revised. The B.A. tutorial may count toward one of the courses related to Judaic Studies. The B.A. paper must be received by the primary reader by the end of fifth week of Spring Quarter. A B.A. paper is a requirement for consideration for honors.

This program may accept a B.A. paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest B.A. proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

Honors. Honors are awarded to students who demonstrate excellence in their course work, as well as on the B.A. paper. To qualify for honors, students must register for JWSC 29900 in addition to the twelve courses required in the general program of study, bringing the total number of courses required to thirteen. They will be required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the major. An oral defense of the B.A. paper must also be given to three members of the Jewish Studies faculty.

Grading. Students take all courses required for the major for quality grades. However, students who qualify for honors may take JWSC 29900 for *P/F* grading during the second quarter of their fourth year. Requirements for this *P/F* course will be agreed upon by the student and the instructor.

Faculty

L. Auslander, R. Austen, P. Bohlman, A. Finkelstein, M. Fishbane, T. Frymer-Kensky, M. Geyer, Y. Melamed, P. Mendes-Flohr, M. Postone, J. Robinson, M. Roth, J. Sadock, E. Santner, D. Schloen, J. Stern, B. Wasserstein

Courses: Jewish Studies (JWSC)

Consult the times schedules at timeschedules.uchicago.edu for updated information and additional course listings in Hebrew Bible, Hebrew literature and history, and Jewish thought.

20001-20002-20003. Jewish History and Society I, II, III. (=JWSG 30001-30002-30003, NEHC 20401-20402-20403/30401-30402-30403) *This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. May be taken in sequence or individually.* This sequence surveys Jewish history and society from the era of the ancient Israelites until the present day. Students explore the ancient, medieval, and modern phases of Jewish culture(s) by means of documents and artifacts that illuminate the rhythms of daily life in changing economic, social, and political contexts. Autumn, Winter, Spring. *Offered 2007-08; not offered 2006-07.*

20001. Jewish History and Society I: Ancient Israel from the Iron Age to the Roman Era. (=JWSG 30001, NEHC 20401/30401) *D. Schloen. Autumn, 2007.*

20002. Jewish History and Society II: Medieval Jewish Society. (=JWSG 30002, NEHC 20402/30402) *Winter, 2008.*

20003. Jewish History and Society III: European Judaism as Minority Diasporic Culture. (=JWSG 30003, NEHC 20403/30403) *L. Auslander. Spring, 2008.*

20004-20005-20006. Jewish Thought and Literature I, II, III. (=JWSG 30004-30005-30006, NEHC 20404-20405-20406/30404-30405-30406) *This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. May be taken in sequence or individually.* Students in this sequence explore Jewish thought and literature from ancient times until the modern era through a close reading of original sources. A wide variety of works is discussed, including the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and texts representative of rabbinic Judaism, medieval Jewish philosophy, and modern Jewish culture in its diverse manifestations. Texts in English. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

20004. Jewish Thought and Literature I: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. (=NEHC 20404/30404) *M. Fishbane. Autumn.*

20005. Jewish Thought and Literature II: Rabbinic Judaism from the Mishnah to Maimonides. (=NEHC 20405/30405) *J. Stern. Winter.*

20006. Jewish Thought and Literature III: The Intellectual Worlds of the Modern Jew. (=NEHC 20406/30406) *N. Stahl. Spring.*

22000-22100-22200. Elementary Classical Hebrew I, II, III. (=HEBR 10101-10102-10103, JWSG 30100-30200-30300) For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Hebrew). *The class meets five times a week. R. Hasselbach, Staff, 2006-07; S. Creason, 2007-08. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

22300-22400-22500. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I, II, III. (=HEBR 20104-20105-20106, JWSG 30400-30500-30600) *PQ: JWSC 22200 or equivalent.* This course is a continuation of HEBR 10103. For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Hebrew). *D. Pardee, 2006-07; Staff, 2007-08. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

23000-23100-23200. Medieval Jewish History I, II, III. (=HUMA 23000-23100-23200, JWSG 38100-38200-38300, NEHC 20411-20412-20413) *PQ: Consent of instructor. This sequence does not meet the general education requirement in civilization studies.* For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Near Eastern History and Civilization). *N. Golb. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

24600. Medieval Philosophy. (=JWSG 34600, PHIL 23600/33600, RLST 25900) *PQ: PHIL 25000.* For course description, see Philosophy. *J. Stern. Winter, 2007.*

24800. The Representation of Jesus in Modern Jewish Literature. (=CMLT 25800, NEHC 20457, RLST 26601) For course description, see Comparative Literature. Classes conducted in English, but students with knowledge of Hebrew are encouraged to read texts in the original. *N. Stahl. Autumn, 2006.*

25000-25100-25200. Introductory Modern Hebrew I, II, III. (=HEBR 10501-10502-10503, JWSG 35000-35100-35200, LGLN 20100-20200-20300/30100-30200-30300) For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Hebrew). *A. Finkelstein. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

25300-25400-25500. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I, II, III. (=HEBR 20501-20502-20503, JWSG 35300-35400-35500, LGLN 20400-20500-20600/30400-30500-30600) *PQ: JWSC 25200 or equivalent.* For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Hebrew). *A. Finkelstein. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

25600-25700-25800. Advanced Modern Hebrew I, II, III. (=HEBR 30501-30502-30503, JWSG 35600-35700-35800, LGLN 22900-23000-23100/32900-33000-33100) *PQ: JWSC 25500 or equivalent.* For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Hebrew). *A. Finkelstein. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29700. Reading and Research Course. *PQ: Consent of instructor and Undergraduate Program Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29900. B.A. Paper Preparation Course. *PQ: Consent of instructor and Undergraduate Program Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Required of honors candidates. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*