Proposal to Convert the Jewish Studies Citation into an Undergraduate Minor

1. Rationale

The Jewish Studies program proposed a Citation in Jewish Studies during the 1998-1999 academic year. The program was designed to draw on the clear reservoir of student interest in Jewish Studies and related fields (Israel and the Middle East, Biblical Studies, etc.), among students whose primary field of study lay elsewhere, or who developed their interest in Jewish Studies too late in their undergraduate career to complete the rather rigorous Hebrew-language demands of the Jewish Studies major. Since the approval of the Citation it has been quite successful: currently about thirty students are currently enrolled. As designed, the Citation, and consequently the proposed Minor, is a stand-alone program, that is alternative to, rather than supplementary to, the Jewish Studies major: it does not provide further concentration within Jewish Studies.

We expect that interests will continue to grow, and for that reason we see every reason to convert the Citation into a Minor. In addition, we believe that a Jewish Studies Minor may be valuable for units that require their majors to minor in some other discipline (e.g., Journalism, Education), and we plan to begin conversations with these units during the 2004–2005 academic year.

2. The Proposed Program of Study and Catalog Description

The Minor in Jewish Studies offers a broad overview of the principal aspects of Jewish Studies as a field. Students are encouraged to take courses in a variety of areas through a combination of required fields and general electives. The fifteen credits towards the Minor in Jewish Studies are to be distributed as follows:

- History: 3 credits
- Literature: 3 credits
- Thought, religion, or cultural studies: 3 credits
- Electives: 6 credits

A list of qualifying courses in each category, drawn from the current Undergraduate Catalog, is appended. The Director of the Program may approve other courses by petition.

A minimum of nine credits must be at the upper level.

All credits must be earned with a C or above.

Up to three credits of lower-level Hebrew or Yiddish language study may be credited toward the Minor. In exceptional cases, students may petition to have other languages included.
Restrictions:

- Students enrolled in the Jewish Studies Major are not eligible to enroll in the Minor.
- At least six credits of upper-level credit must be taken at the University of Maryland.
- No more than six credits may be taken at an institution other than Maryland.
- In keeping with University policy, no more than six credits may be also be applied to a major.

3. Administration

The Minor in Jewish is administered by the Jewish Studies Program. Oversight of the program is the responsibility of the Director of the Program or, should such an office be created, the Director of Undergraduate Studies. In either case, the coordinator for the program will be a regular member of the faculty, although the Director may appoint a non-faculty advisor to assist with record-keeping and day-to-day advising.

The coordinator of program will be in contact with all the enrolled minors through email reflector accounts that will apprise students of deadlines, policies, and opportunities. Students are expected to meet with an advisor once yearly after enrolling in the Minor, and once a semester in the year that they expect to complete their Minor.

4. Resources.

Since the program closely matches the academic, facilities, faculty, and staffing requirements of the existing Jewish Studies Citation, we foresee no need for resources beyond those currently available.
Minor in Jewish Studies

The following may be applied toward the distribution requirements for the Minor in Jewish Studies. Special-Topics courses are offered on a regular basis and may be applied to the Minor with the Director’s permission. Courses that appear more than once below may only be counted toward the minor once.

**History**
- JWST 121: Jewish Civilization
- JWST 141: American Jewish Experience
- JWST 227: 227 Reconstructing the Civilization of Ancient Mesopotamia
- JWST 230: Introduction to the Rabbinic Movement: History and Culture
- JWST 234: History of the Jewish People I
- JWST 235: History of the Jewish People II
- JWST 275: The Jew and the City through the Centuries
- JWST 324: Biblical History and Culture
- JWST 325: Jews and Judaism in Antiquity I
- JWST 326: Jews and Judaism in Antiquity II
- JWST 331: Early Christianity: Jesus to Constantine
- JWST 342: History of Zionism and the State of Israel
- JWST 343: Modern Jewish History I
- JWST 344: Modern Jewish History II
- JWST 345: The Holocaust of European Jewry

**Literature**
- JWST 171: The Modern Jewish Experience Through Literature
- JWST 262: The Hebrew Bible: Narrative
- JWST 263: The Hebrew Bible: Poetry
- JWST 270: Fantasy and Supernatural in Jewish Literature
- JWST 272: Jewish Literature in Translation
- JWST 376: Literature of the Holocaust

**Thought, religion, or cultural studies**
- JWST 230: Introduction to the Rabbinic Movement: History and Culture
- JWST 250: Fundamental Concepts of Judaism
- JWST 251: Authority, Faith, and Reason in Judaism
- JWST 451: Issues in Jewish Ethics and Law
- JWST 452: The Golden Age of Jewish Philosophy
- JWST 453: Philosophy of Spinoza
- JWST 491: Judaism and the Construction of Gender
- JWST 493: Jewish Women in International Perspective
Minor in Jewish Studies Advising Sheet

Distribution courses in fields of Jewish Studies (9 cr.):

History: ____________________________

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Literature: ____________________________

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Thought, religion, culture: ____________________________

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Electives (6 cr.):

1. ____________________________

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2. ____________________________

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Nine credits at 300-level or above? ______

Six upper-level credits taken at Maryland? ______

No more than six credits taken away from Maryland? ______

No more than six credits applied toward a major in another department? ______

No more than three credits of lower-level language instruction included? ______

Approved for Minor in Jewish Studies

Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Director, JWST

or: Director, Undergraduate Studies, JWST