July 6, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bonnie Thornton Dill  
   Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Elizabeth Beise  
   Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies (PCC log no. 14066)

At its meeting on May 1, 2015, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved the proposal to modify the Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

This change is effective Fall 2015. Please ensure that this change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, including the undergraduate program’s four-year plan (contact Lisa Kiely at lkiely@umd.edu for more information), and that all advisors are informed.

MDC/Enclosure

cc: Gregory Miller, Chair, Senate PCC Committee  
    Barbara Gill, Office of Student Financial Aid  
    Reka Montfort, University Senate  
    Erin Taylor, Division of Information Technology  
    Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment  
    Anne Turkos, University Archives  
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
    Cynthia Stevens, Office of Undergraduate Studies  
    Alene Moyer, College of Arts and Humanities  
    Charles Manekin, Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.
- Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School:
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01206700 (ARTHU - College of Arts & Humanities)
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program:
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits: 1272501 (Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies)

Type of Action (choose one):
- X Curriculum change (including informal specializations)
- □ Curriculum change for an LEP Program
- □ Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration
- □ Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
- □ Suspend/delete program

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:
The attached proposal outlines a number of updates to the existing Jewish Studies major, addressing recommendations articulated in our most recent external review, as well as developments in the current state of the field of Jewish Studies. The changes create a major that is more workable for our students and more appropriate to the current state of the academic field. They include:
1) reframing the Hebrew language requirements to ameliorate an overly onerous prerequisite structure; and
2) creating informal concentrations to permit students to create more specialized and individualized experiences of the Jewish Studies major.
3) balancing course offerings across subfields by reducing Jewish history requirement from six credits to three.

Updated course proposals and General Education proposals will follow, to streamline and rationalize our course offerings.

Departmental/Unit Contact Person for Proposal: Charles Manekin, Director, Meyerhoff Program and Center for Jewish Studies

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair Maxine Grossman
   
2. Department Chair Charles Manekin
   
3. College/School PCC Chair
   
4. Dean Atene Meyer
   
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
   
6. Chair, Senate PCC
   
7. University Senate Chair (if required)
   
8. Senior Vice President and Provost
Jewish Studies Major Curriculum Change Proposal

Why Change the Major?

In preparation for updating the Jewish Studies major, we collected feedback from current and prospective students and conducted an extensive survey of our alumni. The goal of this research process was to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the current major. Students as a rule spoke highly of their experience in the Jewish Studies program, while offering significant suggestions for improvement. That these suggestions echo the recommendations of our most recent external review further indicate to us that the time is right to update the Jewish Studies major.

A key concern expressed both by prospective majors and by our alumni is the significant burden represented by the current Hebrew language requirement structure (students take three semesters’ worth of coursework in Hebrew language, but only after completing a four-semester Hebrew language prerequisite). This “front-loading” of requirements has a number of important implications, including the following:

1. Prospective students who are double-majoring are deterred by the challenge of squeezing seven semesters’ worth of Hebrew into their four-year plan.
2. Prospective students who develop an interest in the Jewish Studies major while in their sophomore year or beyond find it unrealistic to attain this level of Hebrew proficiency while also completing all of the other requirements of the major.
3. Students with enthusiastic interests in Jewish history, literature, culture, or religion may be deterred from the major when language acquisition is a secondary, rather than primary, point of focus.
4. A comparison with the Hebrew requirements of our peer undergraduate Jewish Studies programs revealed a consistent commitment to Hebrew mastery through the intermediate level, at most.

We remain committed to Hebrew language mastery at a high level of competency, and we will continue to offer courses that make such mastery possible for our interested majors, not least by providing students with the option of a concentration in Hebrew language and literature. In addition, all majors will continue to take at least one “Hebrew text course,” which requires focused study and translation of Hebrew texts in the original language. However, in an effort to be more in step with other Jewish Studies programs throughout the US, and to eliminate a significant deterrent to enrollment of majors, we will introduce a new and more balanced structure for Hebrew language learning, as an ongoing element within the Jewish Studies major.

The second significant change to the undergraduate major introduces informal specializations, or concentrations, to the Jewish Studies major. In its current form, the major requires students to choose an area of specialization, but without providing clear guidelines for the structure of such specialization. Although our students regularly express appreciation for the flexibility that this openness provides, they also express a desire for a bit more structure, to lend their majors a necessary intellectual coherence. The current proposal seeks to establish just such clarity, by identifying five concentrations and specifying the courses that will fall within them. The concentrations are:

- Jewish History and Society (JH)
- Jewish Religion and Thought (JR)
- Jewish Literature and Culture (JL)
- Israeli Society, Politics, and Culture (IS)
- Hebrew Language and Texts (HL)

A certain amount of overlap is to be expected in these concentrations, since the subfields within Jewish Studies necessarily overlap and intersect, but each concentration reflects a particular set of interests and
scholarly approaches within the field. Each of our existing courses will be assigned to a particular concentration (and most will count toward two or even three concentrations). As faculty develop new courses, they will be encouraged to think about how those courses fit into the concentrations, as well as into the major as a whole.

The broad framing of the new concentrations will provide students with more structure, without significantly reducing the dynamic flexibility of the current major. Students will also be assigned a faculty mentor based on the academic interests they identify. A great strength of our department is that its small size allows for students to develop close working relationships with faculty, and we want to encourage more students to take advantage of this opportunity by having them meet with one or more faculty members whose research and teaching interests intersect with their own.

Several other changes are also included in this proposal.

- One curricular change reduces the Jewish history requirement within the major from six credits to three. This change equalizes the balance of requirements across the subfields (since students also take three credits in each of a number of other areas of Jewish Studies). This change also acknowledges the ongoing changes in humanities course offerings as an element of the undergraduate curriculum at the University, especially in General Education.

- A second curricular change moves the administration of the required Research Seminar, JWST 409, from within the “Areas of Specialization” to the more general Area Requirements. This change reflects the realities of a small department: while we encourage students to participate in a research seminar specifically relevant to their areas of specialization, we cannot always offer courses that meet their specific diverse needs in a given year.

Specific changes are detailed below, with point-by-point rationales following after.

A table comparing the current versus proposed major follows, as does a listing of the new concentrations and their courses.
Proposed Changes to the Jewish Studies Major

1) Hebrew prerequisite: reduced from "Completion of HEBR212 or equivalent competency" to "Completion of HEBR211 or equivalent competency."

2) Hebrew language requirement: students will no longer be required to take two upper-level Hebrew courses (6 credits), and instead will satisfy their Hebrew language requirement by completing HEBR212 or an upper-level Hebrew course (3 credits).

3) Jewish history series: the two-semester history sequence (JWST 234, 235) will be consolidated to a single history course, JWST233.

4) Areas of focus: the current "area of specialization" (12 credits) will be replaced with a more clearly delineated "concentration" (15 credits). Five distinct concentrations will be created (see document titled "Concentrations," below)

Rationale for each change:

1) The change to the Hebrew prerequisite makes the major accessible to a broader range of prospective majors, including students whose primary interests lie outside the field of language study and students who arrive at the Jewish Studies major without prior linguistic knowledge or experience.

2) All students will continue to achieve competence in Hebrew language study through the intermediate level.

3) The consolidation of the history sequence from two courses to one redistributes the weight given to each of the main subfields within the discipline of Jewish Studies. Exposure to Jewish history, literature, and thought/religion/culture are all equally valued under the structure of the new major.

4) The new concentrations provide students with a clearer rationale for pursuit of academic Jewish Studies, while allowing a degree of specialization (but not over-specialization) that is appropriate to the undergraduate level.

Impact

Undergraduate advising in Jewish Studies is handled centrally. Current students will therefore be able to complete their majors under the current requirements, while newly-registered students will be responsible to fulfill the new requirements. The Jewish Studies advising office will keep track of the two sets of requirements until all current students have completed the major.

Broader impacts of the new major will include: allowing more internal transfers to join the major (changes to Hebrew requirements); an increase in structure to the major, without a reduction of flexibility for students (through concentrations); and the development of closer working relationships between students and faculty (again, through concentrations).

Resource Implications

The shift from a requirement of six credits in Jewish history to three credits will create more flexibility among the four Jewish Studies faculty who regularly teach these history courses, allowing for the development of additional introductory, upper-level, and General Education courses.

Advising will be slightly more complicated, because Jewish Studies majors will need to be classed into the “old” or “new” system. However, the centralized advising system in Jewish Studies and the presence of experienced advisors in the program will reduce unnecessary complications.

The implementation of new concentrations will create opportunities for instructional faculty to teach their current courses, introduce new courses, and explore the possibility of revisiting courses they have taught in the past. Implementation of instructional resources will, however, remain the same.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT MAJOR</th>
<th>PROPOSED MAJOR</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language Prerequisite:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Language prerequisite:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of HEBR212 or equivalent competency (evaluated by exam)</td>
<td>Completion of HEBR211 or equivalent competency (evaluated by exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Area Requirements (21 credits):</strong></td>
<td><strong>Area Requirements (18 credits):</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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| Hebrew Language (9 credits)  
  - HEBR313 or upper-level Hebrew course  
  - HEBR314 or upper-level Hebrew course  
  - Hebrew text course | Hebrew Language (6 credits)  
  - HEBR212 or higher  
  - Hebrew text course |
| History (6 credits):  
  - JWST234: History of the Jewish People I  
  - JWST235: History of the Jewish People II | History (3 credits):  
  - JWST233: History of the Jewish People (condensed history sequence) |
| Literature (3 credits):  
  - JWST272: Intro to Jewish Literature | Literature (3 credits):  
  - JWST272: Intro to Jewish Literature |
| Thought, Religion, or Culture (3 credits):  
  - one lower- or upper-level course in Jewish thought, religion, or culture | Thought, Religion, or Culture (3 credits):  
  - one lower- or upper-level course in Jewish thought, religion, or culture |
| **Area of Specialization (12 credits):** | **Concentration (15 credits):** |
| General Requirements (9 credits):  
  - 3 lower- or upper-level credits  
  - 6 upper-level credits  
  - 3 upper-level credits of Research Seminar (JWST 409) | General Requirements (15 credits):  
  - 6 lower- or upper-level credits  
  - 9 upper-level credits  
  (see document titled "Concentrations" for full list and detailed requirements) |
| **Jewish Studies Electives (6 credits):** | **Jewish Studies Electives (6 credits):** |
|  
  - 3 lower- or upper-level JWST credits  
  - 3 upper-level JWST credits |  
  - 3 lower- or upper-level JWST credits  
  - 3 upper-level credits |
| **Supporting Courses (9 credits):** | **Supporting Courses (9 credits):** |
|  
  - 3 lower- or upper-level non-JWST credits  
  - 6 upper-level of non-JWST credits |  
  - 3 lower- or upper-level non-JWST credits  
  - 6 upper-level of non-JWST credits |
| **Total number of credits: 48** | **Total number of credits: 48** |
Concentrations

Concentrations

Jewish History and Society (JH)
Jewish Religion and Thought (JR)
Jewish Literature and Culture (JL)
Israeli Society, Politics, and Culture (IS)
Hebrew Language and Texts (HL)

Courses Applicable to each Concentration

• Jewish History and Society
  - JWST 219B—Introduction to Modern Israel
  - JWST 219Q—History of Pharaonic Egypt until the Hellenistic Period
  - JWST 230—Introduction to the Rabbinic Movement: History and Culture
  - JWST 231—Jewish Texts and Cultures of the Second Temple Period
  - JWST 275—The Jew and the City through the Centuries
  - JWST 289J—Jerusalem: The History of Sacred Space in a Holy City
  - JWST 289T—Practice of Tolerance in Religious Societies
  - JWST 319F—Religion and Politics in the State of Israel
  - JWST 319G—Status of Majorities and Minorities in the Middle East
  - JWST 319M—Tradition of Jewish Responses to Crisis
  - JWST 324—Biblical History and Culture
  - JWST 325—Jews and Judaism in Antiquity I: 6th Cent. BCE through 1st Cent. CE
  - JWST 326—Jews and Judaism in Antiquity II: 1st through 7th Centuries
  - JWST 333—Jews in Early Modern Times, 1450-1750
  - JWST 342—History of Zionism and the State of Israel
  - JWST 344—Modern Jewish History II: World Jewry since 1870
  - JWST 345—Holocaust of European Jewry
  - JWST 370—Jews of Eastern Europe
  - JWST 419A—History of Jewish Women's Spirituality
  - JWST 419A—Gender and Autobiography in Modern Jewish History
  - JWST 419B—Hasidism and Its Opponents
  - JWST 419B—Israeli Politics
  - JWST 419D—Dead Sea Scrolls
  - JWST 419E—Jews of Eastern Europe
  - JWST 419E—Public Culture in Israel
  - JWST 419G—Religious Movements in European Jewish History
  - JWST 419J—Archeological Heritage and the Middle East
  - JWST 419J—History of the Jewish Religion in America
  - JWST 419K—Women and Gender in Israel
  - JWST 419L—Israel, Politics, and Society
  - JWST 419M—Jews of Italy
  - JWST 419N—Antisemitism and Jewish Response
  - JWST 419P—History of Israel
  - JWST 419R—Construction of Jewish Knowledge
  - JWST 419Y—Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
• JWST 429A—Memoir, Autobiography, and the Modern Jewish Experience
• JWST 429A—History of the Jewish Communities in the Lands of Islam
• JWST 432—Medieval Jewish History
• JWST 478M—Hasidism and Its Opponents

• Jewish Religion and Thought

• JWST219L—Wisdom Literature and the Hebrew Bible
• JWST 219N—Introduction to New Testament
• JWST219Q—Dead Sea Scrolls
• JWST 225—Religions of the Near East
• JWST 231—Jewish Texts and Cultures of the Second Temple Period
• JWST 250—Fundamental Concepts of Judaism
• JWST 262—Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
• JWST 289—New Explorations in Jewish Studies
• JWST 289J—Jerusalem: The History of Sacred Space in a Holy City
• JWST 289T—Practice of Tolerance in Religious Societies
• JWST 319A—Religions of Ancient Israel
• JWST 319F—Religion and Politics in the State of Israel
• JWST 319M—Tradition of Jewish Responses to Crisis
• JWST 331—Early Christianity: Jesus to Constantine
• JWST 347—Religious Movements in European Jewish History
• JWST 419A—History of Jewish Women's Spirituality
• JWST 419B—Hasidism and Its Opponents
• JWST 419C—Critical Theory and the Jewish Question
• JWST 419D—Dead Sea Scrolls
• JWST 419J—History of the Jewish Religion in America
• JWST 419N—Antisemitism and Jewish Response
• JWST 419O—Is Judaism a Religion?
• JWST 419R—Construction of Jewish Knowledge
• JWST 429A—Memoir, Autobiography, and the Modern Jewish Experience
• JWST 429B—Arabic Philosophy of Muslims and Jews
• JWST 452—Golden Age of Jewish Philosophy
• JWST 453—Philosophy of Spinoza
• JWST 459—Readings in Medieval Hebrew
• JWST 459C—Biblical Exegesis
• JWST 459M—Maimonides: His Life and Thought
• JWST 468—Readings in Hebrew Bible
• JWST 468A—War in the Bible and Ancient Near East
• JWST 468D—Death and Afterlife in the Hebrew Bible
• JWST 468P—Psalms
• JWST 469—Readings in Rabbinic Hebrew
• JWST 469F—Topics in Rabbinic Law
• JWST 469K—Human Dignity versus Ritual Law
• JWST 478—Major Texts of the Jewish Enlightenment
• JWST 491—Judaism and the Construction of Gender
• Jewish Literature and Culture

  • JWST 219Z—Women and Gender in Israel
  • JWST 230—Introduction to the Rabbinic Movement: History and Culture
  • JWST 231—Jewish Texts and Cultures of the Second Temple Period
  • JWST 262—Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
  • JWST 270—Fantasy and Supernatural in Jewish Literature
  • JWST 289J—Jerusalem: The History of Sacred Space in a Holy City
  • JWST 319C—Women and Jewish Literature
  • JWST 319T—American Jewish Literature
  • JWST 319T—Culture in Tel Aviv: 100 Years
  • JWST 319Y—Yiddish Theater and Film
  • JWST 324—Biblical History and Culture
  • JWST 341—American Jewish Literature
  • JWST 346—Representing the Holocaust
  • JWST 381—Introduction to Hebrew Cultural Studies
  • JWST 382—Israeli Media
  • JWST 419A—Gender and Autobiography in Modern Jewish History
  • JWST 419C—Critical Theory and the Jewish Question
  • JWST 419D—Yiddish in the Americas
  • JWST 419E—Public Culture in Israel
  • JWST 419I—Representing the Holocaust
  • JWST 419J—Critical Issues in Israeli Cinema
  • JWST 419P—Culture of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
  • JWST 419T—Yiddish Culture in Russia
  • JWST 419W—Public Culture in Israel
  • JWST 419W—Sex, Gender and Jewish Identity
  • JWST 419Y—Advanced Yiddish Language and Culture
  • JWST 429D—Dybbuk and Spiritual Possession in Jewish Literature
  • JWST 429F—Holocaust and Film
  • JWST 429L—Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation
  • JWST 429N—Israeli Popular Culture
  • JWST 429P—Culture and Identity in Jewish and Hebrew Education
  • JWST 429R—Modern Hebrew Poetry
  • JWST 468D—Death and Afterlife in the Hebrew Bible
  • JWST 468P—Psalms
  • JWST 478—Readings in Modern Hebrew
  • JWST 478E—Exile and Homecoming
  • JWST 491—Judaism and the Construction of Gender
  • JWST 498M—Readings in Yiddish Literature
  • JWST219L—Wisdom Literature and the Hebrew Bible
  • JWST219M—Yiddish Theater, Film, and Popular Culture

• Israeli Society, Politics, and Culture

  • ISRL 142—Introduction to Modern Israel
  • ISRL 249B—Arab-Israeli Conflict through Film
  • ISRL 289I—New Explorations in Israel Studies
ISRL 342—History of Zionism and the State of Israel
ISRL 349—Investigating Topics in Israel Studies
ISRL 349D—Israeli Society
ISRL 349F—Women as Portrayed in Israeli Film, Literature, and Art
ISRL 349T—Transformation in the Israeli Narrative
ISRL 349Z—Select Topics in Israel Studies
ISRL 448—Seminar in Israel Studies
ISRL 448A—Israeli Politics and Government
ISRL 448B—Israeli Society
ISRL 448C—Israel and the Bomb
ISRL 448D—Dividing Palestine? Examining Jewish-Arab Negotiations in the 1930s
ISRL 448L—Israeli Politics and Society for Young Leaders
ISRL 448T—Studying Society through Cultural Texts: The Israeli Case
ISRL 449—Advanced Topics in Israel Studies
ISRL 449B—Israel and International Development
ISRL 449D—Israeli Society as Seen through Literature and Film
ISRL 449E—Israeli Bedouin
ISRL 449F—Society, Politics, and Mass Media
ISRL 449G—The Theater of Terror: Modern Terrorism and Mass Media
ISRL 449J—Archeological Heritage and the Middle East
ISRL 449L—Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation
ISRL 449M—Cultural Diversity and Multiple Identities in Contemp. Israeli Society
ISRL 449P—Issues and Trends in Israeli Public Opinion
ISRL 449W—Women and Gender in Israel

JWST 219B—Introduction to Modern Israel
JWST 219F—Introduction to Israeli Film
JWST 219R—Introduction to Israeli Culture
JWST 219Z—Women and Gender in Israel
JWST 273—Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation
JWST 277—Culture of the Middle East
JWST 289J—Jerusalem: The History of Sacred Space in a Holy City
JWST 304—Critical Approaches to Israeli Culture
JWST 319D—The Sephardic/Mizrahi Experience in Israel
JWST 319F—Religion and Politics in the State of Israel
JWST 319G—Status of Majorities and Minorities in the Middle East
JWST 319P—Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Reconsidered
JWST 319R—Reading Israeli Media
JWST 319T—Culture in Tel Aviv: 100 Years
JWST 381—Introduction to Hebrew Cultural Studies
JWST 342—History of Zionism and the State of Israel
JWST 382—Israeli Media
JWST 419B—Israeli Politics
JWST 419E—Public Culture in Israel
JWST 419F—History of Hebrew Language
JWST 419J—Critical Issues in Israeli Cinema
JWST 419J—Archeological Heritage and the Middle East
• JWST 419K—Women and Gender in Israel
• JWST 419L—Israel, Politics, and Society
• JWST 419P—Culture of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
• JWST 419Y—Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
• JWST 419Z—Israeli Security
• JWST 429N—Israeli Popular Culture
• JWST 429R—Modern Hebrew Poetry
• JWST 419S—History of Modern Israel
• JWST 474—Jewish and Israeli Drama
• JWST 478—Readings in Modern Hebrew

**Hebrew Language and Texts**

• JWST 262—Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
• JWST 419F—History of Hebrew Language
• JWST 419G—Advanced Hebrew Grammar
• JWST 429—Pedagogy and Instruction in the Hebrew Classroom
• JWST 429—Modern Hebrew Poetry
• JWST 429L—Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation
• JWST 459—Readings in Medieval Hebrew
• JWST 468—Readings in Biblical Hebrew
• JWST 469—Readings in Rabbinic Hebrew
• JWST 474—Jewish and Israeli Drama
• JWST 478—Major Texts of the Jewish Enlightenment
• JWST 478—Readings in Modern Hebrew
• JWST 498—Advanced Languages Module in Jewish Studies
• JWST 498—Dead Sea Scrolls in Hebrew

**Advising:** In addition to receiving advising through the Jewish Studies program advisor, students majoring in Jewish Studies will be assigned a faculty advisor with interests in their area of concentration. Students will consult with their faculty advisor as they plan their course of study within a concentration. Faculty Advisors are meant to provide scholarly and intellectual consultation, while technical assistance with administrative requirements of the university will still be managed by the Jewish Studies undergraduate advisor.
CATALOG DESCRIPTION

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM (JWST)

College of Arts and Humanities
4141 Susquehanna Hall, 301-405-4975
www.jewishstudies.umd.edu
jwst-contact@umd.edu
Director: C. Manekin (Prof)
Professors: H. Lapin, Y. Peri, M. Rozenblit
Associate Professors: B. Cooperman, M. Grossman, R. Manekin, S. Jelen, E. Zakim
Assistant Professor: M. Suriano
Affiliate Associate Professors: A. Borrut, L. Felbain, J. Freidenberg, S. Khamis, G. Strauch, P. Wien
Associate Research Professors: A. Feuer, P. Scham
Visiting Faculty: A. Mahalel (Visit Assoc Prof), P. Peri (Visit Asst Prof)
Judaica Librarian: Y. Luckert
Professors Emeriti: A. Berlin (Emerita)

The Major

The Major in Jewish Studies provides undergraduates with a framework for the organized and interdisciplinary study of the history, literature, and thought of the Jews from antiquity to the present. Jewish Studies draws on a vast literature in many genres and a number of languages. Hebrew, Aramaic, Judeo-Arabic, and Yiddish cultural traditions include such central Jewish texts as the Bible, the Talmud, and medieval and modern Jewish literature. Courses offered by this department may be found under the following acronym(s): JWST, HEBR, ISRL, and RELS.
Program Objectives

The Meyerhoff Center and Program for Jewish Studies encourages research and provides instruction about the complex history and culture of the Jewish people from earliest times to the present day. Dedicated to the highest standards of scholarship, the program offers a wide array of courses in Hebrew language and literature, Jewish history, Bible, rabbinics, Jewish thought, and Yiddish language and literature. These courses form one of the largest undergraduate Jewish Studies programs in North America. In addition, the Jewish Studies program supports faculty research projects and organizes frequent academic conferences and lectures in order to bring the fruits of scholarship to a wider public. The Jewish Studies Program seeks to provide undergraduate majors with an appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of Jewish Studies, understanding that Jewish literary texts, Jewish history, and Jewish culture and thought are, to a large degree, inseparable. Students are expected to gain proficiency in the Hebrew language and acquire facility in reading, understanding, analyzing, and interpreting texts both in Hebrew and in English translation. In addition, students should be able to pursue independent research and argue coherently and persuasively in writing.

Program Learning Outcomes

The Jewish Studies Program seeks to provide undergraduate majors with an appreciation for the interdisciplinary nature of Jewish Studies (understanding that Jewish literary texts, Jewish history, and Jewish culture and thought are to a large degree inseparable). Students who complete the major should acquire the following knowledge and skills:

1. Mastery of the chronological development and major themes of Jewish history;
2. Critical engagement with and interpretation of Jewish literature, from a diversity of periods and perspectives;
3. Sophisticated understanding of Jewish religion, thought, and culture;
4. Proficiency in Hebrew language beyond the intermediate level, and ability to read, analyze, and interpret texts in classical (biblical, rabbincic, medieval), and/or modern literary Hebrew;
5. Ability to conduct independent research and analysis and represent their results in written form, showing mastery of academic tools and formal conventions.

Academic Programs and Departmental Facilities

Study Abroad

The Jewish Studies program encourages students to study internationally. In addition to programs run by the University, students study at academic programs in Israel, Europe, and elsewhere. In particular, majors studying in Israel gain the opportunity to improve their Hebrew language skills by taking ulpan, the intensive course in Hebrew offered at those universities, and by practicing their Hebrew with Israelis. In addition, students can take courses in Israeli society and politics, Middle East Studies, and other courses not usually offered at College Park. Scholarship funds are available to majors and non-majors. Please see the section on "Scholarships and Financial Assistance" for more information.

The Library

The Jewish Studies program has a large and growing Judaica collection at the University of Maryland Libraries that aims to become a major resource and repository for the entire area. The collection includes
materials in Jewish history, Hebrew and Yiddish literature, the Bible, Talmud, medieval philosophy, Jewish women, theater, the Holocaust, and modern Israel. In addition to scholarly books and periodicals written in the English, German, Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Arabic, French, Italian, and Slavic languages, the collection includes rare books, musical scores, video and audio recordings, facsimile copies of historical documents, and manuscripts.

Israel Studies

The Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies offers a wide array of lectures, programs, courses, and study abroad opportunities, as well as an academic Minor in Israel Studies. Jewish Studies majors can incorporate a concentration in Israel Studies into their major course of study.

Religious Studies

The Minor in Religious Studies is an 18-credit course of study that provides students with the opportunity to learn about religion in cross-cultural and trans-historical perspectives. A core course introduces students to the study of world religions, while other courses range widely in their focus, allowing students to learn more about sacred texts, traditions, practices, philosophies, and material culture. Courses may focus on a single religious tradition, a region or period of history, or a concentrated approach to the analysis of religion and religious culture. Courses for the minor are drawn from such departments and programs as Anthropology, Art History and Archaeology, Classics, Government and Politics, History, Honors, Jewish Studies, Philosophy, and Women's Studies.

Admission to the Major

Hebrew proficiency through the lower-intermediate level is a prerequisite for the major, but students can declare the major prior to fulfilling this prerequisite and can take Jewish Studies courses while building their Hebrew skills. Many students may choose to prepare for these requirements by studying Hebrew on their own or by enrolling in the University's sequence of beginning and intermediate Hebrew courses.

Placement in Courses

The Foreign Language Placement Test in Hebrew is used to determine in which Hebrew course students should enroll. For more information, contact hebrew-adviser@umd.edu.

Requirements for the Major

The undergraduate major requires 48 semester hours (27 hours minimum at the 300-level or above). Students enroll in 39 credits of Jewish Studies courses, and 9 additional credits in supporting courses from a field or fields outside Jewish Studies. Jewish Studies courses for the major may include courses offered by Jewish Studies or cross-listed with other units.

By satisfying the Hebrew language requirements of the major, Jewish Studies majors will automatically fulfill the Global Engagement Requirement of the College of Arts and Humanities. A minimum grade of "C-" is required in all courses offered toward major requirements. An overall GPA of 2.0 in the major is required for graduation.

1. Language Prerequisites

Please note: Students can declare the major at any time and take other Jewish Studies courses while they
are working to satisfy these prerequisites.

**Hebrew language skills corresponding to the second-year level (HEBR211: Intermediate Hebrew I).** Students may meet the prerequisite through successful completion of the lower-level Hebrew language sequence (HEBR 111, 112, and 211, for 18 credits). Students with a background in Hebrew will be placed into the appropriate course by the Hebrew faculty. Students with a strong background in Hebrew may be deemed to have satisfied the Hebrew prerequisites by the Hebrew faculty.

2. **General Requirements (18-21 credits)**
Majors in Jewish Studies complete three core courses and fulfill an additional four requirements, for a total of 19 to 22 credits in General Requirements (credit hours for Hebrew language and text requirements are flexible, as discussed below).

**A. History (3 credits)**
- JWST 233: Why the Jews? Historical and Cultural Investigations

**B. Literature (3 credits)**
- JWST 272: Introduction to Jewish Literature

**C. Thought, Religion, or Culture (3 credits)**
Students may choose from:
- JWST 250: Fundamental Concepts of Judaism
- JWST 262: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
- JWST 304: Critical Approaches to Israeli Culture
- JWST 452: Golden Age of Jewish Philosophy
- JWST 491: Judaism and the Construction of Gender
- JWST 492: Sex, Gender, and Jewish Identity
- Others by petition

**D. Hebrew Language (3-6 credits)**
- HEBR 212 (6 credits) or HEBR313 (3 credits) or an upper-level course that is taught in Hebrew

**E. Hebrew (or Other Language) Text Course (3 credits)**
One upper level Jewish studies course with a particular focus on the close reading and analysis of Jewish texts in a language other than English. The majority of these courses will focus on texts in Hebrew, but students who have a background or interest in other Jewish languages (such as Aramaic, Judeo-Arabic, and Yiddish) may fulfill the text course requirement by pursuing coursework or an independent study with a Jewish Studies faculty member who works in the proposed language. Whenever possible, students are encouraged to take a text course that aligns with their chosen area of concentration (see below).

Any course under the following heading can fulfill this requirement:
- JWST 468 Readings in the Hebrew Bible
- JWST 459: Readings in Medieval Hebrew
- JWST 469 Readings in Rabbinic Hebrew
F. Research Seminar (3 credits)

Research seminars are taught on a variety of topics within the field of Jewish Studies; many research seminars are general and methodological in their perspective, designed to bring together students with interests across a variety of subfields of Jewish Studies. Whenever possible, students are encouraged to take a research seminar that aligns with their chosen area of concentration (see below).

- JWST 409: Research Seminar in Jewish Studies

3. Concentration (15 credits)

In consultation with an advisor, majors select a concentration, or subfield of focus, within their more general Jewish Studies coursework. Up to six credits of this concentration may be at the introductory (100-200) level, while the remaining nine credits must be at the 300-level or above. Approved concentrations include:

- Jewish History and Society (JH)
- Jewish Religion and Thought (JR)
- Jewish Literature and Culture (JL)
- Israeli Society, Politics, and Culture (IS)
- Hebrew Language and Texts (HL)

All Jewish Studies courses fall into at least one (and as many as three) of these concentrations. Students may petition to have courses count toward a particular concentration.

4. Electives (6 credits)
Students take two Jewish Studies courses (6 credits) as electives toward their major. At least one course (3 credits) must be at the upper level.

5. Supporting Courses (9 credits)
Students take nine (9) credits in courses outside Jewish Studies, of which at least six (6) must be at the 300-level or above. Supporting courses are determined in consultation with the advisor. They should provide context for the area of specialization.

Note: A current listing of the Department’s courses and assignment of courses to the above categories may be found on the Jewish Studies website. Students are reminded that, if there is a topic that doesn’t figure in the list of courses, they are welcome to propose an independent study.

Mentoring: Students majoring in Jewish Studies will be assigned a faculty mentor from among the faculty specializing in their area concentration. Students should consult with their faculty mentor as they plan their course of study.