### Jewish Studies (JST)

**Courses**

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**NEW COURSE PENDING FACULTY APPROVAL**

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Over the past 200 years, empires have fought over the control of strategic trade routes and natural resources in the Middle East. Conflicts in Israel-Palestine, Iraq, and Syria emerged with the redrawing of borders. These geo-political changes shed light on how national identities changed but also on how Middle Eastern men and women resisted foreign occupation and domestic dictators alike. Through diverse media such as fiction, photography, and film, this course introduces students to the region’s rich history and legacy.

**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

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Judaism is both a textural tradition and a lived religion. Students read basic Jewish texts—Bible, Talmud, Midrash—and study the ways Jews sanctify the life cycle through rites of passage, and the round of the year through the festival cycle.

**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

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This course will examine both the history and the central texts and ideas of the Jewish mystical tradition. We will read a broad range of texts, including the ancient Sefer Yetzirah or Book of Creation, the Zohar, the works of Isaac Luria and his disciples, and the writings of some of the 18th and 19th century Hasidic rabbis. We will also explore the contemporary emergence of Kabbalah and the activities of the Kabbalah Center in contemporary America.

**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

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This course will examine the role of the Arab states and of global powers such as the United States.

**Attribute/Distribution:** SS

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Jewish ritual and leadership; Jewish masculinities; and the gendering of these ideas, and they became fundamental to later Christian theologies, including many that continue to be advocated today. This course will look at ancient Jewish and Christian texts that speak about the end of the world and will trace some of them through more contemporary developments in these two religious traditions.

**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

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Jewish approaches to sexuality? How have feminist movements affected Jewish ritual and leadership? How do Jews of all genders tell their stories? What are the varied Jewish approaches to sexuality? How have feminist movements affected Jewish rituals? In this course, we will consider how religion, gender, sexuality, race, and class intersect in the lives of Jews, with a particular focus on North America. Topics will include: Jewish women's memoirs; the voices of LGBTQ Jews; recent innovations in Jewish ritual and leadership; Jewish masculinities; and the gendering of Jewish children's literature, among others.

**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

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This class traces the relationship between Jews and medicine from 1100 to 2020. How does Jewish religion and culture cultivate an affinity for the healing arts? How does Jewish law, ethics, and culture inform contemporary bioethics?

**Attribute/Distribution:** HU

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Diverse cultural and social forms through which American Jews express their distinct identity. Is American Jewry an example of assimilation and decline or creative transformation? What, if anything, do American Jews share in common? Compatibility of Judaism with individualism, pluralism, and voluntarism. How have the Holocaust and the State of Israel shaped the self-understanding of American Jewry?

**Attribute/Distribution:** HU
JST 154 (HIST 154, REL 154) The Holocaust: History and Meaning 4 Credits
The Nazi Holocaust in its historical, political and religious setting. Emphasis upon the moral, cultural and theological issues raised by the Holocaust.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

JST 156 (REL 156) Judaism and Comic Books 4 Credits
Is The Thing Jewish? What does Superman have to do with the bible? Do Orthodox Jewish girls fight trolls? In this course, we will closely examine comic books and graphic novels in order to expand our understanding of what Jewishness might mean. With a POW! and a BAM!, we will consider many topics “from Krakow to Krypton,” including American Jewish history, how representations of Jews are gendered, global Jewish traditions, monsters and mutations, biblical adaptations, and more!
Attribute/Distribution: HU

JST 161 (GS 161, REL 161) Globalization in the Ancient Mediterranean 4 Credits
We often think of globalization as a modern phenomenon. Yet as early as the twelfth century BCE, transportation, trade, political and religious networks tied the Mediterranean basin together. This course will examine in three periods—the Late Bronze Age, the Hellenistic period, and the Roman period—how these networks were organized and how they affected a range of Mediterranean and Near Eastern peoples. We will use some modern approaches to globalization as analytical tools for understanding the ancient world.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

JST 174 (REL 174) Modern Theology 4 Credits
Major 20th century movements within Christian and Jewish theology understood as responses to the problems of modern times. May be repeated for credit as the subject matter varies.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

JST 177 (REL 177, THTR 177) Jews and the Broadway Musical 4 Credits
The history of American musical theater is deeply interwoven with the history of American Jews. This course examines how Jews have taken part in musical theater on multiple levels—as composers, lyricists, producers, and performers, among other roles. It also examines how Jews are depicted in Broadway musicals, with particular attention to gender and ethnicity.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

JST 180 Independent Study in Jewish Studies 1-4 Credits
Directed readings or research on a Jewish Studies related topic under the direction of a Jewish Studies faculty member. May be repeated for credit up to eight credits. Must have consent of the program director.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

JST 181 Special Topics in Jewish Studies 4 Credits
Study of a subject or issue in Jewish Studies not covered in other courses. May be repeated for credit as subtitle varies.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

JST 230 (REL 230) Kabbalah: Jewish Mystical Tradition 4 Credits
Explores the history of the quest to know God, through mystical experience or theosophical speculation, as found in Jewish tradition. Examines such issues as the tensions between institutional religion and personal religious experience, between views of God as immanent in the world or transcending it, and between imagery for God and religious experience of God.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

JST 231 (REL 231) Classic Jewish Texts 4 Credits
Many people know that the Hebrew Bible (“Old Testament”) is a foundational scripture for Judaism. Fewer are familiar with the post-biblical Jewish classics. Yet these works shaped the understanding of God, the identity of the Jewish people, and the vision of history and of the ethical life that inform Judaism today. As students read the Talmud, Midrash, and traditional prayer-book, they will become familiar with the wisdom of the rabbinic sages, and the central concepts of Judaism.
Attribute/Distribution: HU