Jewish Studies

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The Jewish studies minor, coordinated by the Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/graduatestudyandresearch/researchcentersandinstitutes/philipandmurielbermancenterforjewishstudies/), provides students with the opportunity to explore the history, literature, religion, and social institutions of the Jewish people from its inception to the present. The diverse selection of courses highlights the interaction of Judaism with other cultures and societies in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. Students will discover that courses in Jewish studies enhance their understanding of individual and group identity and the dynamics of religious-cultural pluralism. The program is designed to appeal to students with varied interests in any field of concentration. The flexible requirements of the minor in Jewish Studies make it an ideal compliment to any major or minor in Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, or Education. Students should coordinate their minor program in Jewish studies with the director.

The Berman Center for Jewish Studies supplements formal course offerings through an extensive program of lectures, colloquia, films, field trips, and other cultural events. The Center also provides funding for students to help them pursue study abroad experiences or other enhancements to their academic work in the field of Jewish Studies.

JEWISH STUDIES MINOR

Students pursuing a minor in Jewish studies must fulfill 16 credit hours.

Four (4) courses from the approved course list or in consultation with the program director.

Total Credits 16


1 A maximum of eight credit hours of Hebrew may be counted

COURSES

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<td>HEBR 001</td>
<td>Elementary Modern Hebrew I</td>
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<td>Elementary Modern Hebrew II</td>
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<td>HEBR 011</td>
<td>Intermediate Modern Hebrew I</td>
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<td>HEBR 151</td>
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<td>HEBR 152</td>
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<td>JST/REL 073</td>
<td>The Jewish Tradition</td>
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<td>JST/REL 081</td>
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<td>JST/IR 082</td>
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<td>JST/IR 086</td>
<td>The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict</td>
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<td>JST/REL/ENGL/AAS 102</td>
<td>Promised Lands: Jewish and African American Children's Literature</td>
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<td>JST/REL 111</td>
<td>Jewish Scriptures/Old Testament</td>
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<td>JST/REL 112</td>
<td>The Beginnings of Judaism and Jewish Origins: Jewish Diversity in the Greco-Roman World</td>
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<td>JST/REL 121</td>
<td>Sources for the Life of Jesus: the Jewish and Christian Context</td>
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<td>JST/REL 122</td>
<td>Archaeology and the Bible</td>
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<td>JST/REL 123</td>
<td>Armageddon: Endtime Thinking in Judaism and Christianity</td>
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<td>JST/PHIL/REL 129</td>
<td>Jewish Philosophy</td>
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<td>Globalization in the Ancient Mediterranean</td>
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<td>JST 180</td>
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<td>JST 181</td>
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<td>JST/REL 230</td>
<td>Kabbalah: Jewish Mystical Tradition</td>
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<td>Classic Jewish Texts</td>
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<td>PHIL 133</td>
<td>Medieval Philosophy</td>
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Courses

JST 073 (REL 073) The Jewish Tradition 4 Credits
Judaism is both a textual 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

JST 081 (REL 081) Jewish Mysticism 4 Credits
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

JST 082 (IR 082) Middle East in World Affairs Since 1945 4 Credits
Rise of Turkish, Iranian, and Arab nationalism; creation of Israel; decline of British and French power; growth of U.S. and Soviet influence; Middle East as the world's major oil producer. Role of the Arab states and of global powers such as the United States.

Attribute/Distribution: SS

JST 086 (IR 086) The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 4 Credits

Attribute/Distribution: SS

JST 102 (AAS 102, ENGL 102, REL 102) Promised Lands: Jewish and African American Children's Literature 4 Credits
In the Hebrew Bible, Psalm 137 asks, “How can we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?” For Jews, blacks, and black Jews, this was and is a poignant question. This course examines how these two rich, often overlapping and interacting groups tell their stories in literature for children and young adults, with a particular focus on the mediation of traumatic pasts. What does it mean to imagine promised lands beyond such pasts—and can they be reached?

Attribute/Distribution: HU

JST 111 (REL 111) Jewish Scriptures/Old Testament 4 Credits
The religious expression of the Hebrews, Israelites, and Jews as found in the Jewish Scriptures (Tanakh/Christian Old Testament). Near Eastern context of Hebrew religion, the Patriarchs, the Exodus, the monarchy, prophecy, Exile and Return. Emphasis on historical, literary, critical problems, and newer socio-historical methods.

Attribute/Distribution: HU
JST 122 (REL 122) Archaeology and the Bible 4 Credits
In this course we will examine the way that archaeological work can inform the study of the Bible. One important consideration is how archaeological data have been used either to confirm or falsify the biblical texts. We will look at how archaeologists work and how archaeological data and the Bible intersect. We will examine in detail several archaeological sites in order to understand better the difficulties in interpreting the material remains that archaeologists dig up.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

JST 123 (REL 123) Armageddon: Endtime Thinking in Judaism and Christianity 4 Credits
Thinking about how the world will end was an important feature of certain types of ancient Judaism. Early Christianity took over many 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

JST 129 (PHIL 129, REL 129) Jewish Philosophy 4 Credits
Consideration of how major Jewish thinkers from the first to 21st centuries confronted questions at the intersection of religion and philosophy: the existence and nature of God, free will, evil, divine providence, miracles, creation, revelation, and religious obligation.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

JST 138 (REL 138, WGSS 138) Sex, Gender, Jews 4 Credits
How do Jews of all genders tell their stories? What are the varied Jewish approaches to sexuality? How do 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

JST 151 (HMS 151, PHIL 151, REL 151) Judaism, Medicine, and Bioethics 4 Credits
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

JST 152 (REL 152) American Judaism 4 Credits
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 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 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 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.

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