

JEWISH STUDIES MAJOR CONCENTRATION (B.A.) (36 CREDITS)

Offered by: Jewish Studies (Faculty of Arts)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Arts and Science

Program credit weight: 36

Program Description

In order to permit students flexibility within their chosen area, all courses in the Jewish Studies concentrations are placed into the category "Complementary Courses".

Degree Requirements — B.A. students

To be eligible for a B.A. degree, a student must fulfil all Faculty and program requirements as indicated in Degree Requirements for the Faculty of Arts.

We recommend that students consult an Arts OASIS advisor for degree planning.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Complementary Courses (36 credits)

36 credits in Jewish Studies of which 24 are normally taken at the 300 level or above, selected as described below. Consultation with an adviser is strongly recommended.

Jewish History

6 credits (minimum) in the history of Jewish civilization to be chosen from:

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Course	Title	Credits
HIST 194	FYS: Jewish Concepts of Others.	3
HIST 207	Jewish History: 400 B.C.E. to 1000.	3
HIST 219	Jewish History: 1000 - 2000.	3
JWST 211	Jewish Studies 1: Biblical Period.	3
JWST 216	Jewish Studies 2: 400 B.C.E. - 1000.	3
JWST 217	Jewish Studies 3: 1000 - 2000.	3

Jewish Language

6 credits reflecting an advanced level of competence in either Hebrew or Yiddish chosen from the following:

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Course	Title	Credits
JWST 327	A Book of the Bible.	3
JWST 330	Topics in the Hebrew Bible.	3

JWST 340D1	Advanced Hebrew.	3
JWST 340D2	Advanced Hebrew.	3
JWST 367	Hebrew through Israeli Cinema.	3
JWST 368	A Taste of Hebrew Literature.	3
JWST 369	History of the Hebrew Language.	3
JWST 370	Israeli Popular Culture.	3

Areas of Jewish Studies

24 credits in Jewish Studies of which at least 12 are devoted to a single area of study: Biblical Studies, East European Studies, Jewish History, Jewish Thought, Literature (Hebrew, Yiddish), Modern Jewish Studies, and Rabbinic Studies.

Students without the background necessary to complete the advanced language requirement may substitute up to 12 credits in language.

Note: Hebrew language courses are found listed under the heading "Language and Literature - Hebrew", and Yiddish language courses are found under the heading "Language and Literature - Yiddish" in the areas of study lists below.

Biblical Studies

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Course	Title	Credits
JWST 211	Jewish Studies 1: Biblical Period.	3
JWST 310	Believers, Heretics and Critics.	3
JWST 327	A Book of the Bible.	3
JWST 330	Topics in the Hebrew Bible.	3
JWST 510	Jewish Bible Interpretation 1.	3
JWST 511	Jewish Bible Interpretation 2.	3
JWST 520	Bible Interpretation in Antiquity.	3
JWST 538	Early Rabbinic Parshanut 1.	3
JWST 581	Aramaic Language.	3
RELG 307	Bible, Quran and Interpretations.	3

East European Studies

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Course	Title	Credits
HIST 307	Jews in Poland.	3
HIST 427	The Hasidic Movement.	3
JWST 206	Introduction to Yiddish Literature.	3
JWST 217	Jewish Studies 3: 1000 - 2000.	3
JWST 240	The Holocaust.	3
JWST 351	Studies in Modern Jewish Literature.	3
JWST 361	The Shtetl: 1500-1897.	3
JWST 365	Modern Jewish Ideologies.	3
JWST 366	History of Zionism.	3
JWST 381	God and Devil in Modern Yiddish Literature.	3
JWST 383	Holocaust Literature.	3
JWST 445	The Poetry of Nationalism.	3
JWST 485	Tutorial in Yiddish Literature.	3
JWST 486	Tutorial in Yiddish Literature.	3

JWST 585	Tutorial: Eastern European Studies 1.	3
JWST 586	Tutorial: Eastern European Studies 2.	3

Jewish History

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Course	Title	Credits
HIST 207	Jewish History: 400 B.C.E. to 1000.	3
HIST 219	Jewish History: 1000 - 2000.	3
HIST 307	Jews in Poland.	3
HIST 427	The Hasidic Movement.	3
HIST 572D1	Seminar in Jewish History.	3
HIST 572D2	Seminar in Jewish History.	3
JWST 211	Jewish Studies 1: Biblical Period.	3
JWST 216	Jewish Studies 2: 400 B.C.E. - 1000.	3
JWST 217	Jewish Studies 3: 1000 - 2000.	3
JWST 240	The Holocaust.	3
JWST 306	The American Jewish Community.	3
JWST 314	Denominations in North American Judaism.	3
JWST 315	Modern Liberal Jewish Thought.	3
JWST 361	The Shtetl: 1500-1897.	3
JWST 365	Modern Jewish Ideologies.	3
JWST 366	History of Zionism.	3

Jewish Thought

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Course	Title	Credits
EDER 318	Teaching the Jewish Liturgy.	3
HIST 207	Jewish History: 400 B.C.E. to 1000.	3
HIST 219	Jewish History: 1000 - 2000.	3
HIST 427	The Hasidic Movement.	3
JWST 201	Jewish Law.	3
JWST 216	Jewish Studies 2: 400 B.C.E. - 1000.	3
JWST 217	Jewish Studies 3: 1000 - 2000.	3
JWST 261	History of Jewish Philosophy and Thought.	3
JWST 310	Believers, Heretics and Critics.	3
JWST 314	Denominations in North American Judaism.	3
JWST 315	Modern Liberal Jewish Thought.	3
JWST 337	Jewish Philosophy and Thought 1.	3
JWST 338	Jewish Philosophy and Thought 2.	3
JWST 358	Topics in Jewish Philosophy 1.	3
JWST 359	Topics in Jewish Philosophy 2.	3
JWST 365	Modern Jewish Ideologies.	3
JWST 366	History of Zionism.	3
JWST 474	Maimonides' Mishneh Torah.	3
JWST 558	Topics: Modern Jewish Thought.	3

Language and Literature - Hebrew

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Course	Title	Credits
JWST 199	FYS: Images - Jewish Identities.	3
JWST 220D1	Introductory Hebrew.	3
JWST 220D2	Introductory Hebrew.	3
JWST 225	Literature and Society.	3
JWST 300	Charisma and Social Change.	3
JWST 320D1	Intermediate Hebrew.	3
JWST 320D2	Intermediate Hebrew.	3
JWST 323	The Israeli Novel.	3
JWST 325	Israeli Literature in Translation.	3
JWST 340D1	Advanced Hebrew.	3
JWST 340D2	Advanced Hebrew.	3
JWST 367	Hebrew through Israeli Cinema.	3
JWST 368	A Taste of Hebrew Literature.	3
JWST 369	History of the Hebrew Language.	3
JWST 370	Israeli Popular Culture.	3
JWST 383	Holocaust Literature.	3
JWST 403	Contemporary Hebrew Literature.	3
JWST 445	The Poetry of Nationalism.	3

Language and Literature - Yiddish

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Course	Title	Credits
JWST 206	Introduction to Yiddish Literature.	3
JWST 281	Introductory Yiddish 1.	3
JWST 282	Introductory Yiddish 2.	3
JWST 351	Studies in Modern Jewish Literature.	3
JWST 361	The Shtetl: 1500-1897.	3
JWST 381	God and Devil in Modern Yiddish Literature.	3
JWST 383	Holocaust Literature.	3
JWST 387	Modern Jewish Authors.	3
JWST 480	Advanced Yiddish 1.	3
JWST 481	Advanced Yiddish 2.	3
JWST 485	Tutorial in Yiddish Literature.	3
JWST 486	Tutorial in Yiddish Literature.	3
JWST 530	Topics in Yiddish Literature.	3

Modern Jewish Studies

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Course	Title	Credits
EDER 319	Teaching the Holocaust.	3
HIST 219	Jewish History: 1000 - 2000.	3
HIST 427	The Hasidic Movement.	3
HIST 572D1	Seminar in Jewish History.	3
HIST 572D2	Seminar in Jewish History.	3
JWST 217	Jewish Studies 3: 1000 - 2000.	3
JWST 240	The Holocaust.	3
JWST 309	Jews in Film.	3

JWST 346	Modern Jewish Studies.	3	HIST 572D1	Seminar in Jewish History.	3
JWST 347	Modern Jewish Studies.	3	HIST 572D2	Seminar in Jewish History.	3
JWST 348	Modern Jewish Studies.	3			
JWST 349	Modern Jewish Studies.	3			
JWST 351	Studies in Modern Jewish Literature.	3			
JWST 359	Topics in Jewish Philosophy 2.	3			
JWST 361	The Shtetl: 1500-1897.	3			
JWST 365	Modern Jewish Ideologies.	3			
JWST 366	History of Zionism.	3			
JWST 383	Holocaust Literature.	3			
JWST 386	American Jewish Literature.	3			
JWST 387	Modern Jewish Authors.	3			
JWST 445	The Poetry of Nationalism.	3			
JWST 558	Topics: Modern Jewish Thought.	3			
JWST 585	Tutorial: Eastern European Studies 1.	3			
JWST 586	Tutorial: Eastern European Studies 2.	3			
POLI 347	Arab-Israel Conflict, Crisis, Peace.	3			

Rabbinic Studies

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Course	Title	Credits
HIST 207	Jewish History: 400 B.C.E. to 1000.	3
HIST 219	Jewish History: 1000 - 2000.	3
JWST 201	Jewish Law.	3
JWST 216	Jewish Studies 2: 400 B.C.E. - 1000.	3
JWST 217	Jewish Studies 3: 1000 - 2000.	3
JWST 316	Social and Ethical Issues Jewish Law 1.	3
JWST 345	Introduction to Rabbinic Literature.	3
JWST 358	Topics in Jewish Philosophy 1.	3
JWST 359	Topics in Jewish Philosophy 2.	3
JWST 474	Maimonides' Mishneh Torah.	3
JWST 538	Early Rabbinic Parshanut 1.	3

Other Department Courses - History

Many of the courses in Jewish Studies are related to other departments, e.g., History, Religious Studies. There are also related courses in other departments which students specializing in certain areas of Jewish Studies might be encouraged to include in their programs, e.g., Classical Greek, Arabic, theories of literature, etc.

The following History department courses may be used as Jewish Studies courses in the Department of Jewish Studies programs. These courses have been included in the areas of study course lists above.

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Course	Title	Credits
HIST 207	Jewish History: 400 B.C.E. to 1000.	3
HIST 219	Jewish History: 1000 - 2000.	3
HIST 307	Jews in Poland.	3
HIST 427	The Hasidic Movement.	3