Jewish Studies

Department Website: http://ccjs.uchicago.edu

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The BA program in Jewish Studies provides a context in which College students may examine the texts, cultures, languages, and histories of Jews and Judaism over three millennia. The perspective is contextual, comparative, and interdisciplinary. The long and diverse history of Jews and Judaism affords unique opportunities to study modes of continuity and change, interpretation and innovation, and isolation and integration of a world historical civilization. Students are encouraged to develop appropriate skills (in texts, languages, history, and culture) for independent work.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Jewish Studies. Information follows the description of the major.

JEWISH CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE

A three-course Jewish Civilization sequence is offered in the Autumn, Winter, and Spring Quarters. The first course begins in antiquity and extends through the medieval period (JWSC 12000 Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period). The second course begins in the early modern period and extends to the present (JWSC 12001 Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century). In the Spring Quarter, students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X). Jewish Civilization courses may be used to fulfill the College's general education requirement in civilization studies. It is recommended, though not required, that students take these courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the Winter Quarter segment. In order for the Spring Quarter course to qualify for the general education requirement in civilization studies, the student must have completed Jewish Civilization I and II. The Spring Quarter course, however, may also be taken as an independent elective.

Students may also fulfill the Jewish civilization requirement by participating in the "Jerusalem in Middle Eastern Civilizations" Study Abroad program, where they can earn credit for three courses in Jewish civilization (ancient, medieval, and modern) and one credit in modern Hebrew. (For more information about this program, please see the Study Abroad (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/offcampusstudyprograms/) page of this catalog.)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Advising

Students who have not completed the College's general education requirements before starting the major should do so during their first year as Jewish Studies majors. Students are required to meet with the director of undergraduate studies before declaring a major in Jewish Studies. Each student in the major will have as an adviser a faculty member who is affiliated with the Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies.

MAJOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

The major requires twelve courses distributed according to the guidelines that follow. A full, constantly updated list of courses approved for the major and minor is available on the Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies website (https://ccjs.uchicago.edu).

Language

Students must take three quarters of Hebrew (classical or modern) or Yiddish. If the student's research project requires knowledge of a different language, the student may petition the committee to substitute that language in the place of Hebrew or Yiddish.

Jewish Civilization and Electives

Students in the major must take nine additional courses in Jewish Studies, for a total of twelve courses.

Jewish Civilization: Students in the major must complete either the first two quarters of the Jewish Civilization sequence or the "Jerusalem in Middle Eastern Civilizations" Study Abroad program.

If students take one of these sequences to satisfy the general education requirement in civilization studies, one elective in the major must come from another civilization studies sequence pertinent to the area and period of the student's primary interest in Jewish Studies.

For students who take a sequence outside Jewish Studies to satisfy the general education requirement in civilization studies, the two- or three-course Jewish Civilization sequence (or three-course sequence offered in Jerusalem) will count among the JWSC electives required for the major.

Other Electives: The remaining courses must come from JWSC course offerings. These elective courses should normally focus in a specific area of concentration within Jewish Studies and should be chosen in
consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. Students who complete the option BA thesis (as described under Optional BA Paper) may count JWSC 29900 BA Preparation Course among these courses.

Beyond the requirements for the major, students are encouraged to take at least one course in method or theory pertaining to their area of concentration in Jewish Studies, whether it is a JWSC course that can count in the major or is simply a general elective credit.

**Summary of Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three courses in Hebrew (or other language, with approval)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine total JWSC courses</td>
<td>900</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Must include 2–3 Jewish Civilization courses, as described under the Program Requirements

**Total Units**

1200

**Optional BA Paper**

Students who choose this option are to meet with their advisers by May 15 of their third year to determine the focus of the research project, and they are expected to begin reading and research for the BA paper during the summer before their fourth year. After further consultation, students are to continue guided readings and participate in a (formal or informal) tutorial during Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. Credit toward the major is received only for the Winter Quarter tutorial (JWSC 29900 BA Preparation Course), during which the BA paper is finally written and revised. The BA tutorial may count toward one of the courses related to Jewish Studies. The BA paper must be received by the primary reader by the end of fifth week of Spring Quarter. A BA paper is a requirement for consideration for honors.

This program may accept a BA paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

**Honors**

Honors are awarded to students who demonstrate excellence in their course work, as well as on the BA paper. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the major, and the BA paper must be judged to be at least of A- quality.

**Grading**

Students take all courses required for the major for quality grades.

**Minor in Jewish Studies**

The minor in Jewish Studies provides a basic introduction to the texts, cultures, languages, and history of the Jews and Judaism. Six courses are required for the minor, two of which are JWSC 12000 Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period and JWSC 12001 Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century. The other courses may be in any area of Jewish Studies, including languages such as Hebrew and Yiddish; such courses can be identified by their JWSC prefix. Students can earn credit for three courses in Jewish Civilization (ancient, medieval, and modern) and one credit in modern Hebrew by participating in the “Jerusalem in Middle Eastern Civilizations” Study Abroad program. (For more information about this program, please see the Study Abroad (http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/offcampusstudyprograms/) page of this catalog.)

Students who wish to do a minor in Jewish Studies must meet with the director of undergraduate studies before the end of the Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. The director’s approval for the minor program will then be communicated to the student’s College adviser on the Consent to Complete a Minor Program (https://humanities-web.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/college-prod/s3fs-public/documents/Consent_Minor_Program.pdf) form.

Courses taken to fulfill the requirements for the minor in Jewish Studies may not be double-counted with courses taken for the student’s major(s) or courses taken for other minors. Courses taken for the minor in Jewish Studies must be taken for quality grades.

**Jewish Studies Courses**

**JWSC 12000-12001-12004, Jewish Civilization I-II-III.**

Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts—biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary—students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Autumn course will deal with antiquity to the medieval period; the Winter course will begin with the early modern period and continue to the present.
Jewish Studies

The Spring course will vary as to special topic; for the Spring course to count towards the general education requirement in civilization studies, the student must also take the Autumn and Winter courses.

**JWSC 12000. Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to Medieval Period. 100 Units.**

Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Autumn course will deal with antiquity through the Middle Ages. Its readings will include material from the Bible and writings from the second temple, Hellenistic, rabbinic, and medieval periods. All sections of this course will share a common core of readings; individual instructors will supplement with other materials. It is recommended, though not required, that students take the three Jewish Civilization courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the winter segment. In the Spring Quarter students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X).

Instructor(s): James Robinson David Barak-Gorodetsky Bevin Blaber Terms Offered: Autumn

Equivalent Course(s): MDVL 12000, RLST 22010, NEHC 22010

**JWSC 12001. Jewish Civilization II: Early Modern Period to 21st Century. 100 Units.**

Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Winter course will begin with the early modern period and continue to the present. It will include discussions of mysticism, the works of Spinoza and Mendelsohn, the nineteenth-century reform, the Holocaust and its reflection in writers such as Primo Levi and Paul Celan, and literary pieces from postwar American Jewish and Israeli authors. All sections of this course will share a common core of readings; individual instructors will supplement with other materials. It is recommended, though not required, that students take the three Jewish Civilization courses in sequence. Students who register for the Autumn Quarter course will automatically be pre-registered for the winter segment. In the Spring Quarter students have the option of taking a third unit of Jewish Civilization, a course whose topics will vary (JWSC 1200X).

Instructor(s): Kenneth Moss Jessica Kirzane Bevin Blaber Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 22011, RLST 22011

**JWSC 12004. Jewish Civilization III - Mothers and Motherhood in Modern Jewish Culture. 100 Units.**

Jewish Civilization is a three-quarter sequence that explores the development of Jewish culture and tradition from its ancient beginnings through its rabbinic and medieval transformations to its modern manifestations. Through investigation of primary texts-biblical, Talmudic, philosophical, mystical, historical, documentary, and literary-students will acquire a broad overview of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness while reflecting in greater depth on major themes, ideas, and events in Jewish history. The Spring course in 2022 will focus on mothers and motherhood in modern Jewish culture. From sentimentalized keepers of Jewish tradition to objects of ridicule burdened by stereotypes of overbearing, guilt-inducing behavior, Jewish mothers hold a prominent role in Jewish self-representations. Writing alongside or against these stereotypes, Jewish mothers themselves have struggled with the obligations and expectations of Jewish motherhood. Engaging with a variety of literary, theological, historical, and pop culture texts, this course explores Jewish feminisms in relation to motherhood, Jewish fictions of motherhood, and the role of motherhood in Jewish religious life and thought. This course includes material from a variety of different contexts for modern Jewish life, but places particular emphasis on American Jewish history and culture.

Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Spring

Note(s): Students who wish to take this course for Civilization Studies credit, must also take Jewish Civilization I and II. The course may also be taken as an independent elective.

**JWSC 20120. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 100 Units.**

Critical introduction to the genres, ideas, styles, and formation of the Hebrew Bible (the ancient Jewish treasury of literature from Israel, Judea, and Babylonia), framed by ancient comparative material and modern literary theory.

Instructor(s): Simeon Chavel Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students. This course counts as a Gateway course for RLST majors/minors.

Equivalent Course(s): HIJD 31004, BIBL 31000, RLST 11004, NEHC 30504, NEHC 20504

**JWSC 20300-20400-20500. Elementary Yiddish I-II-III.**

The goal of this sequence is to develop proficiency in Yiddish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Touchstones of global Yiddish culture are also introduced through song, film, and contemporary Yiddish websites.
JWSC 20300. Elementary Yiddish I. 100 Units.
The goal of this sequence is to develop proficiency in Yiddish reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Touchstones of global Yiddish culture are also introduced through song, film, and contemporary Yiddish websites.
Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 10100

JWSC 20400. Elementary Yiddish for Beginners-II. 100 Units.
In this course, students will extend basic Yiddish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. By the end of the course, students should have a basic understanding of regional Yiddish variations in pronunciation and spelling, be able to understand and participate in a conversation in an increasingly comfortable and complex way, read simple texts with ease, have experience tackling more complex texts with the aid of a dictionary, and write short compositions with grammatical complexity. In the course of language study, students will also be exposed to key topics in the history of the Yiddish language and culture.
Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): YDDH 10100
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 37400, YDDH 10200

JWSC 20500. Elementary Yiddish III. 100 Units.
In this course, students will acquire intermediate Yiddish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. By the end of the course, students should be able to conduct a conversation on a wide range of topics, be comfortable tackling complex texts with the aid of a dictionary, and write short compositions with grammatical complexity. In the course of language study, students will also be exposed to key topics in the history of the Yiddish language and culture. Students will also be introduced to basic Yiddish research skills.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 37500, YDDH 10300

JWSC 20903. The Historical Jesus. 100 Units.
Is it possible to get behind the textual remains of early memories about Jesus of Nazareth to recover objective facts about his life? If so, how do scholars navigate and assess the various ancient stories about Jesus of Nazareth to reconstruct "what actually happened"? What assumptions and methods guide their analysis? Do the Gospels contain eyewitness testimony? This course introduces students to the study of the historical Jesus, a branch of biblical scholarship that seeks to reconstruct what can be known about Jesus' birth, life, and death using the tools of modern historical research. Students will learn how to apply the methods of historical Jesus research and gain familiarity with the various portrayals of Jesus in ancient Jewish, Christian, Greek, and Roman sources. At the end of the course, we will consider both the benefits and limitations of this line of inquiry for contemporary concerns.
Instructor(s): Christine Trotter Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): While no prerequisites are required, this course is designed for students who have already taken RLST 12000 - Introduction to the New Testament: Texts and Contexts.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 20903, HIST 25620, CLCV 23121

JWSC 21215. Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac in Multiple Perspectives. 100 Units.
The story of Abraham's (near) sacrifice of his son, Isaac, found in Genesis 22:1-19, is one of the most influential and enduring stories in Western literature and art. It is part of the living tradition of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and its meaning and implications have been repeatedly explored in the communities defined by these religions, and has, in turn, helped to shape the self-perception of those communities. This course will consider the multiple perspectives from which this story has been viewed and the multiple interpretations which this story has generated, starting with its earliest incorporation into the Hebrew Bible, moving to its role in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and concluding with its influence on modern works. No knowledge of Hebrew is required.
Instructor(s): Stuart Creason Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ISLM 31215, NEHC 31215, RLST 21215, BIBL 31215, HIJD 31215, NEHC 21215

JWSC 22000-22100-22200. Elementary Classical Hebrew I-II-III.
The purpose of this three-quarter sequence is to enable the student to read biblical Hebrew prose with a high degree of comprehension. The sequence is divided into two segments: (1) the first two quarters are devoted to acquiring the essentials of descriptive and historical grammar (including translation to and from Hebrew, oral exercises, and grammatical analysis); and (2) the third quarter is spent examining prose passages from the Hebrew Bible and includes a review of grammar.
Instructor(s): S. Creason Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This class meets 5 times a week
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 10101
JWSC 22100. Elementary Classical Hebrew II. 100 Units.
The purpose of this three-quarter sequence is to enable the student to acquire a knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of Classical Hebrew sufficient to read prose texts with the occasional assistance of a dictionary. The second quarter focuses on verb inflection and verbal sequences and includes written translation to and from Hebrew, oral exercises, and grammatical analysis of forms.
Instructor(s): S. Creason Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10101 or equivalent
Note(s): This class meets 5 times a week
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 10102

JWSC 22200. Elementary Classical Hebrew III. 100 Units.
The purpose of this three-quarter sequence is to enable the student to acquire a knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of Classical Hebrew sufficient to read prose texts with the occasional assistance of a dictionary. The first half of the third quarter concludes the study of verb inflection and the second half is spent reading prose narrative texts with specific attention to the grammatical analysis of those texts.
Instructor(s): S. Creason Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10102
Note(s): This class meets 5 times a week
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 10103, JWSC 30300

JWSC 22300-22400-22500. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I-II-III.
A continuation of Elementary Classical Hebrew. The first quarter consists of reviewing grammar, and of reading and analyzing further prose texts. The last two quarters are devoted to an introduction to Hebrew poetry with readings from Psalms, Proverbs, and the prophets.

JWSC 22300. Intermediate Classical Hebrew I. 100 Units.
Review basic Hebrew grammar, emphasis on morphology and basic syntax - Review/acquire historical morphology - Acquire facility in reading Biblical Hebrew prose
Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10103 or equivalent
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20104

JWSC 22400. Intermediate Classical Hebrew II. 100 Units.
Continue acquisition of basic Biblical Hebrew; Continue acquisition of basic notions of historical grammar; Acquire the rudiments of analysis of Biblical Hebrew poetry.
Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 20104 or equivalent
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20105

JWSC 22500. Intermediate Classical Hebrew III. 100 Units.
Continue acquisition of basic Biblical Hebrew, emphasis on syntax; Increase familiarity with Biblical Hebrew poetry, emphasis on prophets; Continue acquisition of basic historical morphology; Reading ancient manuscripts.
Instructor(s): D. Pardee Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 20105 or equivalent
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20106

JWSC 23814. The Lands Between: Europe between the Black and Baltic Seas. 100 Units.
For centuries, the territory between the Baltic and Black Seas served as a crossroads of civilizations. Speakers of Yiddish, Polish, Ukrainian, Belarusian, German, Lithuanian, and Russian have claimed the region as their homeland; it has hosted large and influential Catholic, Orthodox, and Jewish confessional communities. These “lands between” have produced rich and meaningful cultural exchange, but they have also generated destructive conflicts and horrific violence. How do we make sense of the cultures, ideas, and communities that emerged from this region? And how has this space mediated broader understandings of what is “Eastern,” “Western,” or “European?” This course employs a pedagogy of reconciliation, examining the history of the “lands between” from a variety of perspectives and working to reconcile contradictory understandings of the past.
Instructor(s): F. Hillis Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): REES 23814, HIST 23814, REES 33814, HIST 33814

JWSC 24592. Jewish and Islamic Ethics in al-Andalus. 100 Units.
This course will include readings in Jewish and Islamic ethics from al-Andalus and the Maghrib with a focus on the writings of Maimonides (d. 1204) -- especially his “Eight Chapters” and Commentary on Avot (completed in the 1160s) and Ibn al-Mar’a of Malaga (d. 1214) -- especially his commentary on Ibn al-’Arif.
Instructor(s): Jim Robinson and Yousef Casewit Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): This course meets the HS or CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 34592, MDVL 24592, RLST 24592, NEHC 24592, HIJD 34592, ISLM 34592, RETH 34592

JWSC 25000-25100-25200. Introductory Modern Hebrew I-II-III.
This three-quarter sequence introduces students to reading, writing, and speaking modern Hebrew. All four language skills are emphasized: comprehension of written and oral materials; reading of nondiacritical text;
writing of directed sentences, paragraphs, and compositions; and speaking. Students learn the Hebrew root pattern system and the seven basic verb conjugations in both the past and present tenses, as well as simple future. At the end of the year, students can conduct short conversations in Hebrew, read materials designed to their level, and write a short essay.

**JWSC 25000. Introductory Modern Hebrew I. 100 Units.**

The beginner’s course is the first of three sequential courses offered to students at the university. The course aims to introduce students to reading, writing and speaking Modern Hebrew. Toward that end all four-language skills are emphasized: comprehension of written and oral materials; reading of non-diacritical text; writing of directed sentences, paragraphs, and compositions; speaking. You will learn the Hebrew root pattern system, and by the end of the year you will have mastered the five (active) basic verb conjugations in both the past and present tenses (as well as simple future). This grammatical knowledge is complemented by an 800+ word vocabulary, which is presented with an eye toward the major syntactic structures, including the proper use of prepositions. At the end of the year, you will conduct short conversations in Hebrew; read materials designed to this level and write short compositions.

**Instructor(s):** Ari Almog  
**Terms Offered:** Autumn  
**Equivalent Course(s):** HEBR 10501

**JWSC 25100. Introductory Modern Hebrew II. 100 Units.**

The beginner’s course is the first of three sequential courses offered to students at the university. The course aims to introduce students to reading, writing and speaking Modern Hebrew. Toward that end all four-language skills are emphasized: comprehension of written and oral materials; reading of non-diacritical text; writing of directed sentences, paragraphs, and compositions; speaking. You will learn the Hebrew root pattern system, and by the end of the year you will have mastered the five (active) basic verb conjugations in both the past and present tenses (as well as simple future). This grammatical knowledge is complemented by an 800+ word vocabulary, which is presented with an eye toward the major syntactic structures, including the proper use of prepositions. At the end of the year, you will conduct short conversations in Hebrew; read materials designed to this level and write short compositions.

**Instructor(s):** Ari Almog  
**Terms Offered:** Winter  
**Prerequisite(s):** HEBR 10501 or equivalent  
**Equivalent Course(s):** HEBR 10502

**JWSC 25200. Introductory Modern Hebrew III. 100 Units.**

The beginner’s course is the first of three sequential courses offered to students at the university. The course aims to introduce students to reading, writing and speaking Modern Hebrew. Toward that end all four-language skills are emphasized: comprehension of written and oral materials; reading of non-diacritical text; writing of directed sentences, paragraphs, and compositions; speaking. You will learn the Hebrew root pattern system, and by the end of the year you will have mastered the five (active) basic verb conjugations in both the past and present tenses (as well as simple future). This grammatical knowledge is complemented by an 800+ word vocabulary, which is presented with an eye toward the major syntactic structures, including the proper use of prepositions. At the end of the year, you will conduct short conversations in Hebrew; read materials designed to this level and write short compositions.

**Instructor(s):** Ari Almog  
**Terms Offered:** Spring  
**Prerequisite(s):** HEBR 10502 or equivalent  
**Equivalent Course(s):** HEBR 10503

**JWSC 25004. Theological, Phenomenological, and Ethical Aspects of Prayer. 100 Units.**

Through the centuries, human beings have addressed divine powers and entrusted themselves to a 'beyond' - in the hope that joy and sorrow may find an attentive 'ear,' that evil be transformed into good, and that the heavens will help in adversity. Yet, if the 'voice' or 'word' of God cannot be perceived acoustically, how can we then know whether our prayer has been 'heard'? In discussing great thinkers who also were great listeners to the divine 'voice' that may 'resound' in silence or 'speak' to us through biblical texts or fellow human beings, this course will explore (1) theological, (2) phenomenological, and (3) ethical aspects of prayer: (1) Our speech about God changes and deepens when it is grounded in the speech to God. That is why prayer has been regarded as the key to divine knowledge, which can be seen in Augustine’s Confessions, Anselm of Canterbury’s Proslogion and Barth’s interpretation of the latter in Fides quarens intellectum. (2) Does prayer require or effect a special state of consciousness, and what is the difference between prayer and meditation? By reading French phenomenologists (Levinas, Derrida, Chretien), we will investigate the intentionality, temporality, and language of prayer. (3) How can prayer help us (re-)orient ourselves in life crises? In dialogue with critics and defenders of petitionary prayer (Kierkegaard, Rosenzweig, Heschel, D.Z. Phillips, Brümmer), we will search for criteria defining prayer that is deemed ‘appropriate.’

**Instructor(s):** Claudia Welz  
**Terms Offered:** Spring  
**Note(s):** This course meets the CS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.  
**Equivalent Course(s):** RLST 25004, THEO 35004, RETH 35004

**JWSC 25300-25400-25500. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I-II-III.**

The main objective of this sequence is to provide students with the skills necessary to approach modern Hebrew prose, both fiction and nonfiction. In order to achieve this task, students are provided with a systematic examination of the complete verb structure. Many syntactic structures are introduced (e.g., simple clauses,
coordinate and compound sentences). At this level, students not only write and speak extensively but are also required to analyze grammatically and contextually all of material assigned.

**JWSC 25300. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I. 100 Units.**
The course, which builds upon Introductory Modern Hebrew (first year HEB) focuses on the acquisition of proficiency and communicative skills in Modern Hebrew. The purpose of this class is to expand and strengthen beginners’ Hebrew skills so that they become more self-assured, communicative, and versatile when they listen to, read, speak, and write Hebrew. It emphasizes both communicative and cultural themes and focuses on developing a rich and active vocabulary in several language domains.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 10503 or equivalent
Note(s): The course is devised for students who have previously taken either modern or biblical Hebrew courses.
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20501

**JWSC 25400. Intermediate Modern Hebrew II. 100 Units.**
This course is designed for students who possess a basic knowledge of modern and/or Biblical Hebrew (either the first year course or the placement exam are prerequisites). The main objective is to provide students with the skills necessary to approach Modern Hebrew prose, both fiction and non-fiction. Students learn to use the dictionary, approach unfamiliar texts and vocabulary. Many syntactic structures are introduced, including simple clauses, coordinate and compound sentences. Throughout the year, students read, write, and speaks extensively and are required to analyze the grammatical structures of assigned materials.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 20501 or equivalent
Note(s): The course is devised for students who have previously taken either modern or biblical Hebrew courses.
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20502

**JWSC 25500. Intermediate Modern Hebrew III. 100 Units.**
The course, which builds upon Introductory Modern Hebrew (first year HEB) focuses on the acquisition of proficiency and communicative skills in Modern Hebrew. The purpose of this class is to expand and strengthen beginners’ Hebrew skills so that they become more self-assured, communicative, and versatile when they listen to, read, speak, and write Hebrew. It emphasizes both communicative and cultural themes and focuses on developing a rich and active vocabulary in several language domains.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): HEBR 20502 or equivalent
Note(s): The course is devised for students who have previously taken either modern or biblical Hebrew courses.
Equivalent Course(s): HEBR 20503

**JWSC 26713. Israel and American Jewry: Peoplehood, Religion, and Politics. 100 Units.**
Israel and North America currently constitute the two leading centers of Jewish demography, identity and existence. Broadly speaking, they represent the two major Jewish responses to modernity - Zionism as a form of modern nationalism on the one hand, and integration into a liberal western society and body politic on the other. Their relations respond to this initial divide, while at the same time trying to coalesce a collective notion of Jewish peoplehood, based on culture, identity and a sense of a shared history and fate. The aim of this course is to learn more about the emergence of these two centers, and then explore the past, present and future of their relations. In recent years, the issue of religion has emerged as a crucial factor in Israel-Diaspora relations, especially in relation to the Jewish center in North America. The historical development of progressive Jewish strands in the United States, together with the fundamental changes in the religious makeup of Jewish society and the perception of the political role of religion in the state of Israel, have led to tension and strife regarding such issues as religious praxis, social identity and the public sphere. Religion with therefore be the main theme through which the relations will be explored, both historically and in relation to current affairs and issues.

Instructor(s): David Barak-Gorodetsky Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GLST 27713, AMER 27713, RLST 27713

**JWSC 27213. Between Polemics and Encounter: “Jews” and “Christians” in Rome and Sasanian Persia. 100 Units.**
In recent decades, scholars of biblical and early Christian literature have examined the various ways literary sources constructed the relationship between “Jews” and “Christians” in Late Antiquity. These resources prove challenging for reconstructing the situation on the ground. This course will introduce students to the various models scholars have advanced for making sense of the evidence and debated categories such as “Jewish-Christianity.” Against this backdrop, students will undertake a close reading of a select, representative examples to examine the development of adversus Iudaeos (“against the Jews”) literature. The readings will focus our attention on evidence from Greek- and Syriac-speaking Christians living within the multilingual and religiously diverse regions at the boundary of the Roman and Sasanian Persian Empires. Familiar sources such as the Pauline epistles, Apostolic Fathers, and John Chrysostom will be accompanied by readings from the pseudo-
Clementine literature, the Didascalia Apostolorum, poetry, and Persian Martyr Acts. We will explore how new discoveries within Syriac studies are currently reshaping our approaches to traditional questions.

Instructor(s): Erin Galgay Walsh
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): PQ: None; those with skills in Greek and Syriac will have the opportunity to apply them.
Note(s): This course meets the HS or LMCS Committee distribution requirement for Divinity students.
Equivalent Course(s): RLS 27213, CLCV 24021, NEHC 37213, BIBL 37213, CLAS 34021, NEHC 27213, HCHR 37213, HIJD 37213

**JWSC 27610. Advanced Yiddish I: Readings in Yiddish Literature. 100 Units.**

In this class, students will be exposed to essays, short stories, poetry and other writings by some of the great Yiddish writers of the twentieth century, including Abraham Reisin, Bella Chagall, Abraham Sutzkever, Esther Kreitman, and Dovid Bergelson. Students will write critical essays and creative responses, listen to excerpts read aloud, participate in discussions and debates. This course will be conducted entirely in Yiddish.

Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Yiddish I, or permission from the instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 21000, YDDH 31000

**JWSC 27613. Advanced Seminar in Yiddish: Lamed Shapiro. 100 Units.**

Description: In this course we will read, discuss, and write about the poetry and prose of Yiddish writer L. (Levi-Shive, Lamed) Shapiro (1878-1948), including “Zelbinshts” (Self-defense), “Der tseylem” (The Cross), “Roykh” (Smoke), “Vayse khale” (White Challah) and “Nuyyorkish” (NewYorkish). “Der shrayber geyt in kheyder” (The Writer Goes to School) and “Di yidishe melukhe” (The Jewish State). We will also read critics’ responses (in Yiddish) to his work. This is a seminar-style course for students with an advanced level of Yiddish. Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent (determined in conversation with the instructor) is a prerequisite for this course.

Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent (determined in conversation with the instructor) is a prerequisite for this course.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 32321, YDDH 22321

**JWSC 27614. Advanced Seminar in Yiddish: Representations of Race and Racism. 100 Units.**

Description: In this course we will read a variety of Yiddish language material addressing or depicting race and racism. The course material will include essays, textbooks, children’s literature, prose, and poetry. This is a seminar-style course for students with an advanced level of Yiddish. Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent (determined in conversation with the instructor) is a prerequisite for this course.

Instructor(s): Jessica Kirzane
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Intermediate Yiddish or its equivalent (determined in conversation with the instructor) is a prerequisite for this course.
Equivalent Course(s): YDDH 23421, YDDH 33421

**JWSC 27721. Relating Race and Religion: Critical Concepts of Blackness and Jewishness. 100 Units.**

This course examines Blackness and Jewishness in order to untangle the intersections of race and religion as they are represented in political polemic, fiction, memoir and philosophy in France and the United States from the 1960s to the present. Founded on ideals of universalism, pluralism and secularism, France and the United States are fraught with contradictions when it comes to race and religion. You will critique these founding ideals in order to expose their contradictions, and in the process seek new ways to articulate how religion and race, along with intersecting categories such as gender and sexuality, can become tools of political resistance. Readings include works by thinkers such as Césaire, Fanon, Memmi, Levinas and Foucault, along with literary classics by Nella Larsen and Sarah Kofman, and contemporary critical essays by Judith Butler, Christina Sharpe and Talal Asad. Throughout this course, you will examine how the concepts of race and religion are key components of the political, philosophical and ethical projects of these authors, and develop historical and conceptual perspective on the origins and current forms of debates that trouble the boundaries between personal and political.

Instructor(s): Kirsten Collins
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 27721, GNSE 27721, RLST 27721, CMLT 27721, GLST 27721, ANTH 23916, FREN 27721

**JWSC 27940. The Political Theologies of Zionism. 100 Units.**

The relationship between nationalism and religion has throughout history been a stormy one, often characterized by antagonisms and antipathy. In this course we will examine from various aspects the complex nexus of these two sources of repeated ideological and political dispute within Judaism, and more specifically within Zionism as its political manifestation. Zionism has mostly been considered a secular project, yet recently, Zionist theory is scrutinized to identify and unearth its supposedly hidden theological origins. In nowadays Israel, a rise in religious identification alongside an increasing religiosification of the political discourse calls for the consideration of new theopolitical models of Zionism applicable in a post-secular environment. The aim of this course is to explore this complex intertwining of politics and religion in Israel from both historical and contemporary perspectives. The first part of the course will outline the theoretical foundation of post-secular and political-theological discourses. The second part will address the explicit and implicit political theologies of Zionism. The third part will outline contemporary aspects of political-theological thought in Israel, and their actual appearance in the political sphere.
JWSC 28447. It's the End of the World as We Know It: Apocalyptic Literature and Millenarian Movements. 100 Units.

This course takes a cross-cultural approach to the study of texts and movements traditionally deemed "apocalyptic" or "Millenarian." We will focus in particular on the historical and cultural circumstances in which these texts and movements were produced. We will cover a wide range of cultural and political contexts, including Roman-occupied Judea during the first century CE, the Xhosaland of southern Africa in the mid 19th century, and the rise of QAnon in the 21st century United States. Our goals will be to think through various theories on why and how these texts and movements arose, to examine their internal logic and organization (especially focusing on their theology), and analyze the aftermath of failed expectations.

Instructor(s): Marshall Cunningham Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): GLST 28447, HIST 25219, RLST 28447, CMLT 28447

JWSC 28809. Islamic and Jewish Political Philosophy. 100 Units.

In this course we will study the history of political philosophy in the medieval Islamic world. We begin by discussing the transmission of Greek philosophy into Arabic-Islamic culture, the debates that ensued over the value of philosophy versus prophecy, and the issue of esoteric writing. These preliminary topics provide necessary background and context for studying the tradition of political philosophy that developed under Islam and Judaism during the Middle Ages. Then, for the rest of the semester, students analyze key works by Muslim and Jewish thinkers who navigated the relationships between religion, politics, and philosophy. Along the way we discuss a number of major themes and topics, including (but not limited to) approaches to divine law, the figure of the philosopher-prophet, logic and language, scriptural interpretation, the place of the philosopher in society, and the nature of human perfection.

Instructor(s): Yonatan Shemesh Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 28509, MDVL 28509

JWSC 29700. Reading and Research Course. 100 Units.

TBD
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and Undergraduate Program Adviser
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form.

JWSC 29900. BA Preparation Course. 100 Units.

Preparation of BA thesis under direction of advisor.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and Undergraduate Program Adviser
Note(s): Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Required of honors candidates.