Judaic Studies (JDS)

Minor in Judaic Studies

Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences

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Judaic Studies (JDS)

The minor in Judaic Studies offers students an opportunity to acquire background in Hebrew and to study selected areas of Jewish history, culture, or religion. With the approval of an advisor from the Judaic Studies program faculty, the student must construct a program of at least 21 credits fulfilling the requirements listed below. The advisor helps to assure that the student's program has a curricular focus; courses from other departments suitting that focus may be included.

Requirements for the Minor in Judaic Studies (JDS)

No more than one course offered for the minor may be taken under the Pass/No Credit option. All other courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade. Students interested in enrolling in the minor must consult with the coordinator of the minor in Judaic Studies and select an advisor from the Judaic Studies program faculty.

Completion of the minor requires at least 21 credits.

1. One year of Hebrew at a level appropriate to the student's previous background
2. Two of the following:
   JDH 230/RLS 230 Judaism
   JDS 225/HIS 225 The Formation of the Judaic Heritage
   JDS 226/HIS 226 The Shaping of Modern Judaism
3. Three courses numbered 300 or higher approved in advance by the minor advisor.

Requirement 3 may be satisfied by courses in the Judaic Studies program itself or by related courses in other programs, if the subject is judged appropriate for the student's field of concentration. The following list of courses from other departments is meant to be representative and does not exclude the possibility of substituting others with the approval of the student's advisor.

ANT 402 Problems in Archaeology
RLS 301 Sources and Methods
RLS 402 Contemporary Theologies
RLS 450 Philosophical Theology

Appropriate topics from any directed readings course and from the following:
ANT 310 Ethnography
EGL 375 Literature in English in Relation to Other Disciplines
RLS 390 Special Topics
HBW

Hebrew

HBW 111: Elementary Hebrew I
An introduction to modern Hebrew as currently spoken and written in Israel, stressing pronunciation, speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. The course is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of the language. A student who has had two or more years of Hebrew in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take HBW 111 without written permission from the supervisor of the course.
3 credits

HBW 112: Elementary Hebrew II
An introduction to modern Hebrew as currently spoken and written in Israel, stressing pronunciation, speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. 
Prerequisite: HBW 111
3 credits

HBW 211: Intermediate Hebrew I
Intermediate courses in conversation, composition, and the reading of texts in modern Hebrew.
Prerequisite: HBW 112
3 credits

HBW 212: Intermediate Hebrew II
Intermediate courses in conversation, composition, and the reading of texts in modern Hebrew.
Prerequisite: HBW 211
3 credits

HBW 311: Advanced Hebrew I
A course in the active use of spoken and written Hebrew. Readings of classics in the Hebrew language. Discussion is conducted mainly in Hebrew.
Prerequisite: HBW 212
3 credits

HBW 312: Advanced Hebrew II
Readings in modern Hebrew authors. Oral and written reports. Discussion is conducted mainly in Hebrew.
Prerequisite: HBW 311
3 credits

HBW 405: Studies in Hebrew Literature
May be repeated as the topic changes. 
Prerequisite: HBW 311 or 312

3 credits

HBW 415: The History of the Hebrew Language
Readings and discussion (in Hebrew) of selections from Biblical, post-Biblical, and modern literature; lectures and discussion (in English) on the changes of sentence structure, meaning, sound, and style from one period to another. Particular attention is given to classicism, innovation, and restructuring in the rise of modern Hebrew.
Prerequisite: HBW 311
3 credits

HBW 447: Directed Readings in Hebrew
Intensive study of a particular author, period, or genre of Hebrew literature in the original under close faculty supervision. May be repeated.
Prerequisite: Permission of director
1-4 credits

HBW 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work, and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor
3 credits, S/U grading

HBW 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work, and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. In HBW 476, students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice.
Prerequisites: HBW 475; permission of instructor
3 credits, S/U grading

JDH

Judaic Studies: Humanities

JDH 230 - G: Judaism
A survey of the great texts of the Judaic heritage, with the aim of learning the contribution of each to the Jewish tradition. The course includes an examination of characteristic Jewish beliefs, practices, and attitudes. This course is offered as both JDH 230 and RLS 230.
3 credits

JDH 261 - B: The Bible as Literature
A literary approach to the Bible that explores the characteristic principles of the Bible's narrative and poetic art. This course is offered as both EGL 261 and JDH 261.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
3 credits

JDH 320 - G: The Rabbinic Tradition
The origin and development of the Rabbinic tradition, examination of the chief elements of Rabbinic teaching at various times, and analysis of the major types of Rabbinic literature. This course is offered as both JDH 320 and RLS 320.
Prerequisite: JDH/HIS 225 or 226 or JDH/RLS 230
3 credits

JDH 361 - G: Women in the Biblical World
Consideration of how we define, on the basis of biblical and other contemporaneous literature, women's position in the socio-political sphere, including women in professions and institutions, such as goddesses, leaders of the community, queens, "wise women", writers, prophetesses, magicians, and prostitutes; and examination of literary types such as the Wife (and concubine), the Mother, the Daughter, the Temptress, and the Ancestress. This course is offered as both JDH 361 and WST 361.
Prerequisite: One JDH or JDS or WST or EGL 260 and RLS 230.
3 credits

JDH 369 - G: Topics in Biblical Interpretation
A study of some of the ways a selected book in the Hebrew Bible, a selection from the prophets, or another book, has been understood through history. The course examines traditional Christian interpretations in contrast with Rabbinic interpretations. Higher biblical criticism is discussed as a reflection of 19th-century historicism and science. Modern interpretations include psychoanalytic, structuralist, anthropological, and literary. Semester supplements to this
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Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: JDH 230 or one literature course at the 200 level or higher

3 credits

JDH 390 - G: Humanities Topics in Judaic Studies

An examination of a selected topic in Judaic studies within the humanities area. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: JDS/HIS 225 or 226 or JDH/RLS 230

3 credits

JDH 415 - G: Judaic Response to Catastrophe

The response of Judaic thinkers, from the Bible to the Second World War, to the problem of historical disaster and the need to understand and respond to it. Particular attention is given to the question of long-term continuity and the appearance of innovation in such responses. This course is offered as both JDH 415 and RLS 415.

Prerequisite: JDS/HIS 225 or 226 or JDH/RLS 230

3 credits

JDH 447: Readings in Judaic Studies

Qualified juniors and seniors may read independently in the areas of Jewish religion, philosophy, and literature in an approved program under the supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

1-6 credits

JDS

Judaic Studies: Social and Behavioral Sciences

JDS 225 - J: The Formation of the Judaic Heritage

Jewish history and the development of Judaism during the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman periods (ca. 500 B.C.E.- ca. 500 C.E.). The course begins with the close of the Hebrew Bible, examines the varieties of Judaism which then arose, and ends with the consolidation of rabbinic Judaism on one hand and Christianity on the other. This course is offered as both HIS 225 and JDS 225.

Advisory Prerequisite: RLS 101 or 110 or one HIS course

3 credits

JDS 226 - F: The Shaping of Modern Judaism

The history of the Jews and of Judaism since the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of Islam. The course concludes with a study of the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel, and includes a survey of the major forms of American Jewish life. This course is offered as both HIS 226 and JDS 226.

Advisory Prerequisite: RLS 101 or 110 or one HIS course

3 credits

JDS 241 - I: The Holocaust: The Destruction of European Jewry--Causes and Consequences

The rise of modern anti-Semitism since the late 18th century and its political application in Nazi Germany. Topics include the destruction process, ghetto life, resistance, foreign response, and the war crimes trials. This course is offered as both HIS 241 and JDS 241.

Advisory Prerequisite: JDS/HIS 226 or HIS 101 or 102

3 credits

JDS 241 - F: Social Sciences Topics in Judaic Studies

An examination of selected topics within the social and behavioral sciences area to be announced whenever the course is offered. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated.

Prerequisites: Two JDS courses, or one course each in JDS and JDH; permission of director

1-6 credits

JDS 327 - F: Women in Judaism

A survey of women in Judaism and in Jewish life from the Biblical period to the present, focusing on such topics as the representation of women in the Bible, Jewish law concerning women, the role of women in the Enlightenment in Germany and America, immigrant women in America, women in the Holocaust, and women in Israel. This course is offered as both JDS 327 and WST 320.

Prerequisite: One JDS or WST course

3 credits

JDS 356 - I: Zionism Before 1948

A survey of ideologies that have found expression under the general banner of Zionism. Topics include the origins and development of those ideologies, and the important ideological and conceptual issues that the Zionist movement has not yet managed to resolve.

3 credits

JDS 390 - F: Social Sciences Topics in Judaic Studies

An examination of selected topics within the social and behavioral sciences area to be announced whenever the course is offered.

Prerequisite: JDS/HIS 225 or 226