

JEWISH STUDIES (JEWISH)

JEWISH/GNS 105 – FIRST SEMESTER YIDDISH

4 credits.

Introduction to the Yiddish language through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Emphasis on communication with attention to cultural and historical context.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Frgn Lang - 1st semester language course

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Read the Yiddish alphabet and write in Yiddish cursive

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Express oneself in Yiddish at the sentence level in written and oral communications

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Read short Yiddish texts in the present, past, and future tenses

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Mobilize a vocabulary of 200+ Yiddish words, including those terms necessary to describe one's family, the life of the student, travel plans, daily life, and different geographic centers of Yiddish cultural production

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Name and describe major figures of twentieth and twenty-first century Yiddish culture

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/GNS 106 – SECOND SEMESTER YIDDISH

4 credits.

Introduction to the Yiddish language through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Emphasis on communication with attention to cultural and historical context.

Requisites: GNS/JEWISH 105

Course Designation: Frgn Lang - 2nd semester language course

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Deploy Yiddish at the multi-sentence level in written and oral communications

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Express opinions about authentic Yiddish texts, including contemporary newspaper articles and poetry selections from the twentieth century

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Mobilize a vocabulary of 400+ Yiddish words, including those terms necessary to describe time, weather, calendrical units, literature (children's books, poetry, and the history of Yiddish publishing)

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Be creative with language in past, present, future, imperative, and conditional tenses

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Demonstrate familiarity with various forms of Yiddish cultural expression, such as Yiddish folksong, Yiddish poetry, Yiddish film, and the politics of Yiddishism

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/LEGAL ST/RELIG ST 203 – JEWISH LAW, BUSINESS, AND ETHICS

3 credits.

Explores the development of Jewish law from antiquity to modernity, with a focus on legal questions related to business practices and ethics. Consider issues ranging from ethical practices in agriculture to how to run a modern multi billion-dollar kosher industry; from the ethics of Jews celebrating Thanksgiving to regulations governing the preparation, consumption, and sale of coffee.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. articulate the general development and evolution of Jewish law

Audience: Undergraduate

2. apply different strategies that different Jewish communities have used to regulate business and ethical practices

Audience: Undergraduate

3. analyze, in both written and oral form, Jewish legal texts

Audience: Undergraduate

4. apply Jewish legal principles to new material

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/RELIG ST 211 – INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

4 credits.

General introduction to Judaism covering the biblical, classical rabbinic, medieval, and modern periods.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2018

JEWISH/HISTORY 213 – JEWS AND AMERICAN POP. CULTURE

3-4 credits.

Explores the interplay between Jews and U. S. popular culture, covering such subjects as early 20th century vaudeville, the "golden age" of Hollywood, rhythm and blues music, television, and stand-up comedy.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Describe major trends in American popular entertainment.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain the ways in which Jews shaped realms of American culture, such as, comedy, music, film, and television.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Discuss the ways in which Jews and African-Americans interacted in the cultural arena.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Describe public controversies around popular culture and how they were driven by or intermixed with antisemitism.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/RELIG ST 215 – THE SABBATH

3 credits.

What is the "Sabbath"? What does it mean "to rest"? Offers a broad, comparative introduction to the history of the Sabbath, from the Bible to the present day. Explore a range of textual sources from the Jewish and Christian traditions. Topics include the major theological, ritual, and cultural practices that have developed around the Sabbath. Analysis places emphasis on literary representations of the Sabbath across genres. Discuss contemporary political iterations of the Sabbath in modern, secular contexts.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2023**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate knowledge of major forms, practices, social conditions, values, and themes that have shaped the history of the "Sabbath" in Jewish and Christian traditions, from antiquity to modernity

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Discern and integrate divergent and contradictory perspectives, identify and question assumptions, and assess evidence and methods in religious studies and across disciplinary lines

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Display skills in textual analysis and evaluate a range of formal and structural elements in writing

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Identify and interpret the literary techniques used by Jewish and Christian writers across genres, including relevant stylistic, rhetorical, figurative, and liturgical forms used in the representation of the Sabbath

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Generate original ideas and texts, experimenting and taking risks, solving problems, and answering questions in a range of media

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Write original, coherent, and compelling arguments that push beyond summary to analysis and independent and critical thinking in clear prose that meets expectations for grammatical correctness

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/HISTORY 219 – THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE: FROM SHTETL TO SUBURB

4 credits.

Surveys American Jews from the eighteenth century until after WW II, examining political behavior (radicalism, liberalism, and nationalism), class formation, social mobility, culture, inter-ethnic group relations, religion, and problems in community building.

Requisites: Sophomore standing or 3 credits in HISTORY or JEWISH**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**JEWISH/HISTORY 220 – INTRODUCTION TO MODERN JEWISH HISTORY**

4 credits.

The history of the Jews in selected parts of the world since the 17th century. Particular attention will be paid to the fact that this is the history of a minority group whose life unfolds in relationship to a larger society.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2021

JEWISH 225 – JEWS AND RACE

3 credits.

Takes a comparative look at the multiple intersections between Jewish history and histories of racism. Covers relevant case studies ranging from the Bible to the present, in order to analyze the long, global trajectory that has shaped issues of race and racial inequality in the United States and beyond. Topics include the so-called "curse of Ham"; the role of "the Jew" in medieval Christian theology; the demonization of Jews and Muslims during the Crusades; the interaction between Jews, European colonialism, and transatlantic slavery; nineteenth-century debates about "Semites"; the racialization of Jews during the Holocaust; the role of race and racism in the development of Zionism and the history of the Palestinian Nakba; debates about Black-Jewish relations in the United States; the question of Jews and whiteness; as well as historical encounters between Jews and Native Americans.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2024**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate knowledge of significant moments at the intersection of Jewish history and the history of racism

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Articulate how the past has affected present day circumstances regarding race and racial inequalities in the U.S. and in a global context
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and question cultural assumptions and knowledge claims as they relate to race and ethnicity
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Demonstrate self-awareness and empathy toward the cultural perspectives and worldviews of others
Audience: Undergraduate

5. Cultivate skills in textual analysis and evaluate formal and structural elements in a range of media (e.g., essays, academic writing, oratory, visual art, etc)
Audience: Undergraduate

6. Write original, coherent, and compelling arguments that push beyond summary to analysis and independent and critical thinking in clear prose that meets expectations for grammatical correctness
Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/CLASSICS/LITTRANS/RELIG ST 227 – INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL LITERATURE (IN ENGLISH)

4 credits.

Introduction to the text, development, history, and social context of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Covers the Torah (Pentateuch), Neviim (Former and Latter Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings), and provides a brief introduction to early Jewish literature (Pseudepigrapha/Apocrypha). Discusses various methods of analysis and theories of composition. Addresses major theological claims made of the text by Jewish and Christian communities. Explores contextualized interpretations in the ancient and modern day.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate knowledge of ancient Near Eastern societies and cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine, analyze, and interpret ancient texts in translation.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Critique ancient Greek, Roman, and/or Near Eastern societies and cultures and compare them to other societies and cultures.
Audience: Undergraduate

4. Articulate a self-critical understanding of one's own approach to the biblical text.
Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH 230 – ELEMENTARY TOPICS IN JEWISH LITERATURE

3-4 credits.

Elementary topics in Jewish literature.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**JEWISH 231 – ELEMENTARY TOPICS IN JEWISH HISTORY**

3-4 credits.

Elementary topics in Jewish history.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

JEWISH 232 – ELEMENTARY TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY AND THE ARTS

3-4 credits.

Elementary topics in Jewish philosophy and the arts.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**JEWISH 236 – BASCOM COURSE**

3 credits.

Develop skills in critical reading, logical thinking, use of evidence, and use of library resources. Emphasis on writing in the conventions used in Jewish Studies.

Requisites: Satisfied Communications A requirement**Course Designation:** Gen Ed - Communication Part B

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2024**JEWISH/GERMAN/GNS 240 – HEALTH AND HOTELS IN CENTRAL EUROPE**

3 credits.

Introduction to spaces of leisure, medical recuperation, and Christian and Jewish cross-cultural exchange. Literature and films focus on sites of rest and healing between the World Wars as well as post-Holocaust reflections on these sites.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate close reading skills in writing assignments through interpretation and analysis of texts in a variety of genres, including critical theory, prose, poetry, and film.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Discern and integrate divergent and contradictory perspectives, identify and question assumptions, and assess evidence and methods.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify major and lesser-known writers of central Europe between the World Wars.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Acquire a critical vocabulary to speak and write effectively about the experience of health, illness, leisure, recuperation, and Jewish identity.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Engage in sustained discussion with peers in a respectful and empathetic manner on topics concerning diverse worldviews and value systems, including an understanding of interactions between Jews and Christians within the context of minority-majority relationships in central Europe and across the globe.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/GERMAN/LITTRANS 269 – YIDDISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN EUROPE

3 credits.

Exploration of European Yiddish fiction, poetry, folklore, and cinema, with a focus on works of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

JEWISH/GERMAN/LITTRANS 279 – YIDDISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN AMERICA

3 credits.

Exploration of American Yiddish poetry, fiction, theater, and cinema created by European Jews in the United States.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Prepare students for life and careers in an increasingly multicultural and multilingual US environment

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Develop critical thinking skills through sustained discussion with one's peers and foster a constructive climate in which to engage with questions concerning cultural, racial, religious, and linguistic difference

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Acquire a critical vocabulary to speak about historical and present-day issues concerning migration, ethnic identity, and religious difference

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Engage in reflective writing practices, respond critically to feedback, and assess one's own communicative strengths

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Identify the major themes of American Yiddish literature and culture from the early-twentieth century until today. These themes include: the politics of language use; the negotiation of a minoritized status; regional vs. national American Jewish identity; inter-generational conflict; Jews and the question of race

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH 299 – DIRECTED STUDY

1-3 credits.

Independent study as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor

Course Designation: Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Fall 2008

JEWISH/HEBR-MOD 301 – INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW LITERATURE

3 credits.

Selected works from different periods and genres. Taught in Hebrew.

Requisites: HEBR-MOD 202 or placement into HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 301

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Frgn Lang - 5th + semester language course

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2025

JEWISH/HEBR-MOD 302 – INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW LITERATURE

3 credits.

Selected works from different periods and genres. Taught in Hebrew.

Requisites: HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 301 or placement into HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 302

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Frgn Lang - 5th + semester language course

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

JEWISH/HISTORY 310 – THE HOLOCAUST

3-4 credits.

References to the Holocaust abound in contemporary political debates and in our popular culture. But most people know very little about the history of the Holocaust, despite the mountains of superb historical scholarship that experts in the field have produced over decades of dedicated research. Utilize correspondence, diaries, or other firsthand accounts of Holocaust victims, together with study of the larger events around them, to reconstruct the experiences of ordinary families swept up in the Nazi genocide.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the Nazi genocide of European Jewry during WWII, including the events, processes, ideas, organizations, and individuals behind these crimes, and an understanding of how the everyday experiences of Holocaust victims limited their options for survival

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain the mechanics of how and why the Nazis and their collaborators were able to carry out a program of persecution and ultimately extermination against the Jewish communities of Europe, leading to the murder of an estimated 6 million Jews

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Identify central arguments in historiographical writing; use primary sources to reconstruct historical events; formulate research questions; develop written arguments that illuminate the lives of Holocaust victims and analyze the key events, policies, or sites of the Nazi genocide; support arguments with appropriate sources; and supply appropriate citations

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/LITTRANS 318 – MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE

3-4 credits.

Pre-modern Jewish society's breakdown, immigration, the challenges of integration and exclusion, and the establishment of new communities will serve as a backdrop for the analysis and comparison of Jewish literary texts written in Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Russian, and English.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**JEWISH/CLASSICS/RELIG ST 323 – THE BIBLE AND FILM: LITERATURE AND MEDIA**

3 credits.

An introduction to the study of the Bible as literature and of biblical reception in the medium of film, from early Hollywood to the present day. Explores the way in which the Bible (including both Hebrew and Greek Testaments), one of the foundational literary corpora of American society, has been interpreted, reinterpreted, and misinterpreted through the medium of film over the past century. We will begin each segment of the course by reading portions of the biblical text that have experienced significant interpretation, in order to understand the literary text that has been received in film. How beholden are filmmakers to the interpretations of communities that view these texts as authoritative, and where are they free to depart from their sources? Is it possible to "translate" biblical narratives into film without losing something in the translation? These questions will focus our study on ways the literature has been interpreted in this new medium.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Gen Ed - Communication Part B Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate knowledge of ancient Near Eastern societies and cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine, analyze, and interpret ancient texts in translation.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Critique ancient Greek, Roman, and/or Near Eastern societies and cultures and compare them to other societies and cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Develop understanding of film as a form of biblical reception.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Hone close reading and film-watching skills so as to be able to read a literary text with deeper attention to detail and sharper interpretive instincts, as well as increase ability to articulate their observations.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Demonstrate skills in critical reading, logical thinking, and the use of evidence.

Audience: Undergraduate

7. Demonstrate skills in the use of appropriate style and disciplinary conventions in writing and speaking.

Audience: Undergraduate

8. Demonstrate skills in the use of core library resources specific to the ancient Near Eastern world.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/LITTRANS/RELIG ST 328 – CLASSICAL RABBINIC LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

3-4 credits.

Introduction to the literature of the Classical Rabbinic or Talmudic period of Judaism (2nd to 7th centuries CE). Historical and intellectual background; the interrelation of liturgy, legal and non-legal literature.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2019**JEWISH/CLASSICS/RELIG ST 335 – KING DAVID IN HISTORY AND TRADITION**

3 credits.

An exploration of the literary and historical aspects of the text of 1-2 Samuel + 1 Kings 1-2; the history and archaeology of Jerusalem during the tenth century B.C.E.; and the varieties of ways in which the figure of King David has been received in subsequent religious and secular literature, visual art, music, television, and cinema.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2024**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate knowledge of ancient Near Eastern societies and cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine, analyze, and interpret ancient texts in translation.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Critique ancient Greek, Roman, and/or Near Eastern societies and cultures and compare them to other societies and cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the reception of David in various media.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/RELIG ST 340 – THE AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE OF DNA

3 credits.

Explores the range of relationships between DNA and American Jewish life. It begins with the "prehistory" of the relationship between Jewishness and genetic science, from Biblical genealogies to early twentieth century racial science. It then turns to America in the second half of the twentieth century, when the discovery of the double helix and the atrocities of Auschwitz reinvigorated and reshaped American Jewish relationships to DNA.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2024**Learning Outcomes:** 1. articulate informed answers to central questions at the intersection of Jewish Studies and Science and Technology Studies

Audience: Undergraduate

2. identify key themes, movements, and people in twentieth century American Jewish Studies and the history of the biological sciences

Audience: Undergraduate

3. analyze a range of sources, including material objects and digital media as well as written texts from religious, ethnic, and scientific communities

Audience: Undergraduate

4. employ an expanded range of religious literacy, including skills for identifying, evaluating, and interpreting the interrelationships and impact of religious and scientific worldviews and communities in the United States via a variety of theoretical ideas and methodologies in the social sciences and humanities

Audience: Undergraduate

5. employ stronger research and writing skills, including textual analysis, primary source analysis, synthesis of scholarly ideas, persuasive writing, oral communication, active listening, and critical empathy

Audience: Undergraduate

6. participate more effectively in creating open, engaging, fun, and collaborative learning environments that seek academic excellence, honesty, and integrity

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/POLI SCI 341 – ISRAELI POLITICS AND SOCIETY

3-4 credits.

Examines the issues currently facing Israeli society and the ongoing debates in Israeli politics. Provides historical background and analytical understanding of contemporary Israeli politics. Attention will be paid to political history, institutions, economic development, coalition formation, ethnic politics, and religious-secular divisions as they are manifested in Israeli politics.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Learn about Israeli politics, history, and culture.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Apply political science concepts and theories to understand Israeli politics and society.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand who the main actors are in Israeli politics.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Understand the main social and political cleavages in Israel.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Assess the state of a body of scholarly literature related to course themes, identify gaps in that literature, and formulate an original research question in the context of those gaps.

Audience: Graduate

JEWISH 350 – WHAT IS JEWISH STUDIES?

3 credits.

Introduces Jewish studies as an interdisciplinary field and examines Jewish history, culture, and thought through the major questions that guide the field, including: What is Jewish practice? What is a Jewish text? What is diaspora? What is antisemitism? And, who are the Jews? Explores a variety of responses offered by scholars, writers, theologians, and artists. Develop the ability to think transhistorically, bringing together biblical, medieval, modern, and contemporary perspectives. Anchor inquiries into the field of Jewish studies through the completion of a substantial research project.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the major questions and concerns of modern Jewish studies

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Discern and integrate divergent and contradictory perspectives, identify and question assumptions, and assess evidence and methods

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Develop close reading skills with which to analyze Jewish studies texts; write original, coherent, and compelling arguments that push beyond summary to analysis; engage in reflective writing practices; respond critically to feedback; and assess one's own communicative strengths

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Engage in deep discussion with peers in a respectful and empathetic manner; ask each other constructive questions; and develop a shared vocabulary with which to speak about Jewish studies

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH 356 – JERUSALEM, HOLY CITY OF CONFLICT AND DESIRE

3 credits.

Jerusalem, the Holy City for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, has become the center of religious, political, and national contention. Explores the sources of the conflict and its development over the centuries, with the aim of illuminating the complex situation of the region and its implications for the world.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2020

JEWISH/ENGL 370 – JEWISH HUMOR

3-4 credits.

What is humor? Why and when do people tell jokes? And what do we make of the fact that a certain form of humor has come to be labeled "Jewish"? Examine the notion of "Jewish humor" by reading a variety of texts (jokes, short stories, films, websites, conceptual art, and cultural kitsch). Begin by considering theoretical explorations of humor and "Jewish humor." Then trace techniques of Jewish humor from eastern Europe to central Europe to North America, paying specific attention to Jewish American humor. Themes to be examined include: in-group vs. out-group humor; humor and ethnicity; performance and "Jewface"; Jewish-Christian difference; humor and the Holocaust; gender and ethnicity; the notion of self-hatred; American popular culture; and the relationship between humor, repetition, and innovation. The general goal is to answer the question: Is there such a thing as "Jewish humor"? (Hint: The answer may be "no.")

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Discern and integrate divergent and contradictory perspectives, identify and question assumptions, and assess evidence and methods

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate close-reading skills with which to analyze humor and American ethnicity, question assumptions about the popular representation of Jewish identity, and explore how humor manages and mobilizes questions of race, ethnicity, and religion

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Engage in reflective writing practices, respond critically to feedback, and assess one's own communicative strengths

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Engage in deep discussion with peers in a respectful and empathetic manner, ask each other constructive questions, develop a shared vocabulary with which to speak about Jewish humor, and, in doing so, explore preconceived notions about identities "inside" and "outside" students' social circles

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/HEBR-MOD 401 – TOPICS IN MODERN HEBREW / ISRAELI LITERATURE AND CULTURE I

3 credits.

Readings in Hebrew literature. Taught in Hebrew.

Requisites: HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 302 or placement into HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 401**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Frng Lang - 5th + semester language course

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Fall 2024**JEWISH/HEBR-MOD 402 – TOPICS IN MODERN HEBREW / ISRAELI LITERATURE AND CULTURE II**

3 credits.

Readings in Hebrew literature. Taught in Hebrew.

Requisites: HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 401 or placement into HEBR-MOD/JEWISH 402**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Frng Lang - 5th + semester language course

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**JEWISH/GNS 405 – FIRST SEMESTER YIDDISH FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

4 credits.

Introduction to the Yiddish language through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Emphasis on communication with attention to cultural and historical context. Includes tasks designed to facilitate Yiddish-related research.

Requisites: Graduate/professional standing**Repeatable for Credit:** No**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Read the Yiddish alphabet and write in Yiddish cursive

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Express oneself in Yiddish at the sentence level in written and oral communications

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Read short Yiddish texts in the present, past, and future tenses

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Mobilize a vocabulary of 200+ Yiddish words, including those terms necessary to describe one's family, the life of the student, travel plans, daily life, and different geographic centers of Yiddish cultural production

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Name and describe major figures of twentieth and twenty-first century Yiddish culture

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/GNS 406 – SECOND SEMESTER YIDDISH FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

4 credits.

Emphasis on proficiency in Yiddish through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Requisites: GNS/JEWISH 405

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Deploy Yiddish at the multi-sentence level in written and oral communications

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Express opinions about authentic Yiddish texts, including contemporary newspaper articles and poetry selections from the twentieth century.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Mobilize a vocabulary of 400+ Yiddish words, including those terms necessary to describe time, weather, calendrical units, literature (children's books, poetry, and the history of Yiddish publishing).

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Be creative with language in past, present, future, imperative, and conditional tenses.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/ILS/SOC 423 – MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

3 credits.

How do Jews fit into the modern world? While the "Jewish Question" initially referred to debates about Jewish emancipation (the struggle for equal citizenship and social integration that started with the French Revolution), it later served to describe modern Jewish political and social thought about the identity, place, and role of the Jews in the modern world. Beginning in the late 19th century, as cultural assimilation, economic impoverishment in eastern Europe, and rising antisemitism sowed doubts about the viability of emancipation and traditionalism alike, Jewish thinkers proposed new answers to the Jewish question. Learn about some of the major answers they debated, including revolutionary universalistic utopias (socialism and Communism), various forms of Jewish nationalism, hyphenated identities, cultural pluralism, and cosmopolitanism. Work to contextualize these ideas historically while also considering whether and how they remain relevant to the present.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Engage with major figures, ideas, and debates in the social and political thought of Jews about the "Jewish Question" from the late 19th century until the mid-20th century

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand these ideas in relation to the historical contexts in which they were produced

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Enter into a dialogue with past thinkers, critically assessing whether and how their ideas may remain relevant to the changed circumstances of the present

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH 430 – INTERMEDIATE TOPICS IN JEWISH LITERATURE

3-4 credits.

Intermediate topics in Jewish literature.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Fall 2024

JEWISH 431 – INTERMEDIATE TOPICS IN JEWISH HISTORY

3-4 credits.

Intermediate topics in Jewish history.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Spring 2021

JEWISH 432 – INTERMEDIATE TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY AND THE ARTS

3-4 credits.

Intermediate topics in Jewish philosophy and the arts.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**JEWISH 433 – INTERMEDIATE TOPICS IN JEWISH STUDIES: SOCIAL SCIENCES**

3-4 credits.

Intermediate topics in Jewish Studies drawn from the social sciences.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2021**JEWISH/PHILOS 442 – MORAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE HOLOCAUST**

3 credits.

Selected moral and philosophical issues raised by the Holocaust such as when and whom to rescue; includes issues arising after the annihilation such as forgiveness and reconciliation.

Requisites: Sophomore standing or 3 Credits in PHILOS**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2021**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Examine an array of moral questions related to the holocaust.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain some of the key positions taken by philosophers in relation to the holocaust.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/AFRICAN/MEDIEVAL/RELIG ST 462 – MUSLIMS AND JEWS

3 credits.

Explores the historical relationship between Muslims and Jews in a variety of contexts from the seventh century to the present. Surveys literary and cultural exchanges against the background of shifting political and social conditions across the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. Considers also the parallel legacies of anti-Semitism, Orientalism, and Islamophobia. Major themes include comparative religion, secularization, migration, and colonialism, as well as the politics of history and cultural memory. Introduces readings in English translation of medieval and modern texts originally written across languages, and especially in Hebrew and Arabic.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate contextual knowledge of major historical events, figures, social conditions, religious communities, and geographies of Muslim Iberia (al-Andalus) from the eighth to sixteenth centuries

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Situate al-Andalus in relation to wider developments in politics, culture, and religion of the Middle East and North Africa, from the eighth century to the present

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand the terms and conditions that have shaped Muslim-Jewish relations from the seventh century until the present, including frameworks of theology, lived religious experience, and Orientalist representation

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Integrate relevant theoretical frameworks, debates, and conversations regarding the distinction between historical writing and cultural memory

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Discern divergent and contradictory representations of the history of al-Andalus in contemporary memory culture

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Cultivate skills in textual analysis and evaluate a range of formal and structural elements in written and visual materials across genres (philosophy, literature, religion, film) as well as in primary and secondary historical sources

Audience: Undergraduate

7. Generate original ideas and texts, through coherent writing and compelling argumentation, by experimenting and taking risks, solving problems, and answering questions in a range of media

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/GERMAN 510 – GERMAN-JEWISH CULTURE SINCE THE 18TH CENTURY

3 credits.

Investigates German-Jewish culture since the 18th century, concentrating on toleration, emancipation, acculturation, assimilation, anti-Semitism, and Bildung.

Requisites: Junior standing**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2020**JEWISH/HEBR-BIB 513 – BIBLICAL TEXTS, POETRY**

3 credits.

Critical reading of selected texts from the Minor Prophets and the Writings.

Requisites: HEBR-BIB 324**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Fall 2021**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Analyze classical Hebrew Bible texts.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Interpret classical Hebrew Bible texts.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Evaluate classical Hebrew Bible texts.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/HEBR-BIB 514 – BIBLICAL TEXTS, POETRY

3 credits.

Critical reading of selected texts from the Latter Prophets and the Writings.

Requisites: HEBR-BIB/JEWISH 513**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2022**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Analyze classical Hebrew Bible texts.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Interpret classical Hebrew Bible texts.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Evaluate classical Hebrew Bible texts.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH/CURRIC/ED POL/HISTORY 515 – HOLOCAUST: HISTORY, MEMORY AND EDUCATION

3 credits.

Explores the ways in which Holocaust history, memory and education are mutually entangled, politically charged and morally complex. Using primarily American sites of memory, critically analyze a variety of representations of the Shoah--in literature, films, memoirs, monuments, museums and classrooms.

Requisites: Junior standing**Course Designation:** Gen Ed - Communication Part B

Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Examine and question cultural assumptions and knowledge claims about race, ethnicity, and religion

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Improve written and oral communication skills by engaging in critical conversations, making presentations, practicing group projects and writing papers

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Demonstrate self-awareness and empathy to other worldviews and cultural differences and apply course concepts outside of the classroom by engaging in respectful conversations about race, ethnicity, and religion in our multi-cultural society

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Construct and develop a meaningful project around a topic that interests you

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Articulate answers to and pose complex questions regarding ethical issues, connecting historical events to present circumstances regarding racial inequalities

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Develop your academic writing by thinking carefully through your ideas and editing your work and your peers'

Audience: Undergraduate

7. Pose and answer complex historical and ethical questions regarding the Holocaust, genocide, their representations and political uses, connecting historical events to present circumstances regarding racial inequalities

Audience: Graduate

8. Develop interpersonal academic skills by editing peers' work

Audience: Graduate

JEWISH/HISTORY/SOC 518 – ANTISEMITISM IN EUROPEAN CULTURE

3 credits.

Through a critical and interdisciplinary lens, review the history and major theories of modern antisemitism in its past and present-day forms. Read scholarship on antisemitism, as well as canonical antisemitic texts, with attention to geographic, chronological, and cultural contexts. Learn about the origins, major themes, continuities and changes, and surprising endurance of antisemitism. Use historical thinking to understand antisemitism as a major historical problem and to address related contemporary issues with nuance.

Requisites: Junior standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Explain the origins and development of antisemitism

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Identify different elements and forms of antisemitism

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Evaluate the claims in debates about the nature, origins, and development of antisemitism using historical evidence

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Use historical evidence to assess the major theories of antisemitism

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Critically analyze canonical antisemitic texts and understand classic and recent scholarship on antisemitism

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Communicate clearly, effectively, and concisely in class discussions and writing assignments

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

7. Apply knowledge of antisemitism to understand it as an ongoing social problem

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

8. Develop original historical arguments using primary and secondary sources in discussion, presentations, and writing assignments.

Audience: Graduate

JEWISH/ENGL 539 – JEWISH LITERATURES IN DIASPORA

3 credits.

An exploration of Jewish literature in English and in Anglophone contexts.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2021**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify and critique Jewish literature in English and Anglophone contexts.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and apply methods and approaches for analysis of literary and cultural texts to demonstrate literature's contemporary and historical relevance.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Leverage writing as a mode of learning and means of conveying critical analysis.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Analyze relationships among society, literature, and language that underlie the construction of beliefs.

Audience: Undergraduate

JEWISH 630 – ADVANCED TOPICS IN JEWISH LITERATURE

3-4 credits.

Advanced topics in Jewish literature.

Requisites: Junior standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2019**JEWISH 631 – ADVANCED TOPICS IN JEWISH HISTORY**

3-4 credits.

Advanced topics in Jewish history.

Requisites: Junior standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2026

JEWISH 632 – ADVANCED TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY AND THE ARTS

3-4 credits.

Advanced topics in Jewish philosophy and the arts.

Requisites: Junior standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Humanities

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Fall 2023**JEWISH 681 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS**

3 credits.

Individual mentored study for seniors completing theses for Honors in the Major as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2022**JEWISH 682 – SENIOR HONORS THESIS**

3 credits.

Individual mentored study for seniors completing theses for Honors in the Major as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2023**JEWISH 691 – SENIOR THESIS**

3 credits.

Individual mentored study for seniors completing theses, as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**JEWISH 692 – SENIOR THESIS**

3 credits.

Individual mentored study for seniors completing theses, as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**JEWISH 699 – DIRECTED STUDY**

1-3 credits.

Independent study as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2025