

Jewish Studies, Certificate

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Requirements

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the certificate will:

- develop knowledge of important events, figures, and topics in Jewish history and culture;
- understand the diversity of the Jewish experience and Jewish practice, and thus an awareness of the problem of essentializing any group, community, or tradition;
- understand the historical development and modern manifestations of antisemitism, both as a distinct phenomenon and in the framework of bias more generally;
- develop understanding of the historical and present-day interactions between different religious/cultural/ethnic groups and thus an increased ability to engage with people who have backgrounds or ideas different than their own; and
- develop technical skills that are foundational to advanced work in Jewish Studies.

Requirements

The Certificate in Jewish Studies requires a minimum of 18 s.h., including at least 12 s.h. in courses completed at the University of Iowa. Students must earn a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all certificate coursework.

The certificate may be earned by any student admitted to the University of Iowa who is not enrolled in a UI graduate or professional degree program. Undergraduate to Graduate (U2G) students may earn the certificate when the undergraduate classification is primary.

The certificate takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Jewish history and cultures across time and space. Jewish studies encompasses a broad range of topics, including biblical studies; ancient, medieval, and modern history; Jewish religion; Jewish literature and art; Sephardic, Mizrahi, and Ashkenazi studies; race and gender; social justice; Holocaust studies; Israel studies; Jewish languages; and more. Jewish studies interrogates ethnicity and other forms of identity and therefore intersects with African American studies; Latina/o/x studies; gender, women's, and sexuality studies; and other similar fields. Jewish studies is inherently transnational, interdisciplinary, and intersectional.

All students develop an individual certificate plan of study in close cooperation with a Jewish studies advisor. As a general rule, at least one foundation course is offered each semester. Other courses are typically offered on an annual or biennial basis. In some cases, students may be able to count certificate courses toward certain GE CLAS Core requirements.

Some courses in the following list only apply to the certificate when an appropriately themed section is completed; additional notations appear on those courses. Students must ensure they are enrolled for a qualifying section of the course.

Students may petition to receive credit for courses not listed. These may include more general courses in which students complete a major project centered around Jewish studies, such as courses in the creative and performing arts, independent studies, or a senior or honors thesis. Students are advised to consult with the Jewish studies certificate director about any questions regarding qualifying coursework.

The Certificate in Jewish Studies requires the following coursework.

Foundation Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
JSTU:2149/ HIST:2149/ RELS:2240/ SJUS:2240	Introduction to Jewish Studies	3
JSTU:2153/ HIST:2153/ RELS:2153	Modern Jewish Cultures	3
JSTU:2155/ HIST:2155	Global Jewish History	3

Elective Courses

Students fulfill the remainder of the 18 s.h. with elective courses selected from the following.

It is recommended but not required that students distribute elective courses in the following ways: courses from at least two different departments; courses from at least two different clusters.

Cross-Chronological Cluster

Course #	Title	Hours
JSTU:2149/ HIST:2149/ RELS:2240/ SJUS:2240	Introduction to Jewish Studies (if not taken as a foundation course)	3
JSTU:2155/ HIST:2155	Global Jewish History (if not taken as a foundation course)	3
ENGL:3247/ JSTU:3245	The English Bible	3
RELS:1001/ CLSA:1001/ JSTU:1001	Judaism, Christianity, and Islam	3

The Ancient and Medieval World Cluster

Course #	Title	Hours
JSTU:2477/ CLSA:2477/ RELS:2477	Ancient Apocalypses	3
CLSA:1415/ RELS:1415	Ancient Origins of Religious Conflict	3
CLSA:2444/ RELS:2444	Cities of the Bible	3
CLSA:2482/ RELS:2182	Ancient Mediterranean Religions	3
CLSA:2489/ RELS:2289	Jerusalem: The Holy City	3
CLSA:2620/ RELS:2620	Sex and the Bible	3

CLSA:3247/ RELS:3247	Banned From the Bible: Pseudepigrapha and Apocrypha	3
CLSA:4452/ RELS:4352	The Dead Sea Scrolls	3
ENGL:3226/ MDVL:3226	Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages	3
HIST:2461/ CLSA:2461/ RELS:2361	Middle East and Mediterranean: Alexander to Suleiman	3
RELS:1070/ CLSA:1070	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	3

The Modern World Cluster

Course #	Title	Hours
JSTU:2068/ CLSA:2068/ RELS:2068	Jews in Popular Culture	3
JSTU:2153/ HIST:2153/ RELS:2153	Modern Jewish Cultures (if not taken as a foundation course)	3
JSTU:2156/ HIST:2156	Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel	3
FREN:4433/ HIST:4433	France Under Nazi Occupation, 1940-1944	3-4
GRMN:2618/ WLLC:2618	Film and Literature of the Holocaust	3
GRMN:2620/ WLLC:2620	Anne Frank and Her Story	3
GRMN:2675/ MUSM:2675	The Politics of Memory: Holocaust, Genocide, and 9/11	3-4
HIST:1016	The History That Made Our World (when topic is Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel)	3
HIST:2151	Introduction to the History Major (when topic is Nazi Germany)	3
HIST:4478	Holocaust in History and Memory	3
POLI:3423/ JSTU:3423	The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy	3
RELS:2265/ ASP:2265/ GHS:2265	Hard Cases in Healthcare at the End of Life	3
SJUS:2050/ GWSS:2050/ HIST:2150/ RELS:2250	Jews, Judaism, and Social Justice	3

Language Cluster

Students interested in pursuing additional language study through the Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare Program should contact the Department of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures for more information.

Course #	Title	Hours
CLSA:1401/ RELS:1401	Biblical Hebrew I	4
CLSA:1402/ RELS:1402	Biblical Hebrew II	4

CLSA:2431/ JSTU:2431/ RELS:2431	Biblical Aramaic	3
CLSA:2432/ JSTU:2432/ RELS:2432	Targumic Aramaic	3

Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) CourseShare courses in Modern Hebrew, Yiddish, or Ladino

Career Advancement

The Certificate in Jewish Studies is of value for careers for which training in ethics and diversity are important qualifications, such as social services, the health care professions, law, and the arts. The certificate also helps to prepare students for careers with Jewish or interfaith nonprofits and graduate work in Jewish studies or cognate fields.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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This sample plan is currently being reviewed and will be added at a later date.