

Jewish Studies

In 2013-14 UC Berkeley inaugurated the Designated Emphasis (DE) in Jewish Studies. The DE provides curricular and research resources for students who want to concentrate on Jewish Studies within their respective disciplines and have their work formally recognized in their degree designation. Designed to bring together faculty and students from different departments, the DE is administered by the Graduate Group in Jewish Studies and provides a unique context for rigorous cross-disciplinary research. Students applying to the DE must be prepared to integrate high-level research in Jewish Studies into their coursework, qualifying exam, and dissertation.

In keeping with UC Berkeley requirements for a designated emphasis, students must be admitted to the DE prior to taking their qualifying exams. However, because this DE is replacing the Joint Degree Program in Jewish Studies, exceptions will be made for exceptionally qualified and motivated students who have already taken qualifying exams, who are working within established departments, and whose work has an emphasis in an area of Jewish Studies. These grandfathered exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis, on the recommendation of the faculty graduate group. In every case, admission to the DE will be determined on the basis of how coherently and logically the student can articulate the value of the DE for her/his larger course of study and career goals, as well as on the quality of the written work.

To be admitted to the Designated Emphasis in Jewish Studies, an applicant must already be accepted into a PhD program at the University of California, Berkeley. For further information regarding admission to graduate programs at UC Berkeley, please see the Graduate Division's admissions website (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions>) .

Students will be required to fill out a form requesting admission to the DE, listing their prior preparation in the field, and their projected pathway through the program. In addition, they should submit a brief essay stating interests and reasons for applying, a CV, a writing sample, and a letter of recommendation from a faculty member in the student's home department indicating why and how the student would benefit from the DE in Jewish Studies.

Normative time considerations

Given the flexibility of the program, the completion of the DE will have no impact on Normative Time to degree.

Requirements for Designation

Students admitted to the Designated Emphasis in Jewish Studies must complete the following requirements before applying for their qualifying examination:

1. Students will be required to complete the course JEWISH 290 Individual Studies in the field of Jewish Studies for Graduate Students, which will serve as the integrative course for the program regarding methodology and research skills. This course can be offered by any faculty member of the Graduate Group in the DE in Jewish Studies, and will likely rotate among core faculty. The course topics will thus vary in accordance with the specific expertise of individual faculty member(s). The number of units for this course ranges from 3-8 and is decided on the basis of a mutual agreement

between the student and faculty instructor(s) in accordance with the amount of working hours the student intends to dedicate to this course.

The course will be a combination of standard seminar format with shared readings and discussion, and individualized research and writing. The goal of this course is thus two-fold: to provide cohort cohesion and intellectual exchange across disciplines, and to provide the necessary intellectual background for top quality scholarship in the field of Jewish Studies. The course will have a strong practical component, including engagement with bibliographical resources and scholarly practices essential to doing work in the field of Jewish Studies. The student will need to write a 5000-word article to complete the course, using a bibliography that includes Jewish Studies materials. The content of the article will be determined on an individual basis with attention to the students' research interests.

This course will be offered once every two years. The faculty members offering JEWISH 290 are core members of the Graduate Group for the Designated Emphasis in Jewish Studies.

2. Students in the DE will also complete three additional course electives related to Jewish Studies, which must be approved by the Graduate Group's Curriculum Committee. These courses will support the interdisciplinary nature of the program with attention paid to the individual students' research interests. At least one of these courses must be taken in a department outside the student's major area of study or chronological period. In general, electives are graduate seminars, but an appropriate upper division undergraduate course may be approved if the student completes a graduate-level assignment for the course. One of the three electives may be fulfilled by repeating JEWISH 290, under the condition that the topic of this course differs from the previous JEWISH 290 they will have taken. Students will be provided a list of potential electives offered by the different departments sponsoring the DE. A student may petition to the advising committee to approve a course not on the established list.

Examination

A member of the Graduate Group in Jewish Studies must be a formal member of the PhD qualifying examination committee. Under most circumstances, the graduate group member in the student's home department will serve in this function. A member of the graduate group may also serve as the outside member of the qualifying exam committee if not a faculty member of the student's major. A Jewish Studies topic must be included as a subject on the qualifying examination. Satisfactory performance on the qualifying examination for the PhD will be judged according to the established rules in the student's major program.

Dissertation

A member of the Graduate Group in Jewish Studies must be a formal member of the dissertation committee. The dissertation must relate to Jewish Studies (history, literature, culture, arts).

In 2015-16, faculty affiliated with the DE are Robert Alter, (Emeritus) Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies; Kenneth Bamberger, Boalt School of Law (on sabbatical); Joan Bieder, School of Journalism; Benjamin Brinner, Music; John Efron, History; Claude Fischer (Emeritus), Sociology; Ronald Hendel, Near Eastern Studies; Chana

Kronfeld, Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies; Jill Stoner, Architecture (on leave); Ann Swidler, Sociology.

Jewish Studies

JEWISH 200 Advanced Topics in Jewish Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016

Graduate seminar will focus on specific areas or topics in Jewish studies through a combination of close reading of texts, student presentation, and informal lectures. Instructors and topics to vary semester to semester. Consult department website for updated course descriptions.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JEWISH 290 Modern Jewish Scholarship: History and Practice 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

This seminar, specifically designed as the 'integrative course' for students pursuing the Designated Emphasis in Jewish Studies, will offer an in-depth introduction to some of the central trends and personalities in modern Jewish historiography. We will read (and read about) the founders of modern Jewish historiography, and then explore some contemporary trends in Jewish scholarship, according to the disciplinary affiliations of the students in the class.

In addition to weekly assignments, students will write a 7000-word paper suitable for publication in a scholarly journal. Course topic may change when faculty from different disciplines within Jewish Studies teach the course.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: This is the required integrative course for doctoral students pursuing the Designated Emphasis in Jewish Studies. It is open to other doctoral students by permission of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Efron

JEWISH 296 Joint Doctoral Program Dissertation Research and Writing
Credit 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2011, Spring 2011, Fall 2010

The course is offered to graduate students in the Joint Doctoral Program in Jewish studies to provide course credit for conducting dissertation research and dissertation writing, only after the student has successfully advanced to candidacy.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Advancement to doctoral candidacy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Instructor: Alter

JEWISH 299 Individual Study and Research - Jewish Studies 1 - 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Summer 2017 8 Week Session, Spring 2017

Topics and instructors will vary depending upon area of study. Special individual study for qualified graduate students only. Individual study and research, including fieldwork, in consultation with instructor on subject matter not covered in scheduled course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-9 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JEWISH 602 Joint Doctoral Program Independent Study 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

The course is offered to graduate students in the Joint Doctoral Program in Jewish studies to provide opportunities for undertaking independent studies prior to advancement to candidacy.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Advancement to doctoral candidacy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Instructor: Alter