

Jewish Studies

Minor

The Jewish Studies minor is open to all UC Berkeley students and is designed to give students an overview of some of the major themes in Jewish Studies. Students may choose offerings from a large number of disciplines including arts and humanities, social sciences, and law. After completing an introductory survey course, participants in the minor may take classes, seminars, and language courses (Hebrew in the Near Eastern Studies Department, and Yiddish in the German Department), engage in hands-on experiential learning through the Magnes Collection for Jewish Art and Life, and take relevant courses offered in various departments including Jewish Studies, Comparative Literature, History, Linguistics, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Music, Political Science, Slavic, and Sociology. The program allows students to work closely with members of the faculty, to be mentored by graduate students, and to participate in the intellectual life of the broader Jewish Studies community on campus. (<http://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/courses-degree-programs/academic-degree-programs/#minor>) Application instructions for the minor (https://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/JS-Minor-infoapplication-packet_-Rev_2022.pdf).

Declaring the Minor

For information on declaring the minor, please contact the Center for Jewish Studies here (<https://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/courses-degree-programs/#minor>)

Students who have a strong interest in an area of study outside their major often decide to complete a minor program. These programs have set requirements and are noted officially on the transcript in the memoranda section, as well as on diplomas.

General Guidelines

1. All minors must be declared no later than one semester before a student's Expected Graduation Term (EGT). If the semester before EGT is fall or spring, the deadline is the last day of RRR week. If the semester before EGT is summer, the deadline is the final Friday of Summer Sessions. To declare a minor, contact the department advisor for information on requirements, and the declaration process.
2. Five relevant upper division courses (including JEWISH 100 core course), minimum 3 units each, are required to complete the undergraduate minor.
3. No more than 2 of the 5 courses can be substantially focused on Israel.
4. All courses taken to fulfill minor requirements below must be taken for graded credit.
5. A minimum of three of the upper division courses taken to fulfill the minor requirements must be completed at UC Berkeley.
6. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required for courses used to fulfill the minor requirements.
7. Courses used to fulfill the minor requirements may be applied toward the Seven-Course Breadth requirement, for Letters & Science students.
8. No more than two Israel Studies courses can be used to satisfy the requirements for the Jewish Studies minor.

9. No more than one upper division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and minor programs.
10. All minor requirements must be completed within the unit ceiling. (For further information regarding the unit ceiling, please see the College Requirements tab.)

The study of Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, or Yiddish is encouraged and is essential for some but not all of the courses. However, there is no language requirement for the Jewish Studies minor and only advanced language courses are applicable to the minor.

Requirements

JEWISH 100	Introduction to Jewish Religion, Culture, and People	4
Select four upper division elective courses (consult academic adviser)		

To Declare Jewish Studies Minor

Students must meet with the JS minor adviser to declare the minor. Bring your complete application to the meeting. This includes:

- A completed Jewish Studies Minor Application Form (https://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/JS-Minor-infoapplication-packet_-Rev_2022.pdf).
- A current copy of your UCB transcript printed from your student portal with your name printed on the document. Please highlight all courses that apply to the minor, including courses in progress and transferable credits from other institutions (community colleges, study abroad). Also, indicate which course (if any) will overlap between the JS minor and your major.
- Copies of transcripts from colleges other than UC Berkeley if course work is to be counted towards the minor. Transcripts may be unofficial. We do not have access to transcripts in the Registrar's Office. Students must request copies themselves and submit them with their applications. Please highlight all courses to be applied to the minor.
- Minors are added as plans in Campus Solutions, and must be declared in advance of verification of completion; therefore, all undergraduate minors must be declared no later than one semester prior to a student's Estimated Graduation Term (EGT). The deadline is the last day of RRR week.

Once admitted, minors are required to contact the JS minor adviser at least once each semester to get approval for any changes to their program.

To Complete Jewish Studies Minor

Fill out the following two forms: "Completion of L&S Minor" and "Major-Minor Overlap Check form" and submit both forms to JS Minor adviser before the final semester prior to anticipated graduation term. Forms can be found here (https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/minorcompletion_fillable.pdf). The College of Letters & Science will be notified of minor completion approximately four weeks after the final minor course has been completed for inclusion in the student's diploma.

Jewish Studies

Expand all course descriptions [+] Collapse all course descriptions [-]

JEWISH 39 Freshman and Sophomore Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

JEWISH 39O Freshman and Sophomore Seminar 1.5 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3-12 hours of seminar per week

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of seminar per week

15 weeks - 1-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam not required.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

JEWISH 39P Freshman and Sophomore Seminar 1.5 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3-12 hours of seminar per week

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of seminar per week

15 weeks - 1-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam not required.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

JEWISH 39Q Freshman and Sophomore Seminar 1.5 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3-12 hours of seminar per week

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of seminar per week

15 weeks - 1-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam not required.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

JEWISH 98 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019

Organized group study on topics selected by upper division students under the sponsorship and direction of the Jewish Studies faculty.

Directed Group Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Directed Group Study: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 100 Introduction to Jewish Religion, Culture, and People 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

The course is intended to give Jewish studies minors a general introduction to the field through a survey of religious and cultural expressions of Jews across time and geographies. No previous knowledge of Judaism or Jewish Studies is necessary.

Introduction to Jewish Religion, Culture, and People: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

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

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: Jewish Studies 101

Introduction to Jewish Religion, Culture, and People: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 120 Special Topics in Jewish Studies 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

Course will focus on specific areas or topics related to creative arts and literature in Jewish studies through a combination of lectures, term papers, and examinations. Instructors and topics to vary from semester to semester. Consult Jewish Studies website for updated course descriptions.

Special Topics in Jewish Studies: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Special Topics in Jewish Studies: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 120A Special Topics in Jewish Languages and Literature 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Study of selected Jewish languages including Hebrew and Yiddish, and Jewish literature including prose, poetry, and drama, from various periods and geographic areas, in the context of time and place. Selections may vary from semester to semester depending on the interests and expertise of the instructor.

Special Topics in Jewish Languages and Literature: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Special Topics in Jewish Languages and Literature: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 121 Topics in Jewish Arts and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

This course will address topics related to Jewish arts and culture with a format that includes lecture and lab hours.

Topics in Jewish Arts and Culture: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of laboratory per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Spagnolo

Topics in Jewish Arts and Culture: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 121A Topics in Arts and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2021

Course designed to permit regular and visiting faculty the flexibility to address topics that reflect their research interests and supplement regular curricular offerings. Consult department website each semester for specific descriptions.

Topics in Arts and Culture: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-3 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Rotem

Topics in Arts and Culture: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 121B Arts and Culture in Israel 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020

This course will provide an overview of Israeli art and culture and its place within the international cultural world. We will examine museums, theatre, visual art, popular music, and cinema, as they reflect the multi-cultural and pluralistic Israeli society.

Arts and Culture in Israel: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Rotem

Arts and Culture in Israel: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 122 Topics in Judaism 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

A course on trends in Jewish religious, cultural, and social life. The course will study innovative and conservative aspects of thought, ritual, and belief in relation to contemporary life and traditional Jewish values in at least one country other than the United States.

Topics in Judaism: Read More [+]

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: This course will offer an opportunity for students to gain familiarity with a spectrum of diverse approaches to Judaism. This will include participation in current debates on topics such as spirituality, secularism, social justice, and discrimination.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will have a better understanding of the variety of Jewish responses to contemporary social, political, and cultural life. They will learn how historically salient issues, covered in other Jewish Studies courses, are being addressed by Jewish leaders and communities.

Rules & Requirements

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

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Topics in Judaism: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 122A Special Topics in Judaism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

A course on trends in Jewish religious, cultural, and social life. Our understanding of the Hebrew Bible has been transformed in recent years due to insights from literary criticism, anthropology, archaeology, and historiography. This course explores the impact of these innovations and provides a multilayered introduction to the writings of the Hebrew Bible, focused on the mingling of memory, religion, and the literary imagination. Special Topics in Judaism: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

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

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Alter, Hendel

Special Topics in Judaism: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 123 Israeli Society: Social Structure, Inequality, and Political Cleavages 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

This course will map Israel's social structure, identify its implications for social and economic inequality, and shed light on its role in structuring political loyalty, conflict and action. It will introduce students to relevant concepts and theories from sociology and political science, and findings from comparative research, that aid understanding of the Israeli case and place it in a broader perspective.

Israeli Society: Social Structure, Inequality, and Political Cleavages: Read More [+]

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: Expose students to a selection of research findings on specific sectors of society that shed light on their socioeconomic position, power resources, and characteristic forms of political action. Provide a comprehensive view of Israel's social structure and its implications for both inequality and politics.

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Shalev

Israeli Society: Social Structure, Inequality, and Political Cleavages: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 123A Muslim-Jewish Encounters: From the Beginnings of Islam to Today 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2020

The course takes us far beyond contemporary tensions between Muslims and Jews, and deep into a more complicated history that spans the Mediterranean and beyond. We move through topics that include the earliest encounters between Muslims and Jews during the years of the rise of Islam; the historical impact and legacy of the dhimmi (the system of rights and restrictions that defined Jews' status for centuries under Islamic rule); the culturally fruitful shared experience of Jews and Muslims in Medieval Spain and the Ottoman Empire; the effects of French, British, and Italian colonialism in the modern Middle East; and the important conflicts over Zionism and Arab nationalism during the past century. Muslim-Jewish Encounters: From the Beginnings of Islam to Today: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 0-1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Katz

Muslim-Jewish Encounters: From the Beginnings of Islam to Today: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 175B Jews in the Modern World 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course will examine the impact of modern intellectual, political, cultural, and social forces on the Jewish people since the eighteenth century. It is our aim to come to an understanding of how the Jews interpreted these forces and how and in what ways they adapted and utilized them to suit the Jewish experience. In other words, we will trace the way Jews became modern. Some of the topics to be covered include Emancipation, the Jewish Enlightenment, new Jewish religious movements, Jewish politics and culture, immigration, antisemitism, the Holocaust, and the state of Israel.

Jews in the Modern World: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for JEWISH 175B after completing HISTORY C175B. A deficient grade in JEWISH 175B may be removed by taking HISTORY 175B.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 0-1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Efron

Jews in the Modern World: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 178 History of the Holocaust 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course will survey the historical events and intellectual developments leading up to and surrounding the destruction of European Jewry during World War II. By reading a mixture of primary and secondary sources we will examine the Shoah (the Hebrew word for the Holocaust) against the backdrop of modern Jewish and modern German history. The course is divided into three main parts: (1) the historical background up to 1933; (2) the persecution of the Jews and the beginnings of mass murder, 1933-1941; and (3) the industrialized murder of the Jews, 1942-1945. History of the Holocaust: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for JEWISH 178 after completing HISTORY 178. A deficient grade in JEWISH 178 may be removed by taking HISTORY 178.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 5.5-5.5 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Efron

History of the Holocaust: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Organized group study on topics selected by upper division students under the sponsorship and direction of the Jewish Studies faculty.

Directed Group Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Directed Group Study: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

Subject matter will vary with topics related to Jewish Studies

Supervised Independent Study and Research: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Supervised Independent Study and Research: Read Less [-]