

Jewish Studies

Overview

UC Berkeley has long been a national leader in Jewish Studies, especially notable for the innovative scholarship promoted in its graduate program. The Center for Jewish Studies provides a strong new focus and a vivid presence for the many varied activities associated with Jewish Studies on the Berkeley campus. It oversees the Designated Emphasis in Jewish Studies for graduate students and the undergraduate minor in Jewish Studies. Additionally, the center is home to UC Berkeley's two annual endowed lecture series, sponsors conferences and public lectures, offers a congenial setting for graduate student colloquia, and serves as an attractive meeting place for the many visiting scholars in the field who come to UC Berkeley each year.

Campus Partners

The Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israeli Law, Economy and Society (<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/JLILES.htm>) is an interdisciplinary initiative to expand Jewish and Israel Studies offerings at UC Berkeley coordinated by faculty in Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Comparative Literature, History, and Music, and in the Law, Journalism, and Business Schools.

The Magnes Collection of Jewish Life and Art (<https://magnes.berkeley.edu/>) was established in 2010 at the Bancroft Library after the transfer of the Judah L. Magnes Museum to UC Berkeley. The Magnes is one of the world's preeminent Jewish collections in a university setting. It offers highly innovative and accessible resources to researchers on campus, enables hands-on learning for students interested in Jewish Studies, offers a venue for important programming, and provides fellowships for students working on Jewish culture.

The UC Berkeley Judaica collection (<http://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/affiliates-resources/judaica-collection/>) supports the research of students involved in the graduate Jewish Studies Designated Emphasis, the undergraduate minor, and the instructional activities of faculty and students in a number of interdisciplinary fields. These fields include Near Eastern languages and literature; Talmudic studies, including the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmuds and subsequent texts and commentaries; rabbinic, medieval, and modern Jewish history throughout the world; modern Jewish thought; and comparative literature, including works in Hebrew, Yiddish, English, and other languages.

Undergraduate Program

Jewish Studies (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/jewish-studies/>): Minor

Graduate Program

Jewish Studies (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/jewish-studies/>): Designated Emphasis (DE)

Above photo courtesy of The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life

Jewish Studies

JEWISH 200 Advanced Topics in Jewish Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2020, Spring 2019
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 without restriction.

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 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2021
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. Students will need to write a 5000-word article to complete the course, using a bibliography that includes Jewish Studies materials. A subject-relevant seminar paper from another course may be used to fulfill this requirement, subject to approval by Jewish Studies faculty.

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 Jewish Studies DE Dissertation Research and Writing Credit 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Fall 2010, Spring 2010

The course is offered to graduate students in the Designated Emphasis (DE) 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: Kronfeld

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

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2014, Fall 2012

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 without restriction.

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 Jewish Studies DE Exam Preparation 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2012, Fall 2011, Spring 2011

The course is offered to graduate students in the Designated Emphasis (DE) in Jewish studies to provide opportunities for directed qualifying exam preparation 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.