THE PROGRAM IN JEWISH STUDIES

Jewish Studies is an interdisciplinary field that encompasses the texts, history, languages, philosophy, and culture of Jews and Judaism as they have changed over three millennia and throughout the world. The program offers courses in multiple disciplines including but not limited to Religion, Classics, History, Philosophy, Anthropology, Sociology, and Comparative Literature. Across these disciplines, the program examines topics such as religious belief and practice, textual interpretation, the development of Zionism, life in the Diaspora, the historicization and memorialization of the Holocaust, and historical, political and philosophical questions surrounding Jewish identity. Investigating the foundations and development of these various Jewish topics, as well as their interaction with and influence on other traditions, provides an opportunity to explore the continuities and diversity of Jewish life and thought. Students will gain exposure to a common body of knowledge and scholarly approaches through which to engage in their own rich and varied intellectual explorations of Jewish and related topics.

CONCENTRATION IN JEWISH STUDIES

The concentration in Jewish Studies requires five courses with at least two different prefixes: one gateway course, two core courses, one elective, and one capstone course. Senior concentrators should consult with the chair about arrangements for a capstone course.

Gateway Courses:
JWST 101/REL 203 Judaism: Innovation and Tradition
JWST/COMP/REL 201 The Hebrew Bible

Core Courses
COMP/JWST 252 Writing after the Disaster: The Literature of Exile
HIST/JWST 230 Modern European Jewish History 1789–1948
HIST/JWST 338 The History of the Holocaust
HIST/JWST 490T Memory, History, and the Extermination of the Jews in Europe
REL/JWST/PHIL 204 Endtimes: Messianism in Modernity (W)
REL/JWST/CLA 205/COMP Ancient Wisdom Literature
REL/JWST/COMP 206 The Book of Job and Joban Literature
REL/JWST/COMP 250 From Adam to Noah: Literary Imagination and the Primeval History in Genesis
REL/JWST/COMP 209 The Legend of the Wandering Jew
REL 303/REL 280/PHIL 282 The Turn to Religion in Post-Modem Thought (W)

Students can check with the program chair to see if other courses not listed here might count as electives.

Electives
Students may meet the elective requirement with a course partially related to Jewish Studies or another core course. In a core course partially related to Jewish Studies, a student will normally focus at least one of the major writing assignments on a topic relevant to Jewish Studies or approximately one-third of the course will be devoted to Jewish subjects. The list of relevant electives changes regularly, so the course catalog should be checked for details. Listed below are examples of courses partially related to Jewish Studies. Students may meet the elective requirement with a course not listed here, subject to the approval of the Chair of Jewish Studies.

ARTH/JWST 463 The Holocaust Visualized
GERM 301T German Politics – last offered spring 2008
GERM 302/COMP 304 German Studies, 1830–1900
HIST 111/LEAD 150 Movers and Shakers in the Middle East
HIST 129 Blacks, Jews, and Women in the Age of the French Revolution
HIST 207 Modern Middle East
HIST 225/REL 216 The Middle Ages
HIST 226 Europe from Reformation to Revolution 1500–1815
HIST 239 Modern German History 1870–1989
HIST 311 The United States and the Middle East
HIST 480 Historical Narrative of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict
REL 270T Father Abraham; The First Patriarch
REL/COMP/ENGL 271 Religion and the Modern Literary Imagination
RLSP 271/COMP 265 The Interaction of Three Religions and Cultures in Early Modern Spain

Capstone Course
Jewish Studies/History 490T Memory, History, and the Extermination of the Jews of Europe

Croghan Professorship
Each year, in addition to the regular course offerings listed above, Williams sponsors the Croghan Bicentennial Visiting Professor in Religion who offers one course in Judaism and/or Christianity. Past Croghan Professors have taught courses on the Mishnah (Shaye Cohen), the historical Jesus (John Dominic Crossan), and Ancient Mediterranean Religions (Ross Knaier).

Overseas Studies
Studying in Israel is highly recommended for students interested in Jewish Studies. Many students have spent a semester or year at Hebraic University. With the approval of the Jewish Studies program chair, students may count a study-abroad program towards on core requirement.

Funding
The Bronfman Fund for Judaic Studies was established in 1980 by Edgar M. Bronfman ’50, Samuel Bronfman II ’75, and Matthew Bronfman ’80. The Bronfman Fund provides opportunities for the Williams community to learn about Jewish history and culture, both within the College’s formal curriculum and through the planning of major events on Jewish themes. The Morris Wiener and Stephen R. Wiener ’56 Fund for Jewish Studies was established in 1997 through the estate of Stephen R. Wiener ’56. The Wiener gifts have provided an endowment to support a faculty position in modern Jewish thought, and are used to underwrite an annual lecture, forum or event relevant to contemporary Jewish life.

JWST 101(F) Judaism: Innovation and Tradition (Same as Religion 203) (D) (See under REL 203 for full description.) HAMMERSCHLAG
JWST 201 The Hebrew Bible (Same as Comparative Literature 201 and Religion 201) (Not offered 2010-2011) DEKEL
JWST 204 Endtimes: Messianism in Modernity (Same as Philosophy 204 and Religion 204) (Not offered 2010-2011) (W) HAMMERSCHLAG
JWST 205(S) Ancient Wisdom Literature (Same as Classics 205, Comparative Literature 217 and Religion 205) (See under REL 205 for full description.) DEKEL
JWST 206 The Book of Job and Joban Literature (Same as Comparative Literature 206 and Religion 206) (Not offered 2010-2011) (W) DEKEL
JWST 207(F) From Adam to Noah: Literary Imagination and the Primeval History in Genesis (Same as Classics 207, Comparative Literature 250 and Religion 207) (See under REL 207 for full description.) DEKEL
JWST 208(F) “Thus says YHWH!” Introduction to Prophetic Literature of the Hebrew Bible (Same as Religion 208) (See under REL 208 for full description.) SCHEUER
JWST 209 The Legend of the Wandering Jew (Same as Comparative Literature 209 and Religion 209) (Not offered 2010-2011) (See under REL 209 for full description.) DEKEL
JWST 230(F)  Modern European Jewish History, 1789-1948 (Same as History 230)  (See under HIST 230 for full description.)  GARBARINI
JWST 280(F)  The Turn to Religion in Post-Modern Thought (Same as Philosophy 282 and Religion 303) (W)  (See under REL 303 for full description.)  HAMMERSCHLAG
JWST 338 The History of the Holocaust (Same as History 338) (Not offered 2010-2011)  (See under HIST 338 for full description.)  GARBARINI
JWST 352  Writing after the Disaster: The Literature of Exile (Same as Comparative Literature 352) (Not offered 2010-2011)  (See under COMP 352 for full description.)  S. FOX
JWST 463(F)  The Holocaust Visualized (Same as ARTH 463)  (See under ARTH 463 for full description.)  GRUDIN
JWST 490T(S)  Memory, History, and the Extermination of the Jews of Europe (Same as History 490) (W)  (See under HIST 490 for full description.)  GARBARINI
JWST 491T  Exile, Homecoming and the Promised Land (Same as Comparative Literature 309T and Religion 289T) (Not offered 2010-2011) (W) (D)  (See under REL 289 for full description.)  HAMMERSCHLAG