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, 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 352 Writing after the Disaster: The Literature of Exile
- HIST/JWST/REL 338 The History of the Holocaust
- HIST/JWST/REL 433 The Justice of Violence?: Histories of Terrorism in Europe
- HIST/JWST 490 Memory, History, and the Extermination of the Jews in Europe (W)
- REL/JWST/COMP 214 Moses: Stranger in a Strange Land
- REL/JWST/PHIL 204 Endtimes: Messianism in Modernity (W)
- REL/JWST/CLASS 205/207 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

Students may meet the elective requirement with a course partially related to Jewish Studies or another core course. In an elective 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 can check with the program chair to see if other courses not listed here might count as electives.

Electives

- GERM 301T German Studies, 1770–1830
- GERM 202 German Politics
- 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/JWST 217 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/JWST 410 Kings, Heroes, Gods, and Monsters: Historical Texts and Modern Identities in the Middle East
- HIST 480 Historical Narrative of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict
- REL 212/HIST 324 Development of Christianity 30–600 CE
- REL/JWST 210 Father Abraham; The First Patriarch
- REL/COMP/ENGL 271 Religion and the Modern Literary Imagination
- RLS 271/COMP 265 The Interaction of Three Religions and Cultures in Early Modern Spain

Capstone Course

- JWST/HIST 433 The Justice of Violence? Histories of Terrorism in 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 Kraemer), among others.

Overseas Studies

Studying in Israel is highly recommended for students interested in Jewish Studies. Many students have spent a semester or year at Hebrew University. With the approval of the Jewish Studies program chair, students may count a study-abroad program towards up to two core requirements.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JWST 207</td>
<td>From Adam to Noah: Literary Imagination and the Primeval History in Genesis (Same as Classics 207, Comparative Literature 250 and Religion 207) <em>(Not offered 2011-2012)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 209</td>
<td>The Legend of the Wandering Jew (Same as Comparative Literature 209 and Religion 209) <em>(Not offered 2011-2012)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 217(F)</td>
<td>The Modern Middle East (Same as History 207 and Religion 239) <em>(D)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 230</td>
<td>Modern European Jewish History, 1789-1948 (Same as History 230) <em>(Not offered 2011-2012)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 270(T)</td>
<td>Father Abraham: The First Patriarch (Same as Religion 270) <em>(W)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 280</td>
<td>The Turn to Religion in Post-Modern Thought (Same as Philosophy 282 and Religion 303) <em>(Not offered 2011-2012)</em> <em>(W)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 338(F)</td>
<td>The History of the Holocaust (Same as History 338 and Religion 296)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 352</td>
<td>Writing after the Disaster: The Literature of Exile (Same as Comparative Literature 352) <em>(Not offered 2011-2012)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 410(F)</td>
<td>Kings, Heroes, Gods, and Monsters: Historical Texts and Modern Identities in the Middle East (Same as Arabic 410, History 410 and Religion 405) <em>(D) (W)</em></td>
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<td>JWST 433(F)</td>
<td>The Justice of Violence? Histories of Terrorism in Europe (Same as History 433)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 463</td>
<td>The Holocaust Visualized (Same as ArtH 463) <em>(Not offered 2011-2012)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 490T</td>
<td>Memory, History, and the Extermination of the Jews of Europe (Same as History 490) <em>(Not offered 2011-2012)</em> <em>(W)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 491T</td>
<td>Exile, Homecoming and the Promised Land (Same as Comparative Literature 309T and Religion 289T) <em>(Not offered 2011-2012)</em> <em>(W) (D)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST 497(F), 498(S)</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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