JUDAIC STUDIES

At the undergraduate level, the Department of Judaic Studies offers the bachelor of arts with a major in Judaic Studies. The purview of the program extends from the ancient Near East to modern-day America, and showcases and interprets the artistic expression, history, languages, literatures, philosophy, politics, and religion of the Jews over time and place. A minor in the field is also offered.

At the graduate level, students may opt for the master of arts in the field of Jewish cultural arts or master of arts in the field of experiential education and Jewish cultural arts.

Visit the Department of Judaic Studies website (https://judaic.columbian.gwu.edu) for additional information.

UNDERGRADUATE

Bachelor’s program

• Bachelor of Arts with a major in Judaic studies (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/judaic-studies/ba)

Minor

• Minor in Judaic studies (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/judaic-studies/minor)

GRADUATE

Master’s program

• Master of Arts in Education and Human Development in the field of experiential education and Jewish cultural arts (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/education-human-development/masters-program/experiential-education-jewish-cultural-arts) (a collaboration between the Graduate School of Education and Human Development and the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences)

Certificate program

• Graduate certificate in Jewish cultural arts (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/judaic-studies/gc-jewish-cultural-arts)

FACULTY


COURSES

Explanation of Course Numbers

• Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses

• Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work

• Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students

• The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

A full list of courses for the Judaic Studies Program may be found on the Judaic Studies website (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/judaic-studies/%20http://go.gwu.edu/JSTD) and under the designations of CLAS, ENGL, HEBR, HONR, HIST and REL.

JSTD 2001. Topics in Judaic Studies: Pre-modern. 3 Credits.
Focus on the pre-1650 period. Topics vary by semester. See the Schedule of Classes for details.

JSTD 2002. Topics in Judaic Studies: Modern. 3 Credits.
Focus on the post-1650 period. Topics vary by semester. See the Schedule of Classes for details.

JSTD 2060. Modern Jewish History. 3 Credits.
Survey of Jewish history from the seventeenth century to the present, focusing on Europe, America, and the Middle East. The myriad political, economic, and intellectual challenges of modernity to Jewish life and how Jews responded to these challenges through various religious and secular movements and with new concepts of identity and community.

JSTD 2812. History of Zionism. 3 Credits.
Critical historical survey of the development of Jewish nationalist thought in general and Zionism in particular, from its genesis in the 1880s up until the establishment of the State of Israel in May 1948.

JSTD 4018. Senior Thesis. 1 Credit.
For Judaic studies majors. Students choose a topic in any major subfield of Judaic studies, select a faculty advisor who specializes in the subfield, conduct research, and produce an annotated bibliography and a proposal that previews the main arguments of the thesis.

JSTD 4019. Senior Thesis. 3 Credits.
Continuation of JSTD 4018. For Judaic studies majors. Completion of the thesis and oral presentation before Judaic studies students and faculty.

JSTD 6001. Topics in Judaic Studies. 3 Credits.

JSTD 6097. Independent Readings/Research. 1-3 Credits.
Written permission of the instructor required prior to enrollment. May be repeated for credit with permission.

JSTD 6154. Internship. 1-6 Credits.
Elective internship in areas related to Jewish cultural study.
JSTD 6201. Jewish Life in Contemporary America. 3 Credits.

JSTD 6211. Displaying Jewish Culture: Landmark Exhibitions on Judaism and the Jewish Experience. 3 Credits.

JSTD 6298. Capstone Seminar in Jewish Cultural Arts. 3 Credits.

The culminating experience for graduate students in the Jewish Cultural Arts program, the capstone synthesizes the skills and knowledge gained in the course of the degree program. Students conceptualize, develop, and execute a public cultural event of their own devising. Taken in the final spring semester of the student’s program.