
Jewish Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

OFFICE: Adams Humanities 4189
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Faculty

Jewish studies is administered by the Modern Jewish Studies Executive Board of San Diego State University and the program administrator of the Consortial Modern Jewish Major of the California State University system. Faculty assigned to teach courses in modern Jewish studies are drawn from the Departments of English and Comparative Literature; History; Linguistics and Oriental Languages; Religious Studies; and Sociology at San Diego State University and from the Departments of Cinema, Communication Studies, English, History, Humanities, Jewish Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Women's Studies, or World and Comparative Literature at California State University, Chico and San Francisco State University.

Chair and Undergraduate Adviser: Baron (History)

Consortial Major Administrator: Edelman (CSU, Chico)

Committee: Bar-Lev (Linguistics), Baron (History), Cayleff (Women's Studies), Chandler (Sociology), Cummins-Lewis (English), Grossbard-Shechtman (Economics), Kohn (Religious Studies), Koster (Information and Decision Systems), McIlwain (Public Administration), Moore (Religious Studies), Shapovalov (Russian), Strom (Teacher Education), Wood (Sociology)

Offered by Jewish Studies

Major in modern Jewish studies with the B.A. degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Minor in Jewish studies.

The Major

Modern Jewish studies is a multidisciplinary major which provides an understanding of Jewish civilizations as the result of the interactions of Jewish culture, history, politics, and religion with other civilizations in societies where Jews have been the dominant majority population (the first two Jewish commonwealths and the modern state of Israel) and in those of the Diaspora Jewish communities where Jews have been a minority group.

Students will be expected to obtain proficiency in Hebrew. They will develop an understanding of the major events in Jewish history starting with the Biblical Period through the centuries of Diaspora to the Holocaust and the creation of the modern state of Israel. Students will be exposed to main Jewish beliefs, ideas, and traditions which have arisen in these different historical contexts. They will also become familiar with Jewish visual and literary expressions of culture. It is hoped that the study of Jewish civilizations will foster an awareness of how the Jewish experience reflects the universal dynamic of how ethnic, religious, or racial minorities interact with majority societies (i.e., discrimination and persecution, acculturation, integration, syncretism, and resistance to assimilation).

Those completing the major will be prepared for careers or further graduate training in the foreign service, overseas business, education, social services, multi-media productions, visual and literary arts, advocacy organizations, museum work, and the ministry.

Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible. Students must receive major advising in the first semester they declare Modern Jewish Studies as their major and must do so no later than the first semester of their junior year.

“Nothing in life is to be feared.
It is only to be understood.”

—Madame Curie

Modern Jewish Studies Major

With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences

(Major Code: 15102)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

A minor is not required with this major.

Preparation for the Major. Humanities 130 and either Religious Studies 101 or 103. (6 units)

Foreign Language Requirement. Hebrew 101, 102, and 201.

Upper Division Writing Requirement. Passing the University Writing Examination or completing one of the approved writing courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

Major. A minimum of 36 upper division units. Fifteen upper division units for the modern Jewish studies major must be taken on the SDSU campus. The remaining courses can be taken via distance education from the CSU Jewish studies consortium or in Israel through the CSU International Programs.

Capstone Course (3 units). Majors enroll in Jewish Studies 496 to participate in a capstone experience which will consist of a week long conference of Jewish studies faculty and majors from universities participating in the consortium for panel discussions, lectures, and seminar meetings.

Culture and Society Area (9 units)

San Diego State University

Comparative Literature 405/English 405. The Bible as Literature (3)
History 436. Modern Jewish History in Feature Films (3)
Russian 435. Russian and Central European Jewish Literature (3)

San Francisco State University

Jewish Studies 340. American Jewish Family and Identity (3)
Jewish Studies/International Relations/Political Science 430.
Israeli Democracy, Politics, and Society (3)
Jewish Studies 437/English 533/World and Comparative Literature 437. Holocaust and Literature (3)

CSU, Chico

- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/Communication Studies 219. Israeli Public Address (3)
- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/Communication Studies/Sociology 156. Genocide and Mass Persuasion (3)
- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/Sociology 153. The Holocaust: Background, Tragedy, and Aftermath (3)

History Area (9 units)

San Diego State University

- History 440. The Holocaust and Western Civilization (3)
- History 488. Modern Jewish History (3)
- History 574. Arab-Israeli Relations, Past and Present (3)

San Francisco State University

- Jewish Studies/History 317. The Holocaust and Genocide (3)
- Jewish Studies 320/History 635. The Jewish Historical Experience (3)
- Jewish Studies 633. Modern Jewish History (3)

CSU, Chico

- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/History 266. The Arab-Israeli Conflict (3)
- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/Political Science 218. Government and Politics of Israel (3)
- Political Science 246A. International Relations: Middle East (3)

Religion and Thought Area (9 units)

San Diego State University

- Religious Studies 301. Hebrew Bible (3)
- Religious Studies 320. Judaism (3)
- Religious Studies 373. Women and the Bible (3)

San Francisco State University

- Jewish Studies 310. Jewish Thought and Culture (3)
- Jewish Studies 410/Philosophy 514. Spirituality and Jewish Tradition (3)
- Jewish Studies 550. Good and Evil: Jewish Ethics and Contemporary Social Problems (3)

CSU, Chico

- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/Philosophy 135. Philosophy of Judaism (3)
- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/Religious Studies 122. Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) (3)
- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/Religious Studies 128. Judaism in America (3)

Electives (6 units)

Students may take these units on any campus. A maximum of six units outside of Jewish Studies may be counted toward the major, and a major adviser must approve these units. Students may not double count courses taken for the required and core areas for elective use and vice versa. Internet/distance education based courses are available to students for courses at San Francisco State University and CSU, Chico.

San Diego State University

- Jewish Studies 495. Jewish Studies Internship (3) Cr/NC
- Jewish Studies 496. Topics in Jewish Studies (1-3) (May be repeated with new content)

- Hebrew 330. Hebrew Discourse and Literature (3)
- Hebrew 496. Topics in Hebraic Studies (1-4) (May be repeated with new content) (Maximum credit eight units)
- Hebrew 499. Special Study (1-3) (Maximum credit six units)

San Francisco State University

- Jewish Studies/Journalism 311. Facing Each Other: Blacks and Jews in the Popular Media (3)
- Jewish Studies/Philosophy 412. Derrida and Jewish Tradition (3)
- Jewish Studies/Philosophy 415. The Hebrew Bible (3)
- Jewish Studies 416. Special Topics in Jewish Studies (3)
- Jewish Studies 445. Jews, Diaspora, and Identity (3)
- Jewish Studies/English 451. American Jewish Literature (3)
- Jewish Studies/Humanities/Philosophy 501. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (3)
- Jewish Studies/Creative Writing 509. Jewish Writers in the American Poetry Archives (3)
- Jewish Studies 516/World and Comparative Literature 416/Classics 416/English 532/Philosophy 551. Bible and Ethics: The Moral of the Story (3)
- Jewish Studies/English/Women's Studies 546. Twentieth Century American Jewish Women Writers (3)
- Jewish Studies 600. Internship (3)
- Cinema 406. Jewish Identity in Film (3)
- World and Comparative Literature 445. Jewish Literature in Translation (3)

CSU, Chico

- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies/Communication Studies/Sociology 256. Teaching and Communicating the Holocaust and Genocide (3)
- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies 289. Internship (1-3) (Must be taken for 3 units)
- Modern Jewish and Israel Studies 298C. Special Topics in Modern Jewish and Israel Studies (1-3)

Jewish Studies Minor

Dr. Lawrence Baron, Department of History, is adviser for this minor.

The Jewish studies minor provides a balanced interdisciplinary study of Jewish contributions to world culture and history. It serves the needs of students who plan to (1) specialize in disciplines in which an understanding of Jewish contributions is essential, or (2) follow careers in teaching, community service, foreign service, or the ministry. Students seeking a minor in Jewish studies may want to consider combining it with a major in Social Science with an emphasis on Africa and the Middle East. Many courses relevant to this major are available in anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, and sociology.

The minor consists of a minimum of 19-20 units to include seven to eight units selected from Humanities 130 and Hebrew 101, 102, 200, or 201; and 12 upper division units selected from Jewish Studies 495, 496; Comparative Literature 405; Hebrew 496; History 436, 440, 488, 574; Religious Studies 301, 320; and other relevant courses may be counted as part of the 12 upper division units taken with the approval of the adviser for Jewish Studies.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

Courses (JS)

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

100. New Perspectives in Jewish Studies (1) Cr/NC I, II

New interpretations of Jewish history, culture, and social issues. Presentations from perspective of various disciplines. Contemporary issues.

296. Topics in Jewish Studies (1-3)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Intended for Undergraduates)**

495. Jewish Studies Internship (3) Cr/NC

Six hours per week at agency and one hour every other week with SDSU supervising faculty member.

Prerequisite: Upper division status and consent of supervising instructor.

Internship with local Jewish service agencies and non-profit organizations. Work to be done under direction of activity supervisor and SDSU instructor. Written project report and internship conferences required every other week with SDSU faculty adviser. Maximum credit six units.

496. Topics in Jewish Studies (1-3)

Prerequisite: Upper division status.

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

Latin

Refer to "Classics" in this section of the catalog.

