JEWISH STUDIES (JWST)

JWST 56. First-Year Seminar: Germans, Jews, and the History of Anti-Semitism. 3 Credits.
This course seeks to explore the historically difficult position of minorities in the modern world, using the situation of Jews in Germany from the 18th century to the Holocaust as a case study. Previously offered as GERM 56.
Gen Ed: HS, CI, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GERM 56.

JWST 60. First-Year Seminar: Israeli Culture and Society: Collective Memories and Fragmented Identities. 3 Credits.
The course explores selected themes and case studies pertinent to culture and society in modern Israel, with emphasis on debates about "Israeliness" in various cultural and social arenas.
Gen Ed: BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 60.

JWST 100. Introduction to Jewish Studies. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the broad scope of Jewish history, culture, and identity, from biblical times to the 21st century and from the Middle East to the New World.
Gen Ed: HS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 123.

JWST 101. Elementary Modern Hebrew I. 3 Credits.
Introduces the essential elements of modern Hebrew structure and vocabulary and aspects of modern Israeli culture. Aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing are stressed.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 121.

JWST 102. Elementary Modern Hebrew II. 3 Credits.
Continued instruction in the essential elements of modern Hebrew structure and vocabulary and aspects of modern Israeli culture. Aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing are stressed.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 101.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 102.

JWST 103. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the various books of the Hebrew Bible and to the history and culture of ancient Israel, focusing on the formation of national identity, ancient conceptualizations of divinity, ritual practice, and modes of social regulation, all of which are set against the background of the ancient Near East. Honors version available
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 103.

JWST 103H. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the various books of the Hebrew Bible and to the history and culture of ancient Israel, focusing on the formation of national identity, ancient conceptualizations of divinity, ritual practice, and modes of social regulation, all of which are set against the background of the ancient Near East.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 103H.

JWST 106. Introduction to Early Judaism. 3 Credits.
This course surveys Jewish history and religion during the Second Temple and Rabbinic periods, from the destruction of the First Jewish Temple (Solomon’s Temple) in 586 BCE to the Muslim conquest of Palestine (640 CE).
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 106.

JWST 107. Introduction to Modern Judaism. 3 Credits.
The course offers a comprehensive understanding of the development of Judaism from the late Middle Ages to contemporary times.
Gen Ed: HS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 107.

JWST 110. The Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period. 3 Credits.
This course surveys the archaeology of Palestine (modern Israel and Jordan) from the Persian period (ca. 586 BCE) to the Muslim conquest (640 CE).
Gen Ed: HS, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 110, CLAR 110.

JWST 143. Judaism in Our Time. 3 Credits.
An examination of Judaism in its two major centers, demonstrating how different social and cultural environments shape very different interpretations and practices of the Jewish tradition.
Gen Ed: SS, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 143.

JWST 153. From the Bible to Broadway: Jewish History to Modern Times. 3 Credits.
This class surveys the history of the Jews from ancient to modern times. It focuses on the development of Jewish religion, culture identity, and politics in Jewish communities in the Western, Atlantic and Middle Eastern Worlds. It also explores the development of antisemitism and anti-Jewish violence.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 153.

JWST 203. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I. 3 Credits.
Second-year instruction in the essential elements of modern Hebrew structure and vocabulary and aspects of modern Israeli culture. Aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing are stressed. An introduction to representative literary works is included.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 102.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 203.
JWST 204. Intermediate Modern Hebrew II. 3 Credits.
Continued instruction in the essential elements of modern Hebrew structure and vocabulary and aspects of modern Israeli culture. Aural comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing are stressed. An introduction to representative literary works is included.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 203.
Gen Ed: FL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 204.

JWST 206. Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah. 3 Credits.
An examination of prophecy and divination in the Israelite-Jewish traditions and in their environments, including an analysis of the major biblical prophets. Honors version available
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 206.

JWST 206H. Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah. 3 Credits.
An examination of prophecy and divination in the Israelite-Jewish traditions and in their environments, including an analysis of the major biblical prophets.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 206H.

JWST 211. Classical Hebrew I: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the culture and history of ancient Israel through an exploration of the language of the Hebrew Bible. Students will learn the essentials for basic engagement with biblical Hebrew, then consider what this linguistic evidence reveals about the historical and cultural background of the Hebrew Bible.
Gen Ed: BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 211.

JWST 212. Classical Hebrew II: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 3 Credits.
This course explores the linguistic background of the Hebrew Bible, giving special attention to the literary aspect of biblical interpretation. Specific topics include the forms of the Hebrew verb, prose and poetic genres in the Hebrew Bible, wordplay and repetition, narration and dialogue.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 211.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 212.

JWST 224. Modern Jewish Thought. 3 Credits.
This course examines how contemporary thinkers have considered philosophy, ethics, and theology from a Jewish perspective. Methodological points of inquiry include: the role of interpretation in Judaism, revelation and redemption, authority and tradition, pluralism and inclusion, suffering and evil, gender and Jewish philosophy, and 20th-century approaches to God.
Gen Ed: PH, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 224.

JWST 225. Popular and Pious: Early Modern Jewish Literature. 3 Credits.
This seminar covers popular and pious literature written by and for Jews in the 15th to 18th century in German-speaking countries. Originally written in Old Yiddish, this literature preserved the popular European genres and nonfiction accounts of Jewish community and family life. Previously offered as GERM 225.
Gen Ed: LA, NA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GSLL 225.

JWST 235. Israeli Cinema: Gender, Nation, and Ethnicity. 3 Credits.
The course explores major periods and trends in Israeli cinema. Focus is given to issues pertaining to gender, ethnicity, and the construction of national identity. Honors version available
Gen Ed: VP, BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 235, PWAD 235.

JWST 235H. Israeli Cinema: Gender, Nation, and Ethnicity. 3 Credits.
The course explores major periods and trends in Israeli cinema. Focus is given to issues pertaining to gender, ethnicity, and the construction of national identity.
Gen Ed: VP, BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 235H, PWAD 235H.

JWST 239. German Culture and the Jewish Question. 3 Credits.
A study of the role of Jews and the "Jewish question" in German culture from 1750 to the Holocaust and beyond. Discussions and texts (literary, political, theological) in English. Previously offered as GERM 270.
Gen Ed: HS, GL, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GSLL 270, CMPL 270, RELI 239.

JWST 243. Introduction to American Judaism. 3 Credits.
Course provides a comprehensive introduction to American Judaism, its various movements, institutions, theological, and liturgical characteristics, as well as its standing within the larger framework of religious life in America.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 243.

JWST 253. A Social History of Jewish Women in America. 3 Credits.
Course examines the history and culture of Jewish women in America from their arrival in New Amsterdam in 1654 to the present and explores how gender shaped this journey.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: AMST 253, WGST 253.

JWST 262. History of the Holocaust: The Destruction of the European Jews. 3 Credits.
Anti-Semitism; the Jews of Europe; the Hitler dictatorship; evolution of Nazi Jewish policy from persecution to the Final Solution; Jewish response; collaborators, bystanders, and rescuers; aftermath.
Gen Ed: HS, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 262, PWAD 262.
JWST 268. Cultural Trends in Post-Communist Central Europe: Search for Identity, Importance of Jewish Voices. 3 Credits.
We will study how contemporary literary and cinematic works of Central European intellectuals serve as reflections on the everyday life of this region. Readings and class discussions in English. Films with English subtitles.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GSLL 268.

JWST 269. Springtime for Hitler: Jews on Stage from Shakespeare to Mel Brooks. 3 Credits.
This course examines the roles and representations of Jews in the world of the theater from Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice to the present, considering dramas, operas, musicals, film adaptations, and films. Readings and discussions in English.
Gen Ed: VP, CI, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: GSLL 269, CMPL 269.

JWST 289. Jewish American Literature and Culture of the 20th Century. 3 Credits.
Through readings in a wide range of genres, this course will examine major factors and influences shaping Jewish American literature and culture in the 20th century.
Gen Ed: LA, NA.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ENGL 289.

JWST 305. Advanced Composition and Conversation: Immigration, Ethnicities, and Religious Traditions. 3 Credits.
Third year of instruction in modern Hebrew with an emphasis on Israeli culture, literature, and media. Students will immerse themselves in language communication while exploring authentic materials that showcase the experience of immigration to Israel.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 204.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 305.

JWST 306. Advanced Composition and Conversation: Zionism and the Hebrew Language. 3 Credits.
Third year of instruction in modern Hebrew with an emphasis on Israeli culture, literature, and media. Students will engage in language communication while exploring authentic materials that showcase the history of Zionism, the Hebrew language, and immigration.
Requisites: Prerequisite, HEBR 204.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HEBR 306.

JWST 308. The Renaissance and the Jews. 3 Credits.
The Renaissance (1300-1600) is known as a time of great artistic, scientific, and political renewal. But did Jews, the only religious minority in Europe, get an opportunity to benefit from and participate in that progress? This class studies the history of the Jews at a time of great cultural change.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 308.

JWST 330. Jesus and the Jews: From the Bible to the Big Screen. 3 Credits.
This class will study the history of the claim that the Jews are responsible for Christ’s death. Students will examine the power of this idea to travel through time and space and discuss how it is portrayed differently and with different purposes throughout history. Honors version available
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 330H.

JWST 330H. Jesus and the Jews: From the Bible to the Big Screen. 3 Credits.
This class will study the history of the claim that the Jews are responsible for Christ’s death. Students will examine the power of this idea to travel through time and space and discuss how it is portrayed differently and with different purposes throughout history.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 330.

JWST 343. Religion in Modern Israel. 3 Credits.
The relation between religious communities, their hopes and their agendas to the culture, politics, and law of the country has been a central feature of the Israeli state from its inception. Religious faiths, agendas, and affiliations have affected the character of the country, as well as its relationships with groups and governments around the globe.
Gen Ed: SS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 343.

JWST 357. The Arab-Jews: Culture, Community, and Coexistence. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to examine Jewish life in Arab lands in the last century by examining culture, language, and the communal life that the Arab-Jews shared with their neighbors.
Gen Ed: BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 357, PWAD 362.

JWST 358. Religion and Tradition in Israeli Cinema, TV, and Literature. 3 Credits.
This research-intensive course focuses on the ways religion and religious practices are represented in Israeli literature and media. The greater part of the semester will explore the variety of religious traditions in Israel within the framework of Zionist thought, gender and sexuality issues, and ethnic differences.
Gen Ed: LA, BN, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ASIA 358.

JWST 360. The Jewish Writer in American Life. 3 Credits.
This course will investigate, through literature, film, and song, the encounter of Eastern European Jews and their descendants with Anglo-Protestant America over four generations.
Gen Ed: LA, NA, US.
Grading status: Letter grade.
JWST 380. Traditions in Transition: Jewish Folklore and Ethnography. 3 Credits.
This seminar examines Jewish stories, humor, ritual, custom, belief, architecture, dress, and food as forms of creative expression that have complex relationships to Jewish experience, representation, identity, memory, and tradition. What makes these forms of folklore Jewish, how do source communities interpret them, and how do ethnographers document them? Previously offered as FOLK/JWST 505.  
Gen Ed: VP, EE- Field Work, US.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: FOLK 380.

JWST 390. Special Topics in Jewish Studies. 1 Credit.  
Subject matter will vary with instructor but will always be focused on a particular problem or issue. Course description is available from the departmental office.  
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 4 total credits. 4 total completions.  
Grading status: Letter grade.

JWST 412. From Communism to Capitalism: 20th- and 21st-Century Polish Literature and Culture. 3 Credits.  
An overview of the literary and cultural movements in 20th and 21st century Poland as they relate to major historical changes of the century (World War I and World War II, Communism, Post-communism, accession to the European Union). All readings and discussions in English; readings available in Polish for qualified students.  
Gen Ed: LA, BN.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: PLSH 412.

JWST 420. Post-Holocaust Ethics and Theology. 3 Credits.  
This course examines the challenges posed to ethics and theology by the Holocaust. We will address philosophical and moral issues such as the problem of evil, divine omniscience, omnipotence, suffering, theodicy, representation, testimony, and an ethics of memory. Honors version available  
Gen Ed: PH, GL.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: RELI 420.

JWST 420H. Post-Holocaust Ethics and Theology. 3 Credits.  
This course examines the challenges posed to ethics and theology by the Holocaust. We will address philosophical and moral issues such as the problem of evil, divine omniscience, omnipotence, suffering, theodicy, representation, testimony, and an ethics of memory.  
Gen Ed: PH, GL.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: RELI 420H.

JWST 425. Beyond Hostilities: Israeli-Palestinian Exchanges and Partnerships in Film, Literature, and Music. 3 Credits.  
Focuses on the various collaborations, exchanges, and mutual enrichment between Israelis and Palestinians in the realm of culture, particularly literature and cinema. These connections include language (Israeli Jewish authors writing in Arabic and Palestinian writers who choose Hebrew as their language of expression), collaborating in filmmaking, and joint educational initiatives.  
Gen Ed: BN, GL.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: ASIA 425, PWAD 425.

JWST 436. Language, Exile, and Homeland in Zionist Thought and Practice. 3 Credits.  
Employing Zionist and post- and anti-Zionist documents, treatises, and mostly literary and cinematic texts, this class will focus on the relations between language, Jewish-Israeli identity, and the notion of homeland. Previously offered as HEBR 436.  
Gen Ed: BN, GL.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: ASIA 436.

JWST 444. Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism. 3 Credits.  
The seminar examines the developments in gender roles and in sexuality in contemporary Judaism.  
Gen Ed: CI, NA.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: ASIA 446.

JWST 465. Literature of Atrocity: The Gulag and the Holocaust in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. 3 Credits.  
Explores the fictional representation of Jewish life in Russia and Poland by Russian, Polish, and Jewish authors from the 19th century to the present. Taught in English; some foreign language readings for qualified students.  
Gen Ed: LA, BN.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: SLAV 465.

JWST 466. Language Remains: German-Jewish Dialogues and Beyond. 3 Credits.  
This course explores German-Jewish writing before and after the Holocaust, focusing on the social and political position of Jews in German-speaking countries and how those are manifest in their relation to the German language.  
Gen Ed: LA, NA.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: GERM 466.

JWST 469. Coming to America: The Slavic Immigrant Experience in Literature. 3 Credits.  
Fictional and autobiographical expressions of the Slavic and East European immigrant experience in the 20th century. Readings include Russian, Polish, Jewish, and Czech authors from early 1900s to present. Taught in English; some foreign language readings for qualified students.  
Gen Ed: LA, GL.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: SLAV 469.

JWST 476. Religion and Ethnicity. 3 Credits.  
The history of modern Eastern, East Central, and southeastern Europe has been shaped by the ethnic and religious diversity of the regions. This course examines experiences in the Russian, Habsburg, and Ottoman Empires and their successor states from the 19th century to the present day.  
Gen Ed: HS, BN.  
Grading status: Letter grade  
Same as: HIST 476.
JWST 480. Russian-Soviet Jewish Culture: Lofty Dreams and Stark Realities. 3 Credits.
This course delves into the scintillating literary, visual, musical, and cinematic culture created by Jewish universalists seeking to build their new secular identity under the aegis of the Soviet Communist experiment in the aftermath of the 1917 Bolshevik coup. Surveys the works of Isaac Babel, Eduard Bagritsky, Marc Chagall, Sergey Eisenstein, Ilya Ehrenburg, Masha Gessen, Vasily Grossman, Osip Mandelshtam, and others. Taught in English; some readings in Russian for qualified students; films with English subtitles. Honors version available
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RUSS 480.

JWST 480H. Russian-Soviet Jewish Culture: Lofty Dreams and Stark Realities. 3 Credits.
This course delves into the scintillating literary, visual, musical, and cinematic culture created by Jewish universalists seeking to build their new secular identity under the aegis of the Soviet Communist experiment in the aftermath of the 1917 Bolshevik coup. Surveys the works of Isaac Babel, Eduard Bagritsky, Marc Chagall, Sergey Eisenstein, Ilya Ehrenburg, Masha Gessen, Vasily Grossman, Osip Mandelshtam, and others. Taught in English; some readings in Russian for qualified students; films with English subtitles.
Gen Ed: LA, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RUSS 480H.

JWST 481. Jewish Belongings: Material Culture of the Jewish Experience. 3 Credits.
What makes an object "Jewish"? This seminar examines how we think about, animate, repurpose, and display "Jewish" objects in the public realm, cultural institutions, religious spaces, and the home. We consider how makers and users negotiate objects' various meanings within the domains of prayer, performance, entertainment, and exhibition. The class curates a final group exhibition of Jewish material culture based on original fieldwork.
Gen Ed: VP, EE- Field Work, US.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: FOLK 481.

JWST 485. From Fiddler on the Roof to the Holocaust: East European and Soviet Jewish History. 3 Credits.
Eastern Europe was one of the largest centers of Jewish civilization from premodern times to the Second World War, giving rise to important religious, cultural, and political developments in Jewish modernity. This course examines main developments of Jewish society from the late 18th century until the aftermath of the Holocaust.
Gen Ed: HS, BN.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HIST 485.

JWST 486. Shalom Y'all: The Jewish Experience in the American South. 3 Credits.
This course explores ethnicity in the South and focuses on the history and culture of Jewish Southerners from their arrival in the Carolinas in the 17th century to the present day.
Gen Ed: HS, CI, US.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: AMST 486.

JWST 480. Russian-Soviet Jewish Culture: Lofty Dreams and Stark Realities. 3 Credits.
A comprehensive introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the different Jewish groups connected with them. Honors version available
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 503.

JWST 503H. Exploring the Dead Sea Scrolls. 3 Credits.
A comprehensive introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the different Jewish groups connected with them.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 503H.

JWST 512. Ancient Synagogues. 3 Credits.
This is a course on ancient synagogues in Palestine and the Diaspora from the Second Temple period to the seventh century CE.
Requisites: Prerequisite, RELI 110; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: VP, BN, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 512, CLAR 512.

JWST 533. Women, Gender, and Judaism. 3 Credits.
This course examines historical developments in the study of women and gender in Judaism. We will discuss efforts to challenge and revitalize Jewish tradition through the lens of gender theory and other critical interpretive approaches. Topics to be addressed include biblical interpretation, Jewish law, feminist Jewish theology and liturgy, the renewal of ritual, the rabbinic ordination of women, gender identity, race, sexuality, queer, trans, and non-binary approaches, and representations of these themes in various media.
Gen Ed: HS, Cl.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 533.

JWST 602. What Is Scripture? Formations of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Canon. 3 Credits.
The course traces the past and continued canonical processes that define what the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament has been and is today, with a focus on the history of biblical interpretation.
Gen Ed: LA, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: RELI 602.

JWST 697. Capstone Course: Themes and Methodologies in Jewish Studies. 3 Credits.
Required of majors in religious studies with a concentration in Jewish studies; graduate students may enroll. Concentrating on a different theme each year, the course offers intensive grounding in key areas of and approaches to Jewish studies. Combines exploration of broad topics with scholarly rigor and specificity.
Gen Ed: CI.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.