

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR, B.A. – JEWISH STUDIES CONCENTRATION

The Department of Religious Studies is dedicated to the study of religions as historical and cultural phenomena. It examines the history, texts, artifacts, beliefs, values, and rituals of a variety of religious traditions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Inherently interdisciplinary in its approach, religious studies explores religions in light of related fields in the humanities and social sciences such as anthropology, classics, archaeology, sociology, philosophy, and history.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the religious studies program, students should be able to:


- Demonstrate knowledge of at least three religious traditions
- Demonstrate knowledge of influential terms, approaches, and theories in religious studies
- Conduct research in religious studies, including interpreting primary sources, assessing scholarly literature, and constructing original arguments
- Clearly and effectively communicate the results of research

## Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must

- earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/>).


Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
JWST 100/ RELI 123	 Introduction to Jewish Studies	3
JWST 697	Capstone Course: Themes and Methodologies in Jewish Studies	3
One course on the ancient period (see list below) <sup>1</sup>		3
One course on the medieval or early modern period (see list below) <sup>1</sup>		3
One course on the period from 1750 to the present (see list below) <sup>1</sup>		3
At least three courses taught outside the Department of Religious Studies (courses are identified by a footnote in the three lists below) <sup>1</sup>		9
<b>Additional Requirements</b>		
Students must take two courses at or above the 400 level <sup>2</sup>		
Two courses on the Hebrew language from:		6
HEBR 101, HEBR 102, HEBR 203, and HEBR 204		

RELI 211 and RELI 212	
RELI 401, RELI 402, RELI 403, and RELI 404	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Courses listed more than once can be counted for only one category.  
<sup>2</sup> Exclusive of the capstone seminar (JWST 697).




Although this concentration of the religious studies major is housed in the Department of Religious Studies, the director of Jewish studies is responsible for advising all students who elect the concentration in Jewish studies.


## Ancient Period

Code	Title	Hours
CLAR/JWST/ RELI 110	 The Archaeology of Palestine in the New Testament Period	3
CLAR/JWST/ RELI 512	 Ancient Synagogues	3
JWST/RELI 103	 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Literature <sup>H</sup>	3
JWST/RELI 106	 Introduction to Early Judaism	3
JWST/RELI 206	Prophecy and Divination in Ancient Israel and Judah <sup>H</sup>	3
JWST/RELI 211	 Classical Hebrew I: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible	3
JWST/RELI 212	 Classical Hebrew II: A Linguistic Introduction to the Hebrew Bible	3
JWST/RELI 503	 Exploring the Dead Sea Scrolls <sup>H</sup>	3
JWST/RELI 602	 What Is Scripture? Formations of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Canon	3
RELI 78	 First-Year Seminar: Reading the Bible: Now and Then	3
RELI 109	 History and Culture of Ancient Israel <sup>H</sup>	3
RELI 201	 Ancient Biblical Interpretation <sup>H</sup>	3
RELI 608	The Messiah and the Apocalypse	3

<sup>H</sup> Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

## Medieval or Early Modern Period













Code	Title	Hours
GSLJ/JWST 225	 Popular and Pious: Early Modern Jewish Literature <sup>1</sup>	3
HIST/JWST 153	 From the Bible to Broadway: Jewish History to Modern Times <sup>1</sup>	3
HIST/JWST 308	The Renaissance and the Jews <sup>1</sup>	3
HIST/JWST 330	Jesus and the Jews: From the Bible to the Big Screen <sup>1, H</sup>	3
RELI 108	 Classic Jewish Texts: From Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls to Kabbalah and Hassidism	3
RELI 565	Medieval Jews and the Bible	3



RELI 566	Islamic and Jewish Legal Literature	3
RELI/WGST 450	 Sexuality in Jewish Tradition and History	3

H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

<sup>1</sup> Courses taught outside the Department of Religious Studies.

## Period from 1750 to the Present

Code	Title	Hours
AMST/JWST 486	Shalom Y'all: The Jewish Experience in the American South <sup>1</sup>	3
AMST/JWST/ WGST 253	A Social History of Jewish Women in America <sup>1</sup>	3
ASIA/HIST/ PWAD 277	 The Conflict over Israel/Palestine <sup>1</sup>	3
ASIA/JWST 60	 First-Year Seminar: Israeli Culture and Society: Collective Memories and Fragmented Identities <sup>1</sup>	3
ASIA/JWST 436	 Language, Exile, and Homeland in Zionist Thought and Practice	3
ASIA/JWST 357/ PWAD 362	 The Arab-Jews: Culture, Community, and Coexistence <sup>1</sup>	3
ASIA/JWST/ PWAD 235	 Israeli Cinema: Gender, Nation, and Ethnicity <sup>1, H</sup>	3
ASIA/JWST/ PWAD 425	 Beyond Hostilities: Israeli-Palestinian Exchanges and Partnerships in Film, Literature, and Music <sup>1</sup>	3
CMPL/GSLL 270/ JWST 239/RELI 239	German Culture and the Jewish Question <sup>1</sup>	3
ENGL/JWST 289	Jewish American Literature and Culture of the 20th Century <sup>1</sup>	3
FOLK/JWST 380	 Traditions in Transition: Jewish Folklore and Ethnography	3
FOLK/JWST 481	 Jewish Belonging/s: The Material Culture of Jewish Experience <sup>1</sup>	3
HEBR/JWST 305	 Advanced Composition and Conversation: Immigration, Ethnicities, and Religious Traditions <sup>1</sup>	3
HEBR/JWST 306	 Advanced Composition and Conversation: Zionism and the Hebrew Language <sup>1</sup>	3
HIST/JWST 485	From Fiddler on the Roof to the Holocaust: East European and Soviet Jewish History <sup>1</sup>	3
HIST/JWST/ PWAD 262	 History of the Holocaust: The Destruction of the European Jews <sup>1</sup>	3
JWST/PLSH 412	From Communism to Capitalism: 20th- and 21st-Century Polish Literature and Culture <sup>1</sup>	3
JWST/GSLL/ PWAD 465	Literature of Atrocity: The Gulag and the Holocaust in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe <sup>1</sup>	3
JWST/RELI 107	Introduction to Modern Judaism	3
JWST/RELI 143	Judaism in Our Time	3
JWST/RELI 224	 Modern Jewish Thought <sup>H</sup>	3
JWST/RELI 243	Introduction to American Judaism	3

JWST/RELI 343	 Religion in Modern Israel	3
JWST/RELI 444	Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism	3
JWST/SLAV 464	Imagined Jews: Jewish Themes in Polish and Russian Literature <sup>1</sup>	3
JWST/SLAV 469	Coming to America: The Slavic Immigrant Experience in Literature <sup>1</sup>	3
RELI 446	Christian-Jewish Relations throughout the Ages	3
RELI 501	 The History of the Bible in Modern Study	3
SPAN 252	Argentine Jewish Culture <sup>1</sup>	3
SPAN 253	Argentine Jewish Film <sup>1</sup>	3

H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

<sup>1</sup> Courses taught outside the Department of Religious Studies.

## Special Opportunities in Religious Studies

### Honors in Religious Studies

Students majoring in religious studies (including double majors) with a grade point average of 3.5 or above in department courses and 3.3 grade point average overall and who will have successfully completed at least one course numbered 400 or above on a topic in religious studies that is related to the proposed thesis may choose to write an honors thesis. Candidates for graduation with honors in religious studies are to be enrolled in RELI 691H in the fall and RELI 692H in the spring semester of their senior year. RELI 691H and RELI 692H count toward the major as courses fulfilling subfield requirements. Students should submit applications for the honors program to the department's director of undergraduate studies by the end of February during their junior year. Consult the department's director of undergraduate studies for details.

### Study Abroad

Professor Jodi Magness directs archaeological excavations in Israel during the summer. Students are welcome to participate. Other courses through the Study Abroad Office can count towards the major and minor in religious studies as well.

### Undergraduate Awards and Honors

The department presents three awards at the end of each academic year: the Bernard Boyd Fellowship, the Bernard Boyd Memorial Prize, and the Halperin-Schütz Undergraduate Essay Award.

The department also inducts qualified majors into the Religious Studies National Honor Society, Theta Alpha Kappa.

## Department Programs

### Majors

- Religious Studies Major, B.A. (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-major-ba/>)
- Religious Studies Major, B.A. – Jewish Studies Concentration (p. 1)

### Minors

- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/islamic-middle-eastern-studies-minor/>)

- Jewish Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/jewish-studies-minor/>)
- Religious Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-minor/>)
- Study of Christianity and Culture Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/study-christianity-culture-minor/>)

**Graduate Programs**

- M.A. in Religious Studies (<http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/religious-studies/>)
- Ph.D. in Religious Studies (<http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/religious-studies/>)

## Contact Information

**Department of Religious Studies**

Visit Program Website (<http://religion.unc.edu>)

125 Carolina Hall, CB# 3225

(919) 962-5666

**Director for Jewish Studies**

Patricia Rosenmeyer

[dir\\_jewishstudies@unc.edu](mailto:dir_jewishstudies@unc.edu)

**Chair**

Barbara Ambros

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**

Brandon Bayne

[bayne@unc.edu](mailto:bayne@unc.edu)

**Student Services Manager, Registrar**

Myra Quick

[quick@unc.edu](mailto:quick@unc.edu)