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

The undergraduate major in religious studies — Jewish studies concentration is an interdisciplinary curriculum that explores the history, literature, culture, and religious life of Jews in their interaction with other peoples from ancient times to the present. It also offers students an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about selected areas of the Jewish experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the religious studies major — Jewish studies concentration, students should be able to:

• Demonstrate knowledge of Hebrew and of the history, literature, culture, and religious life of Jews across at least three historical periods
• Demonstrate knowledge of influential terms, approaches, and theories in Jewish studies
• Conduct research in Jewish 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 (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/).

**Code** | **Title** | **Hours**
--- | --- | ---
**Core Requirements**
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) | 3
One course on the medieval or early modern period (see list below) | 3
One course on the period from 1750 to the present (see list below) | 3
At least three courses taught outside the Department of Religious Studies (courses are identified by a footnote in the three lists below) | 9

**Additional Requirements**

Students must take two courses at or above the 400 level

Two courses on the Hebrew language from:

Hebrew 101, Hebrew 102, Hebrew 203, and Hebrew 204

Religious Studies Major, B.A.–Jewish Studies Concentration

Total Hours: 30

1 Courses listed more than once can be counted for only one category.  
2 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**

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GSSL/JWST 225</td>
<td>Popular and Pious: Early Modern Jewish Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST/JWST 153</td>
<td>From the Bible to Broadway: Jewish History to Modern Times</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST/JWST 308</td>
<td>The Renaissance and the Jews</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST/JWST 330</td>
<td>Jesus and the Jews: From the Bible to the Big Screen</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 108</td>
<td>Classic Jewish Texts: From Bible and Dead Sea Scrolls to Kabbalah and Hasidism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 565</td>
<td>Medieval Jews and the Bible</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Courses taught outside the Department of Religious Studies.

Period from 1750 to the Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JWST/RELI 344</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Judaism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JWST/SLAV 464</td>
<td>Imagined Jews: Jewish Themes in Polish and Russian Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JWST/SLAV 469</td>
<td>Coming to America: The Slavic Immigrant Experience in Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 446</td>
<td>Christian-Jewish Relations throughout the Ages</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 501</td>
<td>The History of the Bible in Modern Study</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN 252</td>
<td>Argentine Jewish Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN 253</td>
<td>Argentine Jewish Film</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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. – Jewish Studies Concentration (p. 1)

Minors

- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Minor (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/islamic-middle-eastern-studies-minor/)
• Jewish Studies Minor (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/jewish-studies-minor/)
• Religious Studies Minor (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/religious-studies-minor/)
• Study of Christianity and Culture Minor (https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/study-christianity-culture-minor/)

Graduate Programs

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

Contact Information

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