Jewish Studies

Minor

The Jewish Studies minor is open to all UC Berkeley students and is designed to give students an overview of some of the major themes in Jewish Studies. Students may choose offerings from a large number of disciplines including arts and humanities, social sciences, and law. After completing an introductory survey course, participants in the minor may take classes, seminars, and language courses (Hebrew in the Near Eastern Studies Department, and Yiddish in the German Department), engage in hands-on experiential learning through the Magnes Collection for Jewish Art and Life, and take relevant courses offered in various departments including Jewish Studies, Comparative Literature, History, Music, Near Eastern Studies, Political Science, and Sociology. The program allows students to work closely with members of the faculty, to be mentored by graduate students, and to participate in the intellectual life of the broader Jewish Studies community on campus. (http://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/courses-degree-programs/academic-degree-programs/#minor) Application instructions for the minor (https://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/JS-minor-infoapplication-packet_2020.pdf).

Declaring the Minor

For information on declaring the minor, please contact the Center for Jewish Studies here (http://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/)

Students who have a strong interest in an area of study outside their major often decide to complete a minor program. These programs have set requirements and are noted officially on the transcript in the memoranda section, as well as on diplomas.

General Guidelines

1. All minors must be declared no later than one semester before a student’s Expected Graduation Term (EGT). If the semester before EGT is fall or spring, the deadline is the last day of RRR week. If the semester before EGT is summer, the deadline is the final Friday of Summer Sessions. To declare a minor, contact the department advisor for information on requirements, and the declaration process.
2. Five relevant upper division courses (including JEWISH 100 core course), minimum 3 units each, are required to complete the undergraduate minor.
3. All courses taken to fulfill minor requirements below must be taken for graded credit.
4. A minimum of three of the upper division courses taken to fulfill the minor requirements must be completed at UC Berkeley.
5. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required for courses used to fulfill the minor requirements.
6. Courses used to fulfill the minor requirements may be applied toward the Seven-Course Breadth requirement, for Letters & Science students.
7. No more than one upper division course may be used to simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student’s major and minor programs.
8. All minor requirements must be completed within the unit ceiling. (For further information regarding the unit ceiling, please see the College Requirements tab.)

The study of Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, or Yiddish is encouraged and is essential for some but not all of the courses. However, there is no language requirement for the Jewish Studies minor and only advanced language courses are applicable to the minor.

Requirements

JEWISH 100 Introduction to Jewish Religion, Culture, and People 4

Select four upper division elective courses (consult academic adviser)

To Declare Jewish Studies Minor

Students must meet with the JS minor adviser to declare the minor. Bring your complete application to the meeting. This includes:

- A current copy of your UCB transcript printed from your student portal with your name printed on the document. Please highlight all courses that apply to the minor, including courses in progress and transferable credits from other institutions (community colleges, study abroad). Also, indicate which course (if any) will overlap between the JS minor and your major.
- Copies of transcripts from colleges other than UC Berkeley if course work is to be counted towards the minor. Transcripts may be unofficial. We do not have access to transcripts in the Registrar’s Office. Students must request copies themselves and submit them with their applications. Please highlight all courses to be applied to the minor.
- Minors are added as plans in Campus Solutions, and must be declared in advance of verification of completion; therefore, all undergraduate minors must be declared no later than one semester prior to a student’s Estimated Graduation Term (EGT). The deadline is the last day of RRR week.

Once admitted, minors are required to contact the JS minor adviser at least once each semester to get approval for any changes to their program.

To Complete Jewish Studies Minor

Fill out the following two forms: ‘Completion of L&S Minor’ and ‘Major-Minor Overlap Check form’ and submit both forms to JS Minor adviser before the final semester prior to anticipated graduation term. Forms can be found here: https://ls.berkeley.edu/advising/tools-forms/forms-and-petitions-ls-undergraduate-advising (https://ls.berkeley.edu/advising/tools-forms/forms-and-petitions-ls-undergraduate-advising/) The College of Letters & Science will be notified of minor completion approximately four weeks after the final minor course has been completed for inclusion in student’s diploma.

Jewish Studies

Expand all course descriptions [+]Collapse all course descriptions [-]
JEWSIH 39 Freshman and Sophomore Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2019, Fall 2018
Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.
Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Summer: 6 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read Less [-]

JEWSIH 39O Freshman and Sophomore Seminar 1.5 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2016
Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.
Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:
5 weeks - 3-12 hours of seminar per week
6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week
8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of seminar per week
10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of seminar per week
15 weeks - 1-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam not required.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read Less [-]

JEWSIH 39P Freshman and Sophomore Seminar 1.5 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2017
Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.
Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:
5 weeks - 3-12 hours of seminar per week
6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week
8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of seminar per week
10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of seminar per week
15 weeks - 1-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam not required.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminar: Read Less [-]
JEWISH 98 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019
Organized group study on topics selected by upper division students under the sponsorship and direction of the Jewish Studies faculty.
Directed Group Study: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore standing
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week
Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of directed group study per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.
Directed Group Study: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 100 Introduction to Jewish Religion, Culture, and People 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Spring 2019
The course is intended to give Jewish studies minors a general introduction to the field through a survey of religious and cultural expressions of Jews across time and geographies. No previous knowledge of Judaism or Jewish Studies is necessary.
Introduction to Jewish Religion, Culture, and People: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Formerly known as: Jewish Studies 101
Introduction to Jewish Religion, Culture, and People: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 120 Special Topics in Jewish Studies: Jewish Folklore 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2017
Course will focus on specific areas or topics related to creative arts and literature in Jewish studies through a combination of lectures, term papers, and examinations. Instructors and topics to vary from semester to semester. Consult Jewish Studies website for updated course descriptions.
Special Topics in Jewish Studies: Jewish Folklore: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.
Instructor: Levin
Special Topics in Jewish Studies: Jewish Folklore: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 121 Topics in Jewish Arts and Culture 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Spring 2019
This course will address topics related to Jewish arts and culture with a format that includes lecture and lab hours.
Topics in Jewish Arts and Culture: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of laboratory per week
Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of laboratory per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Instructor: Spagnolo
Topics in Jewish Arts and Culture: Read Less [-]
JEWISH 121A Topics in Arts and Culture 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2019
Course designed to permit regular and visiting faculty the flexibility to address topics that reflect their research interests and supplement regular curricular offerings. Consult department website each semester for specific descriptions.
Topics in Arts and Culture: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week
Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 0-3 hours of discussion per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Instructor: Rotem
Topics in Arts and Culture: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 121B Jewish Arts and Culture 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2020
This course will provide an overview of Israeli art and culture and its place within the international cultural world. We will examine museums, theatre, visual art, popular music, and cinema, as they reflect the multi-cultural and pluralistic Israeli society.
Topics in Arts and Culture: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Instructor: Rotem
Topics in Arts and Culture: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 122 Topics in Judaism 3 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019
A course on trends in Jewish religious, cultural, and social life. The course will study innovative and conservative aspects of thought, ritual, and belief in relation to contemporary life and traditional Jewish values in at least one country other than the United States.
Topics in Judaism: Read More [+]
Objectives & Outcomes
Course Objectives: This course will offer an opportunity for students to gain familiarity with a spectrum of diverse approaches to Judaism. This will include participation in current debates on topics such as spirituality, secularism, social justice, and discrimination.
Student Learning Outcomes: Students will have a better understanding of the variety of Jewish responses to contemporary social, political, and cultural life. They will learn how historically salient issues, covered in other Jewish Studies courses, are being addressed by Jewish leaders and communities.
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture per week
Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Instructor: Rotem
Topics in Judaism: Read Less [-]
JEWISH 122A Special Topics in Judaism 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019
A course on trends in Jewish religious, cultural, and social life. Our understanding of the Hebrew Bible has been transformed in recent years due to insights from literary criticism, anthropology, archaeology, and historiography. This course explores the impact of these innovations and provides a multilayered introduction to the writings of the Hebrew Bible, focused on the mingling of memory, religion, and the literary imagination. Special Topics in Judaism: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week
Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.
Instructors: Alter, Hendel

JEWISH 123 Israeli Society: Social Structure, Inequality, and Political Cleavages 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2017
This course will map Israel’s social structure, identify its implications for social and economic inequality, and shed light on its role in structuring political loyalty, conflict and action. It will introduce students to relevant concepts and theories from sociology and political science, and findings from comparative research, that aid understanding of the Israeli case and place it in a broader perspective. Israeli Society: Social Structure, Inequality, and Political Cleavages: Read More [+]

Objectives & Outcomes
Course Objectives: Expose students to a selection of research findings on specific sectors of society that shed light on their socioeconomic position, power resources, and characteristic forms of political action. Provide a comprehensive view of Israel’s social structure and its implications for both inequality and politics.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.
Instructor: Shalev

Special Topics in Judaism: Read Less [-]
JEWISH 123A Muslim-Jewish Encounters: From the Beginnings of Islam to Today 4 Units  
Terms offered: Spring 2020  
The course takes us far beyond contemporary tensions between Muslims and Jews, and deep into a more complicated history that spans the Mediterranean and beyond. We move through topics that include the earliest encounters between Muslims and Jews during the years of the rise of Islam; the historical impact and legacy of the dhimmi (the system of rights and restrictions that defined Jews’ status for centuries under Islamic rule); the culturally fruitful shared experience of Jews and Muslims in Medieval Spain and the Ottoman Empire; the effects of French, British, and Italian colonialism in the modern Middle East; and the important conflicts over Zionism and Arab nationalism during the past century.  
Muslim-Jewish Encounters: From the Beginnings of Islam to Today: Read More [+]

Hours & Format  
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week  
Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week  
8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 0-1.5 hours of discussion per week  

Additional Details  
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate  
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.  
Instructor: Katz  

Muslim-Jewish Encounters: From the Beginnings of Islam to Today: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units  
Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018  
Subject matter will vary with topics related to Jewish Studies  
Supervised Independent Study and Research: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements  
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.  

Hours & Format  
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of independent study per week  
Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week  

Additional Details  
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate  
Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.  

Supervised Independent Study and Research: Read Less [-]

JEWISH 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units  
Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018  
Organized group study on topics selected by upper division students under the sponsorship and direction of the Jewish Studies faculty.  
Directed Group Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements  
Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing  
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.  

Hours & Format  
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week  
Summer: 8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of directed group study per week  

Additional Details  
Subject/Course Level: Jewish Studies/Undergraduate  
Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.  

Directed Group Study: Read Less [-]