Fall 2010 Courses
Jewish Studies

JWST-205 Ancient and Medieval Jewish Civilization
M/TH 9:55-11:10 a.m.
Examines the independent Jewish states that flourished in Palestine, the rise of the most important Jewish communities outside the ancient Jewish homeland, and the foreign influences that shaped not only the political life of the Jews but also their internal organization and their creativity.

JWST-396/ HIST 373/673 American Jewish History
W 5:30-8:00 p.m.
*Nina Spiegel, Scholar-in-Residence, Jewish Studies Program*
Today American Jewry constitutes the preeminent Diaspora Jewish community. This course traces its historical development by examining the waves of Jewish immigration to the United States and the institutions that American Jews created to sustain their community.

History

HIST-318/618 Nazi Germany
M/TH 3:35-4:50 p.m.
*Richard Breitman, Professor of History*
Traces the history of anti-Semitism and the development of racism that led to the Holocaust. Examines the historical development of the Final Solution. Considers the variety of responses to Jewish persecution by the Nazi perpetrators, the Jews, and the nations of the world.

HIST-343 History of Israel
M/TH 3:35-4:50 p.m.
Traces the development of modern political Zionism in nineteenth-century Europe; the historical background leading to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948; and the history of Israel since then, including patterns of Jewish immigration and its relationship to the Arab world.

Religion

RELG-386 Topics in Religion: The Cross, Star, and Crescent
M/TH 12:45-2:00 p.m.
*Leila Berner, Scholar in Residence, Department of Philosophy and Religion*
From the eighth through the end of fifteenth century, Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Medieval Europe engaged in a complex relationship that encompassed religious, intellectual, military, and socio-political interchange. It was through this multifaceted three-faith relationship that ancient scientific knowledge, new philosophical ideas, theological polemic, poetic and literary forms, and musical and architectural styles emerged in Western Europe, especially in medieval Spain, Portugal, and Italy. This course explores the three faiths as they engaged in profound cultural osmosis and parallel cultures, focusing on the emergence of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim theological ideas, philosophies of government, and approaches to the minority "other" in society.
**Sociology**

**SOCY-340/640/SIS-319.014/619 Israeli Society**
M/TH 3:35-4:50 p.m.
*Dr. Fred Lazin, Abensohn Visiting Professor in Israel Studies*
This course explores the emergence of Israeli society and its changes over time. It reviews Israel's ideological and political foundations, the centrality of immigration, the emergence of Arab minorities and Jewish ethnic divisions, and assesses political, economic, religious, and family patterns within the broader Jewish and Palestinian communities.

**SOCY-396/696/GOVT-431/SIS-419 Israeli Politics**
M/TH 12:45-2:00 p.m.
*Dr. Fred Lazin, Abensohn Visiting Professor in Israel Studies*
This course provides an overview of current issues, topics, and controversies affecting Israeli politics. It considers the Israeli political system in the context of major political and social developments, in a comparative context.

**Honors**

**HNRS 300.002H Franklin Roosevelt, Jews, and the Holocaust**
T 5:50-8:00 p.m.
*Allan Lichtman, Professor of History*
This course examines the relationship between Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Jews. It focuses on the crucial period of Nazi persecutions of Jews in the 1930s and the slaughter of Jews during World War II. It explores the controversy over whether America’s liberal hero failed in his response to one of the great humanitarian crises in history. The course also explores the moral question of the responsibility of world leaders to genocidal violence in foreign lands.

**Language and Foreign Studies**

In the early twentieth century bold pioneers determined that Hebrew, not Yiddish, would become the language of the emerging Jewish state. Learn the Hebrew that modern Israelis speak and master grammar as well as vocabulary. This is particularly useful to those planning to visit Israel.

**HEBR-116 Hebrew, Elementary Modern I**
M/TH 8:30- 9:45 a.m.
M/TH 9:55- 11:10 a.m.

**HEBR-216 Hebrew, Elementary Modern II**
M/TH 12:45- 2:00 p.m., Prerequisite: HEBR 116 or equivalent

**HEBR-316 Hebrew, Elementary Modern III**
M/TH 11:20 a.m.- 12:35 p.m., Prerequisite: HEBR 216 or equivalent

*Additional independent study, independent reading, and internships available.* Prerequisite: Standing as Jewish Studies major or minor and permission of Professor Nadell.
JWST-390/590 Independent Reading (1-6 Credits)  
JWST-392 Cooperative Education (3-9 Credits)  
JWST-481/482 Senior Thesis (3 Credits)

Intern in Metropolitan Washington D.C. Prerequisite: Standing as Jewish Studies major or minor and permission of Professor Nadell.

JWST-491 Internship (1-6 Credits)  
An opportunity to earn university credit while contributing services to a local Jewish organization such as the Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah Washington Action Office, Jewish Historical Society, Jewish Community Center, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

For a complete list of internships available to Jewish Studies majors and minors visit:  
http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/js/internships.html

Why Take A Course in Jewish Studies?

Through the Jewish Studies Program, you can train for a career in the Jewish community or in Jewish education, learn about Jewish issues and opportunities for Jewish service, and develop a deeper understanding of American and world Jewry. Moreover, since dynamic contact with many other religions and cultures influenced the development of Jewish civilization, students study Jews and Judaism within the broader context of dominant societies and the spectrum of the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

MAJOR or MINOR in Jewish Studies:  
The Jewish Studies Program offers students the opportunity to receive a major or minor in Jewish Studies.

MINOR in Israel Studies:  
The Jewish Studies Program offers a minor in Israel Studies. For more information, contact the director.
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