Jewish Studies Program
COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES

Fall 2012 Courses
Jewish Studies

JWST-205.G2:2 Ancient and Medieval Jewish Civilization
MTH 10:20 – 11:35 a.m.

Pamela Nadell, Clendenen Professor of Women’s & Gender History
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-320.001 Introduction to Judaism
MTH 1:10-2:25 p.m.

Jerome Copulsky, Director, Jewish Studies Program
This course introduces students the diverse ways Judaism changed as it responded to modernity. The class covers the evolution of and distinctions among the three major religious movements of Judaism -- Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform--and other expressions of Jewish religious life.

JWST-320.002 Modern Jewish Identities
W 8:55-11:35 a.m.

Jerome Copulsky, Director, Jewish Studies Program
New Jewish identities emerged in the modern world: Zionism, secularism, new forms of Jewish spirituality, new religious movements. This course examines the emergence of modern Jewish identities through a variety of literary and visual texts.

History

HIST-443 History of Israel
TF 8:55-10:10 a.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.

HIST-500.001 Jews & Muslims in Modern Europe
W 11:45a.m.—2:25 p.m.
Lisa Leff, Associate Professor, Department of History
This course examines the experiences of Jews and Muslims in European history from 1700 to 2000. We will be particularly interested in how these minorities were affected by the great changes of modern European history, including the rise of secularism, democracy, imperialism/decolonization, industrial society, and nationalism.
Philosophy and Religion

RELG-486.001 Jewish Feminist Thought
W 11:45 a.m.—2:25 p.m.
Leila Berner, Scholar in Residence, Department of Philosophy and Religion
The twenty-first century represents a fourth wave of Jewish feminist thought in which women encounter deeper, meta-level challenges that could not even have been imagined five decades ago. This course will explore Jewish feminist history, Scripture and law affecting women, evolving feminist ritual, diverse approaches to sex, sexuality, gender identity, and the complex and myriad secular worlds of Jewish feminists.

School of International Service

SIS-676 015OL/SIS 419-02OL Bridging the Great Divide: The Jewish Muslim Encounter
Course taught entirely online.
Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies
No two religions are closer together than Judaism and Islam, and yet ironically, no two religions are further apart. This innovative on-line course creates an interfaith dialogue necessary for understanding critical issues in today's world. It explores the history, culture, and theology of Muslims and Jews, reflecting both on similarities and differences, as well as the major challenges. Assisted by leading scholars in the United States and Europe, the course also offers strategies for building bridges between the communities and thus for bridging the political divide in world affairs. Applications required and due August 6, 2012.

Language and Foreign Studies

HEBR-116 Hebrew, Elementary Modern I
MTH 1:10-2:25 p.m.
MTH 2:35-3:50 p.m.

HEBR 216 Hebrew, Intermediate Modern I
MTH 10:20-11:35 a.m.

HEBR-316 Hebrew, Advanced Modern I
MTH 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
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)  

**JWST-491 Internship** (1-6 Credits)  
Intern in Metropolitan Washington D.C.  
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/cas/js/internships.cfm  

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**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.