

Strom Center

for JEWISH STUDIES

Jackson School of International Studies

MAKE CONNECTIONS

BUILD COMMUNITY

BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVE



FAQs about Jewish Studies

Q What is Jewish Studies?

Jewish Studies offers interdisciplinary entry points to universal questions and concerns through the lens of global Jewish experiences. Students can choose from dozens of courses that highlight history, modern Israel, Sephardic lives, arts & culture, religion, language, and identity.



Q Is Jewish Studies only for Jewish students?

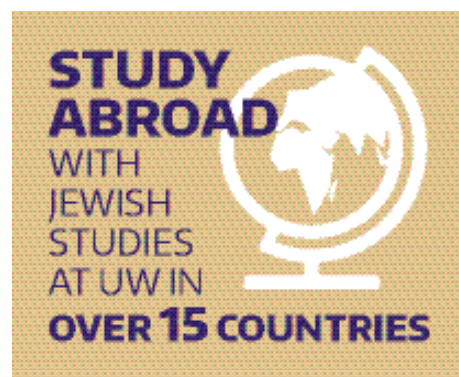
Jewish Studies welcomes any student interested in learning about culture from different perspectives. Studying the variety of Jewish cultures throughout history and their interaction with majority cultures offers a fascinating vantage point for the study of society, language, art, history, philosophy, and more, no matter one's background or intended career path.

Q How will a Jewish Studies major or minor appear on my transcript?

On the UW transcript, a Jewish Studies major appears as "BA (International Studies: Jewish Studies)." Many students pursue double majors or minor in Jewish Studies.

Q What can I expect in a Jewish Studies course?

In courses as varied as "Sephardic Diaspora: 1492-Present" to "The Holocaust in Film" to "Israel in a Global Context" to "The Beginnings of Judaism and Christianity," Jewish Studies professors encourage students to read, write, discuss, and think critically. Students reflect that Jewish Studies instructors "ask students what they think, rather than telling them what to think." As a result, Jewish Studies classes attract students from across disciplines and backgrounds who seek an open atmosphere where they can be challenged, ask questions, and engage in meaningful conversation.



Q What do Jewish Studies alumni do with their degree?

Jewish Studies alumni have gone on to work in law, international relations, business, consulting, communications, non-profit leadership, religious affairs, academia, and the arts. Our alumni report that their experience in Jewish Studies honed their critical thinking, strengthened their writing skills, and expanded their cultural literacy and ability to work with others from different backgrounds.

Q How can I get further involved with Jewish Studies?

Join the Jewish Studies Student Advisory Council to gain leadership skills, provide valuable input about Jewish Studies courses and programs, and become part of a vibrant and welcoming community.



Major in Jewish Studies // // // // //

A major in Jewish Studies at UW consists of **50 credits**, to include the following:

Introduction to Judaism

Jewish Cultural History

One of the following core International Studies courses: JSIS 200, JSIS 201, or JSIS 202

35 credits of Jewish Studies courses (list available online), with a minimum of 25 credits at the 300-400 level. This may include up to 10 credits from the second year of Jewish language courses.

Jewish Language: Demonstrate second-year proficiency in one Jewish language, or one year of coursework in two Jewish languages.

Minor in Jewish Studies // // // // //

A minor in Jewish Studies at UW consists of **30 credits**, to include the following:

Introduction to Judaism

Jewish Cultural History

20 credits of Jewish Studies courses (list available online), with a minimum of 15 credits at the 300-400 level. This may include up to 5 credits from the second year of Jewish language courses.

Notes:



JEWISH STUDIES COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Biblical Prophetic Texts

Bioethics: Secular and Jewish Perspectives

Funny Jews

Gender, Sex & Religion: Jewish and Christian Foundations

Holocaust: History and Memory

Jewish American Literature and Culture

Jewish Thought

Jews, Greeks and Romans in the Ancient World

Prayer and Poetry in the Jewish and Islamic Traditions

Sephardic Diaspora: 1492-Present

For current course listings, see jewishstudies.washington.edu

WHY JEWISH STUDIES?

UW can sometimes feel rather impersonal; it's easy to go unnoticed in a community of tens of thousands of students. But in Jewish Studies, my opinions mattered. As I was to discover, this is emblematic of the program as a whole: it has an extraordinary ethos of providing a voice for its students.

– Shawn Laramie

 HOMETOWN: Puyallup, WA

 MAJOR: International Studies—Comparative Religion; Jewish Studies and Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Minor



I have great admiration for the intelligence and passion of the Jewish Studies professors I studied with, and for the diversity of classes offered by the Stroum Center. The courses were fascinating, inspiring, and challenging.

– Ondina “LB” Lipney-Burger

 HOMETOWN: San Francisco, CA

 MAJOR: Jewish Studies and International Studies with a focus on International Human Rights, Law, State & Society

To learn more about Jewish Studies classes and programs or get involved in the Jewish Studies Student Advisory Council, please contact our Student Engagement Director at jewishst@uw.edu.

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jewishstudies.washington.edu

