JLS 5976. Directed Study. 1-4 Hours.
Offers independent work under the direction of members of the department on a chosen topic.

JLS 5978. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.
Offers independent work under the direction of members of the department on a chosen topic.

JLS 5984. Research. 1-4 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to conduct research under faculty supervision.

JLS 6100. Jewish Leaders, Past and Present. 3 Hours.
Explores models of past leadership in the Jewish community, tracing its history from the biblical and Talmudic periods through early modern leadership models. Covers contemporary issues in Jewish communal leadership, such as the decline of rabbinical influence, modern synagogue leadership, denominational leadership, and secular leadership.

JLS 6110. Jewish Polity and Organizational Life. 3 Hours.
Examines the Jewish community and its organizations as a dynamic evolving system. Throughout history, Jews have responded to unique challenges by organizing and founding mission-driven institutions and developing infrastructures that have enhanced the overall strength of the community. Topics include key Jewish commentaries on community and polity; the historical roots of modern Jewish organizations; the nature and role of political power in the contemporary Jewish community; the role of competition, conflict, and creative tension in contributing to Jewish life; new forms of governance and organizational structures; and challenges that lie ahead for the organized Jewish community.

JLS 6120. Ethical Leadership and Jewish Law. 3 Hours.
Examines how leaders in Jewish communities incorporate the legal and ethical writings of Judaism in developing context-sensitive leadership practices. Covers the classical forms of leadership in Jewish communities, the types of ethical and legal backgrounds and training required to qualify a person as a leader, how a leader should interact with his or her community and with other religious and secular communities, and how leaders in Jewish communities are bound by non-Judaic traditions and laws. Analyzes various rabbinic texts and codes of ethics. Offers students an opportunity to explore a broad range of leadership issues, asking how these writings might be applicable to the contemporary world.

JLS 6130. Strategic Leadership in Jewish Communal Settings. 3 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to learn about the essential traits of strategic leaders who attempt to mobilize significant change within their institutions and communities, as well as to gain an understanding of the impact of leadership on individual and organizational performance. A key aspect of leadership is strategic foresight—the ability to foresee where the community must go and the ability to formulate the strategy(ies) to get there. Strategic leaders in the Jewish community must not only be able to forge compelling visions for their organizations, they must also have the skills to overcome multiple hurdles in order to bring new visions into reality. Uses Jewish source materials, discussions, group exercises, and examples of Jewish leadership at work.

JLS 6140. Contemporary Israeli-Diaspora Relations. 3 Hours.
Examines some of the foundational documents in the rise of the state of Israel, as well as some of the classics of Zionist writing. Themes include relations with the Diaspora, the position of women, integration of immigrants, and relations with the Arab world. Addresses tensions related to the emergence of Israel and the traditional attitudes of the Diaspora in responding to the financial and other needs of Israel.

JLS 6150. Contemporary Jewish Political Thought. 3 Hours.
Examines some of the most important political movements that influenced modern Judaism and modern Jewish thought. These include Zionism, socialism, secularism, pluralism, and anti-Semitism. The course also deals with the issue of separation of church and state in the United States, Jewish-American identity, and the effects of increased globalization on Jewish political movements.

JLS 6160. Jewish Philanthropy and Fund-Raising. 3 Hours.
Examines Jewish fund-raising. In the modern era, Jewish fund-raising is unprecedented for its scope and success. From the local temple to major international efforts, Jews are raising funds for an impressive range of causes. Examines the core values that drive the energy and motives that sustain Jewish philanthropy; the recent and newest trends and the implications for the future of Jewish giving; and fund-raising techniques and methods employed by successful Jewish organizations. Utilizes a skills-based curriculum that offers students an opportunity to obtain the confidence and know-how to raise funds within the Jewish community.

JLS 6170. Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 3 Hours.
Seeks to build a foundation for genuine dialogue between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam by posing fundamental theological questions in a comparative context. Interreligious dialogue requires interreligious understanding. Offers students an opportunity to gain an understanding of the other traditions, while deepening the understanding of their own. Discussions revolve around such matters as the human experience of God, the purpose of human existence, the nature of religious community, and the ways that contemporary and ancient communities have responded to and do respond to ancient and contemporary challenges.

JLS 6180. Secular Institutions and Jewish Values. 3 Hours.
Explores personal, interpersonal, and communal values that are central to Judaism, such as self-control, humility, justice, righteousness, peace, compassion (tzedaka and gemilut hasadim), repentance and forgiveness, social responsibility, study of Torah, and the relationship between Torah study and practice. Discusses the theological underpinnings of these values but focuses on interactions and relationships in the human sphere—specifically, how conflicts between different systems of values (e.g., corporate and Jewish values) get resolved. Uses a wide range of primary and secondary sources from the biblical, rabbinic, medieval, modern, and contemporary periods.

JLS 6190. History of the State of Israel: Zionism to the Present. 3 Hours.
Explores the history of Zionism as well as contemporary issues regarding the State of Israel. Covers the scope and content of modern Jewish nationalism vis-a-vis other forms of modern Jewish identity, culture, and community. Specific topics include Zion in traditional Jewish thought; socialism and revisionism; religious Zionism; Jewish fundamentalism in Israel, including models of religious violence; Jews and Arabs; Israel and the Diaspora; and Israeli ethnicity.
JLS 6220. The Nexus of Vision, Curriculum, and Leadership in Jewish Education. 3 Hours.
Covers curriculum development and how its implementation forms the core of the educational enterprise. Explores how Jewish educators derive curricular priorities from the interplay of belief, theory, research, and practice. Examines how the educational leader guides curricular concept toward its translation to the classroom and beyond.

JLS 6230. Philosophical and Spiritual Questions in Jewish Education. 3 Hours.
Explores a range of philosophies of American Jewish education. Considers their theoretical assumptions and rationales, objectives, approaches to curriculum, pedagogic methods, and educational environments and contexts to which they are applicable. How are the ideologies and philosophies of Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, communal (nondenominational), and humanist approaches to contemporary Judaism reflected in day and afternoon schools and in informal educational settings that are affiliated with each orientation? Also explores how Jewish educational philosophies draw from and relate to contemporary philosophies of education in America.

JLS 6240. Research Trends in Jewish Education. 3 Hours.
Explores the emergent questions for research in Jewish education in both quantitative and qualitative educational research. Examines techniques for collecting, analyzing, sharing, and utilizing research data. Identifies ways that one can apply and analyze institutional assessment modalities in the applied practice of assessment.

JLS 6250. Leadership Challenges for Particular Jewish Education Settings. 3 Hours.
Introduces complex issues facing Jewish educational leaders and their institutions in the twenty-first century. Utilizing the methods of case study analysis in a project-based learning model, explores the ways educational entrepreneurs draw on general approaches to transformation and change in their Jewish educational venues. Topics include implementation of educational vision, relationships and communication with professional and lay leaders, creation of educational culture, and community engagement.

JLS 6260. Jewish Education in the 21st Century. 3 Hours.
Explores specific challenges that face leaders of Jewish educational institutions and how successful leaders confront them. Examines utilization of technology, creativity, and integrated and differentiated approaches to education as a myriad of tools for exploring the next best practices for educational ventures in the twenty-first century.

JLS 6270. The History and Landscape of Jewish Education in the United States. 3 Hours.
Examines the history, structure, functions, and overall landscape of Jewish educational institutions in the United States of America. Addresses Jewish education in all its forms—day school education, synagogue-based or supplemental Jewish education, denominationally based education, community schools, and those that specifically define themselves as pluralistic or nondenominational. Examines the institutional dynamics of Jewish education—organization, function, interinstitutional dynamics, communal norms, patterns of leadership, and decision making. Also looks at how the Jewish community has responded to different age cohorts and special-needs students.

JLS 6961. Internship. 1-4 Hours.
Provides students with an opportunity for internship work. May be repeated without limit.

JLS 6962. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

JLS 6964. Co-op. 0 Hours.
Provides eligible students with an opportunity for work experience.

JLS 6966. Practicum. 1-4 Hours.
Provides eligible students with an opportunity for practical experience.

JLS 6970. Seminar. 1-4 Hours.
Offers an in-depth study of selected topics.

JLS 6980. Capstone. 1-4 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to integrate their course work, knowledge, and experiences into a capstone project.

JLS 6983. Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Covers special topics in Jewish studies. May be repeated without limit.

JLS 6995. Project. 1-4 Hours.
Focuses on in-depth project in which a student conducts research or produces a product related to the student’s major field. May be repeated without limit.