

# Jewish Studies (JWSS)

## Courses

### JWSS 1285. Jewish Religion and Culture. (4 Hours)

Explores some of the rich variety of Jewish cultural expressions and interpretive traditions, including the Jewish life cycle (birth through death) and the calendar cycle (holidays and daily rituals). Judaism is an ancient, living religious civilization that has evolved continuously over the millennia and around the globe. Offers students an opportunity to become familiar with the major periods of Jewish history and study exemplary formative Jewish texts (from the Bible and its interpreters through rabbinic, legal, and later literatures). Studies the global diversity of Jewish traditions, cultures, and identities, including how Jewish religion and culture have been influenced by the communities in which Jews have lived and live. No prior knowledge of Judaism is necessary or assumed.

**Attribute(s):** NUpath Interpreting Culture, NUpath Societies/Institutions

### JWSS 1294. History of the Jews in the Modern World. (4 Hours)

Surveys the history of the Jews in the modern world, with an emphasis on global cultural exchange. Examines Jewish interaction with non-Jewish society from Europe to North Africa, the Middle East, the Soviet Union, Israel, and the United States and explores this relationship's creative and destructive consequences. Focuses on how Jewish society, culture, religious practice, and political definition changed in relation to a variety of processes now associated with modernity, such as urbanization, industrialization, state centralization, and the development of nationalism and secularism.

**Attribute(s):** NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Societies/Institutions

### JWSS 1990. Elective. (1-4 Hours)

Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

### JWSS 2259. Sex, Gender, and Judaism. (4 Hours)

Introduces the representation of sex and gender in Jewish culture and religion. Explores varied representations of masculinity and femininity over time and place within Jewish communities; the role of biblical texts in the construction of Western conceptions of gender and sexuality; and how contemporary feminist, queer, and other sexual identities have influenced Jewish practices. Readings draw from a range of primary sources (memoirs, fiction, religious texts, etc.) and critical literature.

**Attribute(s):** NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Interpreting Culture

### JWSS 2282. The Holocaust and Comparative Genocide. (4 Hours)

Examines the origins of the Holocaust, perpetrators and victims, and changing efforts to come to terms with this genocide. The Holocaust, the murder of 6 million Jews by Germans in Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II, is one of the crucial events of modern history. Investigates the uniqueness of the Holocaust relative to other acts of ethnic cleansing or genocide, including mass death in the New World and mass murder in Armenia, Bosnia, and Rwanda.

**Attribute(s):** NUpath Ethical Reasoning, NUpath Societies/Institutions

### JWSS 2431. Immigration and Identity in the American Jewish Experience. (4 Hours)

Examines Jewish political, social, and cultural history from the arrival of the first group of Jews at New Amsterdam in 1654 to the present. Themes include immigration, adaptation, family life, religion, anti-Semitism, Zionism, the Holocaust, and American-Israeli relations.

**Attribute(s):** NUpath Difference/Diversity, NUpath Societies/Institutions

### JWSS 2990. Elective. (1-4 Hours)

Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

**JWSS 3678. Bedrooms and Battlefields: Hebrew Bible and the Origins of Sex, Gender, and Ethnicity. (4 Hours)**

Considers stories from Hebrew Scripture in English translation, beginning with the Garden of Eden through the Book of Ruth, asking how these foundational narratives establish the categories that have come to define our humanity. Analyzes how the Bible's patterns of representation construct sexual and ethnic identities and naturalize ideas about such social institutions as "the family." ENGL 3678, JWSS 3678, and WMNS 3678 are cross-listed.

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 1111 with a minimum grade of C or ENGL 1102 with a minimum grade of C or ENGW 1111 with a minimum grade of C or ENGW 1102 with a minimum grade of C or ENGW 1113 with a minimum grade of C or ENGW 1114 with a minimum grade of C

**Attribute(s):** NUpath Interpreting Culture

**JWSS 3990. Elective. (1-4 Hours)**

Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

**JWSS 4660. Jewish Studies Module. (1 Hour)**

Permits specialized Jewish studies topics to be studied as part of more general courses. May be repeated without limit.

**JWSS 4992. Directed Study. (1-4 Hours)**

Offers students an opportunity for special readings and research in Jewish studies. May be repeated for up to 8 total credits.