JWSS 1285. Jewish Religion and Culture. 4 Hours. 
Explores the basic features of Judaism in the ancient, rabbinic, and modern periods. Employs an historical critical approach to the formative texts and their interpreters. Analyzes Jewish practices within specific historical contexts and discusses the ways in which practices relate to the texts and history of Judaism. Examines the rich varieties of Jewish cultural expressions. JWSS 1285 and PHIL 1285 are cross-listed.

Examines cultural, religious, political, and economic developments in European Jewish life between 1750 and 1945. Emphasizes the diversity of Jewish experiences in Europe and the significant changes in Jewish identity that occurred as many Jews became increasingly integrated into their surrounding populations. Includes topics such as “Haskalah,” or “Jewish Enlightenment”; the development of Reform Judaism; political and economic emancipation; changes in gender norms; Zionism; and anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Includes films, memoirs, and cartoons and graphic novels, as well as important texts in Jewish history.

HIST 1294 and JWSS 1294 are cross-listed.

JWSS 1520. Jewish Film. 4 Hours. 
Explores major themes and issues in American Jewish life—assimilation and intermarriage, anti-Semitism, the Holocaust—through the lens of popular film. Includes weekly screenings of films such as Annie Hall and The Producers and readings, lectures, and discussions.

JWSS 1575. Jewish Film and Fiction. 4 Hours. 
Examines books and short stories with Jewish themes, such as Goodbye Columbus and The Chosen, and some of the films based on those works. Offers students an opportunity to develop critical knowledge of key issues in modern Jewish identity—immigration, assimilation and intermarriage, anti-Semitism, and the Holocaust—through the lens of fiction and film. CLTR 1575 and JWSS 1575 are cross-listed.

JWSS 2269. Jews and American Popular Culture. 4 Hours. 
Examines why Jews, despite their small numbers, have had such a central influence on American popular entertainment. Jewish “moguls” essentially created the American radio, film, and television industries. Other Jews assumed prominence in the fields of popular song, jazz, folk music, vaudeville, Broadway, literature, literary criticism, stand-up comedy, as well as comic strips and books. Jews excelled in sports, particularly baseball, basketball, and boxing, and Jewish gangsters made an indelible mark on the dark side of the American imagination. Jewish department store moguls, fashion designers, and toy manufacturers helped shape the American Dream. Explores social history as well as works of popular culture to perceive the nuanced Jewish influence operating at the heart of Jewish-American creativity.

JWSS 2285. America and the Holocaust. 4 Hours. 
Examines the American response to the Holocaust, in terms of both contemporaneous knowledge and actions and the lasting impact on policy and culture. Starts with early twentieth-century events, such as the Armenian genocide, that shaped later attitudes. Explores the prewar period, particularly U.S. immigration and isolationist policies. Assesses Americans’ knowledge of European events as the extermination campaign unfolded and fights ensued over rescue possibilities. Examines changing depictions of the Holocaust that emerged in the postwar period as a result of critical events such as the Eichmann trial and popular television and film portrayals. Finally, considers how perceptions of the Holocaust have shaped subsequent U.S. responses to genocide.

HIST 2285, JRNL 2285, and JWSS 2285 are cross-listed.

JWSS 2300. Race, Religion, Ethnicity: The Example of Jewishness. 4 Hours. 
Explores the relationship between Judaism and race from ancient times, through the birth of modern anti-Semitism in the nineteenth century and the Holocaust in the twentieth, to the resurgence of biologically based ideas of Jewish identity in recent decades. Seeks to answer the questions of what Jewishness is—race, religion, or ethnicity—and how and why Jews, along with other groups such as Italians, Irish, and Slavs, moved from being seen as racially “other” in nineteenth-century America to being considered “white” in the twentieth century. Through the lens of the Jewish experience, offers students an opportunity to acquire a deeper understanding of the historically changing meanings of such important concepts as race, ethnicity, and peoplehood. HIST 2300 and JWSS 2300 are cross-listed.

JWSS 2313. Exploring the Jewish Diaspora—From Mountain Jews to Crypto-Jews. 4 Hours. 
Explores vibrant Jewish life in foreign lands, including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and South Africa, as well as unusual Jewish communities in places such as Uganda and northeastern India. Covers topics such as how Jewish religion and identity are reshaped by other cultures, the emergence of secret Jews who fled the Iberian peninsula more than five centuries ago, and a brief history of Jewish life in the modern diaspora. Includes presentations and discussion of diaspora art, literature, film, and music. JWSS 2313 and PHIL 2313 are cross-listed.

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.

HIST 2431 and JWSS 2431 are cross-listed.
JWSS 2500. Zionism and the Challenges of Jewish Statehood. 4 Hours.
Examines the birth and development of political, religious, cultural, and
social movements that gave rise to the modern state of Israel in 1948 and
continue to shape Israeli society and politics today. Readings are drawn
from Zionism’s founders and early opponents in nineteenth-century
Europe (Herzl, Ha’Am, Buber, etc.); the state’s founders, leaders, and
critics (Ben Gurion, Kook, etc.); and ends with contemporary thinkers in
Israel and the United States (Morris, Hartman, Eisen, etc.). Emphasizes
historical context as well as comparative analysis with other forms of
nationalism, other movements of Judaism, and more.

JWSS 2610. Contemporary Israeli Literature and Art Abroad. 4 Hours.
Explores contemporary Israeli culture through literature and art. Focuses
on the tensions, pains, and pleasures of existence from various Israeli
points of view. Takes place in Israel during the summer term, offering
students an opportunity to meet with contemporary Israeli writers, visit
sites of the literary settings, and explore art galleries and museums.
Readings include short stories and poetry by major Israeli and Palestinian
writers from 1948 through the present. ENGL 2610 and JWSS 2610 are
cross-listed.

JWSS 2990. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions.
May be repeated without limit.

JWSS 3447. Topics in Jewish Studies. 4 Hours.
Covers special topics in Jewish studies. 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.

JWSS 3685. From Kafka to Kushner: Modern and Contemporary Jewish
Literature. 4 Hours.
Surveys Jewish literature from the late modern (1880–1948) and
contemporary (1948–present) periods. Considers themes of immigration
and cross-cultural influences and issues of religious, ethnic, and gender
identity. Emphasizes American and European literatures to begin to
define an international Jewish literary canon, including Yiddish poets and
playwrights, Russian Jewish writers, and modern writers. ENGL 3685 and
JWSS 3685 are cross-listed.

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. Restricted to junior, senior, or graduate standing. 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.