Judaic Studies (BA)

Students from many different backgrounds and diverse interests benefit from learning more about the history of Western civilization through the perspective of Judaic studies. The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies offers both a major and a minor for students. The program emphasizes the history, religion, and civilization of the Jewish people, as well as two years' proficiency in Hebrew language and literature. The major is interdisciplinary, meaning undergraduates can take courses from a variety of departments that appeal to their unique interests. Students graduate with both advanced language skills and an increased awareness of diverse cultures and traditions.

The Judaic studies program consists of core courses taught under the HBRW, JDST, and REL subject codes and related courses taught in the disciplines of participating faculty members—anthropology, art history, comparative literature, conflict and dispute resolution, English, geography, folklore and public culture, German and Scandinavian, history, landscape architecture, music, philosophy, political science, religious studies, Romance languages, and women's and gender studies.

The focus on Jewish cultures and experience as a lens to study the world provides a liberal arts background suitable to careers in a range of professional fields (law, education, rabbinate, social service, public policy) and prepares students for graduate work in Judaic studies, religious studies, and related fields.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Identify, describe and explain Jewish experiences, achievements, and challenges in various historical, social, religious, political, and cultural contexts.
- Explain how Jewish communities have transformed throughout time and in different places.
- Demonstrate at least 2nd-year language competence in Modern Hebrew; identify and explain the significance of language in assessing Jewish culture(s).
- Read and critically analyze primary sources and current scholarly literature, applying appropriate theoretical and methodological tools in the academic study of Judaism and Jewish culture.
- Make an effective and valid argument in speech and writing: one that successfully establishes a premise and critically supports that premise with appropriate and persuasive scholarly evidence.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Lower-Division Requirements		
HBRW 111 & HBRW 112 & HBRW 113	and and	12
REL 211	Early Judaism	4
JDST 212	Medieval and Early Modern Judaism	4
JDST 213	The Jewish Encounter with Modernity	4
REL 222	Introduction to the Bible I	4
Upper-Division Requirements		
Select three of the following:		12
HBRW 311	Biblical Narrative	
JDST 330	American Jewish Cultures	4
HBRW 399	Special Studies: [Topic]	1-12
Six approved elective courses [1]		24
Total Credits		**69-80**

[1] Courses must focus on significant issues in Judaic studies from the perspective of the instructor's academic discipline. See Electives table for a list of recently offered courses.

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 429	Jewish Folklore and Ethnology	4
ENG 340	Jewish Writers	4
FLR 411	Folklore and Religion	4
GER 368	Themes in German Literature	4
HIST 415	Advanced World History: [Topic]	4
HIST 428	Europe in the 20th Century: [Topic]	4
JDST 330	American Jewish Cultures	4
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Religion	4
REL 414	Biblical Book: [Topic]	4

A list of approved courses is available from the program director preceding each term; it also appears in the online class schedule and the program website.

Honors in Judaic Studies

A degree with honors in Judaic studies requires the following:

1. Satisfaction of the requirements of the major
2. A cumulative grade point average of 3.50 in courses taken to satisfy the major requirements
3. Satisfactory completion of an honors thesis

The candidate for honors must register for 4 credits in Research: [Topic] (JDST 401) winter term of the senior year in order to prepare for writing the thesis, and for 4 credits in Thesis (JDST 403) spring term for its completion. A faculty committee of two supervises the project. A first draft of the thesis must be submitted six weeks before the end of the term in which the student expects to graduate and the final draft two weeks before the end of the term.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Judaic Studies

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
100-level HBRW course		4	
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
REL 211	Early Judaism	4	
General-education course in arts and letters		4	
	Credits	**16**	

Winter		
100-level HBRW course		4
WR 122Z or WR 123	Composition II or College Composition III	4
JDST 212	Medieval and Early Modern Judaism	4
REL 222	Introduction to the Bible I	4
	Credits	**16**
Spring		
100-level HBRW course		4
JDST 213	The Jewish Encounter with Modernity	4
General-education course in social science		4
General-education course in science		4
	Credits	**16**
	Total Credits	**48**

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
Second Year		
Fall		
HBRW 311	Biblical Narrative	4
General-education course in social science		4
General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement		4
Upper-division elective course		4
	Credits	**16**
Winter		
HBRW 311	Biblical Narrative	4
General-education course in arts and letters		4
General-education course in science		4
Upper-division elective course		4
	Credits	**16**
Spring		
HBRW 311	Biblical Narrative	4
JDST 330	American Jewish Cultures	4
General-education course in social science		4
General-education course in science		4
	Credits	**16**
	Total Credits	**48**

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
Third Year		
Fall		
General-education course in arts and letters		4
General-education course in science		4
Upper-division elective courses (Must begin HBRW 111 by this term)		8
	Credits	**16**
Winter		
General-education course in arts and letters		4
General-education course that also satisfies a multicultural requirement		4
Upper-division elective course		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**16**
Spring		
General-education course in social science		4
Upper-division elective courses		4
Elective courses		8
	Credits	**16**
	Total Credits	**48**

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Upper-division general-education courses		8
Electives		8
	Credits	**16**
Winter		
Upper-division general-education courses		8
Electives		8
	Credits	**16**
Spring		
Upper-division general-education courses		8
Electives		8
	Credits	**16**
	Total Credits	**48**