Jewish Studies
DIRECTOR Leah S. Marcus
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Jay Geller, Adam Meyer, Idit Dobbs-Weinstein

JEWISH Studies at Vanderbilt offers an interdisciplinary academic program that facilitates the critical study of Jewish history, religion, language, philosophy, politics, culture, society, music, art, and literature across continents and over three millennia periods. Integral to understanding crucial moments in the formation of Christianity and Islam as well as distinct episodes in the cultures of the modern Middle East, Europe, and America, the program accesses the resources of the entire university to explore Judaism, its evolution and expression from biblical times to the present. This interdisciplinary program reflects Vanderbilt’s commitment to advancing the understanding of other cultures and traditions. Students of all backgrounds will find in Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt a wide array of material and methodologies, presented by scholars from history, anthropology, sociology, religious studies, philosophy, literature, and history of art. Students may focus on several areas of concentration and tailor the major to their academic and career interests. They will also have access to courses offered by the schools of business, divinity, education, law, medicine, and music; they will have access to the Zimmerman Judaica collection as well as the opportunity to study abroad, pursue internships locally or nationally, and do research in archives overseas. The interdisciplinary nature of Jewish studies offers excellent preparation for graduate studies and provides an outstanding academic foundation for a variety of rewarding career paths. Visit www.vanderbilt.edu/jewishstudies for more details.

Program of Concentration in Jewish Studies

The major in Jewish Studies requires a minimum of 36 hours.

1. Foundational course, 3 hours. JS 180W Introduction to Jewish Studies.
2. Hebrew Language, 6 hours. A year of modern Hebrew: Intermediate Hebrew (Hebrew 113a–b – Intermediate Hebrew); or Biblical Hebrew: (REL3814 – Intermediate Hebrew).*- Proficiency at the level of Intermediate Hebrew can be demonstrated through testing. If this option is exercised, students will take an additional six hours of electives towards the major.
   *In place of Biblical or modern Hebrew, interested students may substitute one of the following languages of the Jewish people: Rabbinic Hebrew, Aramaic, Yiddish, Ladino, or Judaeo-Arabic. For languages not presently taught at Vanderbilt, proficiency at the intermediate level may be demonstrated through an exam administered by a designated member of the Jewish Studies faculty. If this option is exercised, students will take an additional six hours of electives towards the major.
3. Focus courses, 12 hours selected from 3 of 4 subfields of study:
   - Biblical Studies
   - Antiquity and the Medieval World
   - Modern and Contemporary Experience
   - Culture, Philosophy, and Literature
4. Senior seminar, 3 hours. JS 295, Senior Seminar, or JS 296, Senior Project in Jewish Studies.
5. Electives (minimum of 612 hours)

Any of the courses listed below that is not used to fulfill a requirement towards the major may be counted as an elective. In addition to courses drawn from Arts and Science departments and the professional schools, non-traditional course work may also be selected, including archaeology at Tel Megiddo (Israel), service learning,
and internships. Study abroad is encouraged and can be fulfilled with Jewish Studies in Prague and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Honors Program

The Honors Program in Jewish Studies affords superior students a more intensive concentration within their major field. To be admitted, students must have: The program requires:

1. 3.0 cumulative grade point average
2. 3.25 grade point average in Jewish Studies
3. Completion of the junior year

Requirements for graduation with Honors in Jewish Studies are:

1. 6 hours in Honors sections (JS 298a–298b), including completion of thesis—these hours may count as elective credit toward the major. Honors thesis to be completed by mid-spring of the senior year.
2. Successful completion of an honors oral examination on the topic of the thesis.

Minor in Jewish Studies

The minor in Jewish Studies provides a basic understanding of Jewish history and culture across continents and the past three millennia. The minor requires a minimum of 18 hours.

Core Requirements (15 hours)

1. Foundational course, 3 hours. JS 180W Introduction to Jewish Studies.
2. Language, 6 hours. A year of modern Hebrew: (Hebrew 111a-111b – Elementary Hebrew); or elementary Biblical Hebrew (REL 2500-2501 – Elementary Biblical Hebrew). Proficiency at the level of elementary Hebrew may be demonstrated through testing. If this option is exercised, students will take an additional six hours of electives towards the minor.
3. Focus courses, 6 hours. (See major for categories)

Electives (minimum of 3 hours)

Any of the courses listed below that is not used to fulfill a requirement towards the minor may be counted as an elective. Special Topics courses or First-Year Writing Seminar courses dealing with topics related to Jewish Studies may be counted with the approval of the major or minor adviser.

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