Jewish Studies

DIRECTOR Julia Phillips Cohen
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR Adam Meyer
PROFESSORS Amy-Jill Levine, David Price, David J. Wasserstein
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Phillip Ackerman-Lieberman, Julia Phillips Cohen, Ari Joskowicz, Shaul Kelner, Adam Meyer, Allison Schachter
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS Rebecca Epstein-Levi, Mazalit Haim
SENIOR LECTURER Judith Klass

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. 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 diverse cultures and traditions. Students of all backgrounds will find in Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt a wide array of materials 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 also have access to courses offered by the schools of divinity, education, and music; they 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 as.vanderbilt.edu/jewishstudies for more details.

NOTE: New course numbers took effect in fall 2015. Former course numbers are included in course descriptions in this catalog and at this website: registrar.vanderbilt.edu/faculty/course-renumbering/course-lookup/.

Program of Concentration in Jewish Studies

The major in Jewish studies requires a minimum of 30 credit hours.

1. Introductory course, 3 credit hours. JS 1002 or 1002W, Introduction to Jewish Studies, or JS 1040: Introduction to Modern Jewish History.
2. Language, 6 credit hours. A year of modern Hebrew (Hebrew 2201–2202, Intermediate Hebrew) or biblical Hebrew (REL 5120, Intermediate Hebrew).* Proficiency at the level of intermediate Hebrew can be demonstrated through testing. If this option is exercised, students will take an additional 6 credit hours of electives toward 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 Judeo-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 6 credit hours of electives toward the major.
3. Electives (minimum of 21 credit hours)—Any of the courses listed below that are not used to fulfill another requirement towards the major may be counted as an elective with the exception of JS 3880, which cannot count toward the major because it must be taken Pass/Fail. In addition to courses drawn from Arts and Science departments and the professional schools, nontraditional 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 CET Jewish Studies in Prague and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Honors Program

The Honors Program in Jewish Studies offers superior students a more intensive concentration within their major field. Admission to the program requires:
1. A 3.3 cumulative grade point average.
2. A 3.3 cumulative grade point average in Jewish Studies.
3. Completion of the junior year.

Requirements for graduation with honors in Jewish Studies are:
1. 6 credit hours in Honors sections (JS 4980–4981), including completion of thesis—these credit hours may count as elective credit toward the major. Honors thesis is 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 credit hours.

1. Introductory course, 3 credit hours. JS 1002 or 1002W, Introduction to Jewish Studies. JS 1010: Introduction to Judaism, or JS 1040: Introduction to Modern Jewish History.
2. Electives (minimum of 15 credit hours). Any of the courses listed below that are not used to fulfill another requirement toward 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 program director.

LANGUAGE:

Jewish Studies: 4301, Jewish Language and Paleography.


ELECTIVES:

Jewish Studies: 1002 or 1002W, Introduction to Jewish Studies; 1010, Introduction to Judaism, or 1040, Introduction to Modern Jewish History; 1111.01, In a Pluralistic Age: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Spain; 1111.02, Music and Identity in Jewish Traditions; 1111.03, Radical Jews from Karl Marx to Noam Chomsky; 1111.04, Civil Rights and Civil Wrongs: Black–Jewish Relations in the 1950s and 1960s; 1111.05, Gender, Sexuality, and Desire in Jewish Literature; 1111.06, Reading across the Boundaries: Arab and Israeli Literature and Culture; 1111.07, From Einstein to Chomsky: Revolutionary Sciences in Jewish America; 1111.09, Jews and Muslims: A Modern History; 1111.10, Jewish Responses to Catastrophe;
Latin American Studies

DIRECTOR Edward F. Fischer
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Avery Dickins de Girón
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES, AND DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES Nicolette Kostiw
LATIN AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHER Paula Covington

Affiliated Faculty

PROFESSORS Robert Barsky (French and Italian), John Brock (Medicine), Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons (Art), Daniel B. Cornfield (Sociology), Arthur A. Demarest (Anthropology), Tom D. Dillehay (Anthropology), Marshall Eakin (History), David J. Ernst (Physics), Edward F. Fischer (Anthropology), Earl E. Fitz (Portuguese), Leonard Folgarait (History), Victoria A. Furruz (Spanish and Portuguese), Jana Harper (Art), T. S. Harvey (Anthropology), Jonathan Hiskey (Political Science), Suzana Herculano-Houzel (Psychology), John Janusek (Anthropology), Christina Karageorgiou-Bastea (Spanish), Noam Lupu (Political Science), Paul B. Miller (French and Latin American Studies), Troy Moon (Medicine), Douglas Morgan (Medicine), Ifeoma Nwankwo (English), Emanuella Oliveira-Monte (Portuguese), Cynthia Paschal (Engineering), Tiffany Patterson (African American and Diaspora Studies), Vesna Pavlović (Art), Norbert O. Ross (Anthropology), Mariano Sana (Sociology), Mavis Schorn (Nursing), José Sibaja (Music), Jada Benn Torres (Anthropology), Philip D. Rasico (Spanish), Fernando Segovia (Divinity), Timothy Sterling (Medicine), Randall S. Thomas (Law), Benigno Trigo (Spanish), Bart Victor (Management), Edward Wright-Rios (History), Andrés Zamora (Spanish), Elizabeth J. Zechemester (Political Science), Mel Ziegler (Art)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS Dominique P. Béhague (Medicine, Health, and Society), Victoria A. Burrez (Spanish and Portuguese), Janey Camp (Engineering), José Cárdenas Bunsen (Spanish), Celso T. Castilho (History), Beth A. Conklin (Anthropology), Markus Eberl (Anthropology), Quentin Eichbaum (Medicine), Carol Ethrington (Nursing), William R. Fowler Jr. (Anthropology), Carlos Oriáva (Medicine), Luisa Jorge (Earth and Environmental Sciences), Natasha McClure (Anthropology), Terry A. Maroney (Law), Peter Martin (Medicine), Philip D. Rasico (Spanish), Fernando Segovia (Divinity), Timothy Sterling (Medicine), Randall S. Thomas (Law), Benigno Trigo (Spanish), Bart Victor (Management), Edward Wright-Rios (History), Andrés Zamora (Spanish), Elizabeth J. Zechemester (Political Science), Mel Ziegler (Art)

AFFILIATED FACULTY Thomas E. Verrier (Music), Carol Ziegler (Nursing)

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