

MINOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

Program Learning Outcomes for the Minor in Jewish Studies

Upon completing the minor in Jewish Studies, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of key Jewish religious traditions, texts, and figures throughout history, from the ancient to the contemporary, as well as the place of those traditions, texts, and figures within specific historical, geographical, or sociopolitical contexts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of Jewish history and culture during different time periods and in different geographical locations.
3. Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply theories and methods from multiple disciplines—including religious studies, literature, history, film, and sociology—to address key issues or undertake research in the field of Jewish studies; synthesize theories and methods from multiple disciplines to address questions within the field of Jewish studies.
4. Demonstrate the ability to read and interpret primary and secondary texts critically, including ancient as well as modern literature, religious texts, film, and modern scholarship; demonstrate the ability to use these texts to develop and support evidence-based research questions and arguments in discussions, verbal presentations, and in research papers.
5. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally at the college level; this includes demonstrating the ability to communicate in a critical, scholarly manner by developing evidence-based research questions and arguments, using and citing evidence to support argumentation, and writing and speaking clearly and correctly.

Requirements for the Minor in Jewish Studies

Students pursuing the minor in Jewish Studies must complete:

- A minimum of 6 courses (18-21 credit hours, depending on course selection) to satisfy minor requirements.
- A minimum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 2) tab.
- A maximum of 2 courses from Hebrew (HEBR) course offerings.
- A maximum of 2 courses from Religion (RELI) course offerings.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this minor. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the minor's academic advisor, or where applicable, the Program Director. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the minor's [Official Certifier](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>)). Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the Minor in Jewish Studies		18-21

Minor Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirement		
<i>Select 1 course from the following:</i>		3-4
HIST 374	JEWISH HISTORY, 1500-1948	
JWST 201	GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE	
RELI 108	INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM	
RELI 341	AMERICAN JUDAISM: RELIGION AND THOUGHT	
RELI 392	JERUSALEM: HOLY CITY IN TIME AND IMAGINATION	
Elective Requirements		
<i>Select 1 elective course from Language and Literature (see course list below)</i>		3-4
<i>Select 1 elective course from History and Culture (see course list below)</i>		3-4
<i>Select 1 elective course from Thought, Philosophy, and Ethics (see course list below)</i>		3
<i>Select 2 additional elective courses (see course lists below)</i>		6
Total Credit Hours		18-21

Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

Elective Requirements

To fulfill the remaining Jewish Studies minor requirements, students must complete a total of 5 additional courses (15-17 credit hours, depending on course selection) from the following categories as listed below. At least 1 course (3 credit hours) must be completed from each of the three categories. If a course is listed in more than one category, students can elect a category for which the course counts, yet each course can apply to only one category. Two additional electives (6 credit hours) must be selected from any of the approved Jewish Studies coursework to total 5 elective courses (15 credit hours).

Language and Literature

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Select at least 1 course from the following:</i>		
FWIS 177	STORYTELLING IN BUDDHISM	3-4
GERM 329 / HUMA 329	LITERATURE OF THE HOLOCAUST AND EXILE	
GERM 352	POLITICS OF THE FLESH IN GERMAN LITERATURE, THOUGHT AND FILM	
HEBR 125 / RELI 125	INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW I	
HEBR 126 / RELI 126	INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW II	
JWST 120	ISRAEL: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE I	
JWST 121	ISRAEL: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE II	
JWST 201	GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE	

JWST 351 / FILM 351	HOLOCAUST REPRESENTATION IN LITERATURE, ART, AND FILM
RELI 127	INTERMEDIATE BIBLICAL HEBREW III
RELI 243	THE BOOK OF GENESIS
RELI 318	THE BIBLE: A BRIEF INTELLECTUAL HISTORY
RELI 339	APOCALYPSE THEN AND NOW
RELI 381	THE MESSIAH
RELI 382	LOST JUDAISMS: THE APOCRYPHAL WRITINGS
RELI 383	THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS
RELI 388	THE PSALMS

History and Culture

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Select at least 1 course from the following:</i>		3-4
FWIS 124	WITNESSING THE HOLOCAUST	
FWIS 158	THE HOLOCAUST IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE	
GERM 336	NATIONAL SOCIALISM AND FILM	
HART 435 / HIST 443 / MDEM 435	MULTICULTURAL EUROPE, 1400-1700	
HIST 201 / RELI 203	JUDAISM OF JESUS AND HILLEL	
HIST 205 / MDEM 205	MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN WORLD	
HIST 316	JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC WORLD	
HIST 324 / MDEM 324	CONFLICT AND COEXISTENCE IN MEDIEVAL SPAIN	
HIST 357 / MDEM 357	JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE	
HIST 374	JEWISH HISTORY, 1500-1948	
JWST 201	GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE	
JWST 301	JEWISH FOOD: RELIGION, CULTURE, AND CONSUMPTION FROM THE BIBLE TO BAGELS	
JWST 325	ARCHIVAL RESEARCH AND HISTORICAL METHODS: JEWISH HOUSTON	
JWST 338	BECOMING AMERICANS: THE JEWISH IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES	
JWST 351 / FILM 351	HOLOCAUST REPRESENTATION IN LITERATURE, ART, AND FILM	
JWST 418	MUSIC AND DIASPORA	
MDEM 377 / HART 377	MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS	
RELI 104 / MDEM 103	INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM	
RELI 108	INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM	
RELI 122	THE BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETERS	
RELI 215 / FILM 215	MYSTIC CINEMA: KABBALAH IN FILM	

RELI 383	THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS
RELI 385 / HIST 381	GOD, TIME AND HISTORY
RELI 392	JERUSALEM: HOLY CITY IN TIME AND IMAGINATION
SOCI 363	AFRICAN AMERICAN-JEWISH RELATIONS: RACE, RELIGION, POLITICS, AND POPULAR CULTURE

Thought, Philosophy, and Ethics

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<i>Select at least 1 course from the following:</i>		3
FWIS 159	VOICING DISSENT: MUSIC AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS	
GERM 352	POLITICS OF THE FLESH IN GERMAN LITERATURE, THOUGHT AND FILM	
HART 435 / HIST 443 / MDEM 435	MULTICULTURAL EUROPE, 1400-1700	
JWST 401	WHY THE JEWS? THEORIES OF ANTISEMITISM	
RELI 120	BIBLICAL ETHICS	
RELI 104 / MDEM 103	INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM	
RELI 122	THE BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETERS	
RELI 318	THE BIBLE: A BRIEF INTELLECTUAL HISTORY	
RELI 341	AMERICAN JUDAISM: RELIGION AND THOUGHT	
RELI 363	JEWISH PHILOSOPHY: GREAT THINKERS AND THEMES IN JEWISH THOUGHT	
RELI 381	THE MESSIAH	
RELI 385 / HIST 381	GOD, TIME AND HISTORY	

Policies for the Minor in Jewish Studies

The courses used to meet the Jewish Studies minor are open to all students at Rice from all backgrounds. Our classes meet student interests in Jewish experience and its importance for history, literature, art, politics, law, and philosophy.

Program Restrictions

Students pursuing the minor in Jewish Studies should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in [Majors, Minors, and Certificates \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/), i.) students may declare their intent to pursue a minor only after they have first declared a major, and ii.) students may not major and minor in the same subject.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of [transfer credit advisors \(https://](https://)

oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the minor in Jewish Studies should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 3 courses (9 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the minor.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution credit eligibility is done initially as part of the [new course creation process](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/>). Additionally, as part of an [annual roll call](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution credit eligibility is routinely reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean's Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-credit-eligible meet the criteria as set in the [General Announcements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text>). Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet [graduation requirements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text>) by completing coursework designated as distribution-credit-eligible at the time of course registration.

Distribution courses from Jewish Studies (JWST) are broad in theme and scope and prompt students to consider the ways in which the study of Jewish history, culture, and religious practice inform the general study of the Humanities. Like the field of Jewish Studies itself, these courses are interdisciplinary in nature and offer students tools for making critical arguments about what Jewish history and culture can teach us about broader historical and cultural questions. Most of these courses are introductions to basic elements of the study of Judaism and Jewish culture.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Jewish Studies website: <https://jewishstudies.rice.edu>.

Opportunities for the Minor in Jewish Studies

Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Fellowships

The Program in Jewish Studies offers competitive fellowships. Fellowships are available to full-time undergraduates who are currently enrolled at Rice and will be enrolled for the coming academic year. These awards are intended to assist students who want to pursue a special project related to the field of Jewish Studies in the United States or abroad. Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, we will try to be flexible with funding and travel dates as needed. For more information and to download an application, visit <https://jewishstudies.rice.edu/fellowships> (<https://jewishstudies.rice.edu/fellowships/>)

Essay Prize

The Program in Jewish Studies also offers an annual essay prize. The Morris and Shirley Rapoport Jewish Studies Essay Prize is a competitive annual essay prize open to undergraduate students from any department. Applicants may submit a scholarly essay of up to 2,000 words that addresses some element of Jewish history, culture, or experience in any academic field. Artistic submissions may include creative writing, pieces of artistic expression, and musical compositions. First prize is \$1000; two honorable mentions are \$200 each. For more information and to download the cover page, visit <https://jewishstudies.rice.edu/awards-and-prizes> (<https://jewishstudies.rice.edu/awards-and-prizes/>)

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Jewish Studies website: <https://jewishstudies.rice.edu>

See <https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life> (<https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life/>) for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this minor.