

# 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 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.
3. 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.

## 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 3 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 |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Core Requirement</b>                    |                           |              |
| <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 363   | JEWISH PHILOSOPHY: GREAT THINKERS AND THEMES IN JEWISH THOUGHT |              |
| RELI 392   | JERUSALEM: RELIGION AND POLITICS PAST AND PRESENT              |              |
| <b>Elective Requirements</b>   |  |              |
| <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            |
| <b>Total Credit Hours</b>  |  | <b>18-21</b> |

## 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> |  | 3-4          |
| ENGL 238  | SPECIAL TOPICS <sup>1</sup>                                  |              |
| FWIS 101  | THE BIBLE IN POPULAR CULTURE                                 |              |
| 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                           |              |
| HEBR 141  | FIRST YEAR HEBREW I  |              |
| JWST 201  | GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE                    |              |
| JWST 318 / SWGS 318                                 | ISRAELI WOMEN WRITERS  |              |
| 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 382  | LOST JUDAISMS: THE APOCRYPHAL WRITINGS                       |              |

|          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| RELI 383 | THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS |
| RELI 388 | THE PSALMS           |

Footnotes and Additional Information

<sup>1</sup> ENGL 238 only counts toward the Jewish Studies minor when the topic is related to Jewish Studies. For questions regarding a specific instance of ENGL 238, consult a JWST minor advisor.

History and Culture

| Code   | Title  | Credit Hours |
|--|--|--------------|
| Select at least 1 course from the following: 3-4 |  |              |
| FWIS 110 / FWIS 210                              | JEWS ON FILM: CINEMATIC REPRESENTATIONS OF JEWISH LIFE   |              |
| 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 372   | IMMIGRATION AND THE STATE: 19TH & 20TH CENTURY           |              |
| HIST 374   | JEWISH HISTORY, 1500-1948                                |              |
| HIST 438   | THE MEDIEVAL CITY, 300-1500                              |              |
| HIST 461   | THE SECOND WORLD WAR: A POLITICAL HISTORY                |              |
| JWST 130 / RELI 130                              | ANTI-SEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA                           |              |
| JWST 201   | GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE                |              |
| JWST 325   | ARCHIVAL RESEARCH AND HISTORICAL METHODS: JEWISH HOUSTON |              |
| JWST 351 / FILM 351                              | HOLOCAUST REPRESENTATION IN LITERATURE, ART, AND FILM    |              |
| RELI 104 / MDEM 103                              | INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM                         |              |
| RELI 108   | INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM                                  |              |
| RELI 122   | THE BIBLE AND ITS INTERPRETERS                           |              |
| RELI 203 / HIST 201                              | JUDAISM OF JESUS AND HILLEL                              |              |
| 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: RELIGION AND POLITICS PAST AND PRESENT |
|----------|---|

Thought, Philosophy, and Ethics

| Code   | Title  | Credit Hours |
|--|--|--------------|
| Select at least 1 course from the following: 3 |  |              |
| FWIS 175                                       | POLITICS AND RELIGION: THE JEWISH QUESTION                     |              |
| GERM 320                                       | TWENTIETH CENTURY GERMAN THOUGHT AND LITERATURE IN GERMAN      |              |
| GERM 322 / HUMA 322                            | MARX, FREUD, EINSTEIN: FOREBEARERS OF MODERNITY                |              |
| 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 104 / MDEM 103                            | INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM                               |              |
| RELI 120                                       | CONTEMPORARY ETHICS AND THE BIBLE                              |              |
| 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 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. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the designated transfer credit advisor for the appropriate academic department offering the Rice

equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content). The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of transfer credit advisors (<https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/>) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with the applicable transfer credit advisor as well as their academic program director 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 guideline:

- 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.

## 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/>.