Serving as a model for interdisciplinary study in the humanities and social sciences, academic Jewish studies is a completely non-denominational program. Based on a broad range of literary, historical, cultural, and other models, the program permits students to analyze the ways in which Jews have lived with and among other peoples and cultures throughout the world, from antiquity to the present, from ancient Israel through medieval Europe to contemporary America. Jewish studies provides a context for learning about issues that have had a profound impact upon other disciplines. These include identity under conditions of Diaspora life, the literature of post-colonialist communities, the authority of a traditional literary canon, the role of law and legal systems, the impact of modernization upon culture, the role of memory, and the construction of gender.

The faculty of Jewish studies, as an interdisciplinary program, includes members from the departments of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, History, German, English, and American Studies. Members are also appointed from the School of Music and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The program offers courses in areas ranging from the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and classical Judaism through Holocaust history, contemporary German-Jewish poetry, Diaspora literature, American popular culture, and Women and Judaism.

Study abroad in Israel or Europe is encouraged as a valuable augment to the major; consult the University's Global Campus office for further information. Jewish studies currently offers both an undergraduate major and a minor degree.

**Requirements for the Major**

**Degree Requirements**

Students must complete at least 120 credits to graduate, including at least 30 credits in the major. Students may focus either on either antiquity or modernity, or explore both periods.

The program seeks to:

- give students substantive understanding of the historical, religious, literary, philosophical, sociological, and political experiences of the Jewish people.
- demonstrate how scholars of diverse academic disciplines conceptualize and examine issues in their field. Students will learn how to approach the same subject with different perspectives and methodologies.

The program joins humanistic and social scientific approaches to learning. The principal disciplines represented in the program are history, literature, religious studies, archaeology, art, American studies, women’s studies, political science, sociology, and music.

**Required Courses**

- JwSt 3034—Introduction to Judaism
  Note: The revised major, to take effect late 2004, will include as an option JwSt/CNES 3201—Bible: Context and Interpretation.
- Students must also complete at least 30 additional credits, distributed as follows:
  - 24 credits in courses of 3xxx-level or above in Jewish languages and literature, social sciences, philosophy, and religion. The major focus of the courses, chosen with adviser approval, should be on the Jewish people and Judaism in any of their lands and cultures, from antiquity to the present. At least one course must utilize the methods of the social sciences (sociology, political science) and at least one course must utilize the methods of the humanities (religious studies, history, literature).
- ANTH 3045—Religion and Culture or, as approved by DUS, a substitute course that provides the student with methodological tools and insights relevant to his
or her area of concentration (e.g., comparative religion, history, etc.)

- JwSt 4000 or 4001—Major Project

Language Requirements

Students will normally complete two years of study in either Biblical or Modern Hebrew. With permission of DUS, another language relevant to the student’s program of study will be considered.

Major Project

As the intellectual capstone of their degree, students majoring in Jewish studies must complete a Final Project in their final year of study. The Final Project provides the student with the opportunity to conduct independent research and writing, under the supervision of a Faculty Sponsor. This requirement may be satisfied in either of the two following ways, and must be planned with the DUS one semester in advance:

- **Option A: JwSt 4000 W (4 credits).** A student may approach any JwSt faculty member to develop a program of independent research and writing, in an area of the student’s choosing, and arrange. Normally in such cases, the student will previously have taken at least one upper division course (3xxx or 4xxx) with the faculty member who is to direct this project.

- **Option B: JwSt 4001 W (1 credit).** A student enrolls in any 5xxx JwSt course (normally 3 cr.), and makes a contract with the course instructor to write an in-depth research paper or comparable project to be completed in conjunction with that course.

Under either option, the following expectations apply:

- Plans for the Final Project should be made one semester in advance. In the semester before the project begins, the student should seek a faculty member’s agreement to supervise the course. To do so, the student will prepare a research proposal and negotiate a contract outlining mutual expectations, timetable for completion, and the requirements to fulfill the contract.

- All contracts must be filed with the DUS;

- All contracts must provide an intellectual rationale for the particular research topic; a preliminary bibliography; and a schedule for completion;

- Students should make use of original sources, languages, archives, or field research in preparing the preparing the project;

- The final result will normally be a substantial research paper of approximately twenty pages that makes an independent contribution to scholarship. It should demonstrate mastery of the conventions of academic writing that are relevant to the topic (normally including bibliography and footnotes or endnotes);

- Alternative ways of satisfying the requirements for substantial work, mastery of technical conventions, independent research, and original contribution may be considered upon petition to the DUS. Such petitions should specify how the given alternative project will fulfill each of these requirements. For example, students may prepare a translation of a work of ancient or modern literature, with critical introduction and commentary; or research and stage an Israeli or Yiddish play, accompanied by program notes that outline the play’s literary sources, historical context, and use of language and cultural context; or undertake a significant piece of creative writing or a musical composition, to be accompanied by an introduction and commentary that places the work in its cultural context and analyzes how its aesthetics connect the work to the history of Jewish art and thought.

- Students must meet regularly with the Faculty Sponsor for the course and submit first drafts of each key section for comment and revision.

- Consistent with the requirements for WI certification, the project must go through at least one major revision and possibly several. The Faculty Sponsor should provide feedback on both content and writing during this process.

Minor Requirements

The Jewish studies minor provides students majoring in other areas with the opportunity to develop an additional concentration in the academic study of Jewish culture and civilization throughout history. The minor, which recognizes the diversity and international aspect of the Jewish experience, will reinforce any disciplinary specialization and contribute a comparative focus. Students must complete 14 credits of upper-level JwSt courses to satisfy the requirements of the minor by taking at least one course in antiquity (ancient/medieval) and one in the modern period. Students otherwise choose freely from among the full range of JwSt courses in biblical studies, archaeology, ancient Judaism, Hebrew, Jewish history (including Holocaust studies), German-Jewish literature, the American Jewish experience, etc.

Requirements (credits and grading policy)

Completing the minor requires a total of 5 courses (min. 14 credits 3xxx or higher), taken on an A-F basis, with grades of C- or better and a 2.0 GPA.

- **Ancient and Medieval Foundations**—At least one course on the ancient religious foundations of Jewish civilization, either “The Bible: Context and Interpretation” (*JwSt 3201) or “Introduction to Judaism” (3034).

- **Judaism in Modernity**—At least one 3xxx course on any aspect of Jewish civilization in the period since 1492 C.E.

- **Language policy**—Up to 10 credits of either/both Biblical and Modern Hebrew courses (3xxx or higher) may count toward the minor.

If shown to be relevant to the student’s study of Jewish history and culture, courses in other languages may be substituted (3xxx or higher), by petition to the DUS.

If students wish to study a second language in addition to completing four semesters of study in one language, introductory courses (1xxx or 2xxx) in that additional language may count towards the minor if relevant to Jewish Studies, and with approval of the DUS. This provision applies to students who have studied modern Hebrew but wish to add biblical, or vice versa.
**How do I declare a Jewish studies major?**

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Jewish studies major, meet with the appropriate person from the department to complete a Major Program form and be sure to retain the student copy for your records.
3. The copy for your CLA student file will be forwarded by the department's staff to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community to learn about your new major’s declaration process.

**What can I do with a major in Jewish studies?**

**Skills**

Academic Jewish studies emphasizes the analysis of text, culture, history, and identity. The skills thereby gained provide a strong foundation for both general undergraduate education and for continuing on to graduate or professional school. These skills include:

- Close reading and critical analysis of texts
- Ability to construct arguments and to conduct independent research
- Analysis of material and non-material culture
- Historical perspective on the continuing impact of religion upon culture
- Clear awareness of cultural diversity and of minority perspectives
- Solid foundation to begin rabbinical training or ministerial education

**Employment**

Academic Jewish studies logically opens to a wide range of graduate and professional opportunities, including:

- **Law school**—given the importance of the legal tradition in Jewish history
- **Business school**—given the historical perspective on foreign cultures
- **Medical school**—given the intellectual training and the focus upon ethics
- **Graduate education**—in literature, history, religion, or philosophy
- **Rabbinical school**
- **Divinity school**
- **Government**—international relations, public information, diplomatic service
- **Non-profit**—fundraising, programming, and management
- **Media**—writing, editing, public relations, and management
- **Social work or MSW programs**—working with elderly or immigrant groups
- **Education**—to work in Jewish education in the public or day school programs

**Remember!**

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
- filed a copy with the major department
- filed a copy with your CLA student community
- be sure to keep a copy for yourself

**For more information**

**About the Jewish studies major:**

The Center for Jewish Studies
107a Folwell Hall (or 305 Folwell Hall)
(612) 624-4914
http://jwst.cla.umn.edu/

**About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:**

CLA Society and Culture Student Community
122 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-2549
http://www.class.umn.edu/sandc/
sac@class.cla.umn.edu
(e-mail nparadise@class.cla.umn.edu for specific information about the Jewish studies major)

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

**About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:**

Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

**About graduation with honors:**

Students interested in graduating with honors should contact:

CLA Honors Division
115 Johnston Hall
(612)624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu