

JEWISH STUDIES

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

DIRECTOR AND ADVISOR

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DEGREES OFFERED: NONE

Jewish Studies is an interdisciplinary field that encompasses the texts, history, languages, philosophy, and culture of Jews and Judaism as they have endured over three millennia and throughout the world. Spread across the humanities and social sciences, Jewish Studies broadly examines topics including the Hebrew Bible and its history of interpretation, the nature of Jewish identities in religious and secular contexts, aesthetic representations of otherness, the relations of history and memory, religion and art, philosophical discussions of God, and others. Investigating the foundations and development of these various topics as well as their interaction with and influence on other traditions provides an opportunity to explore the continuities and diversity of Jewish life and thought over three millennia.

Undergraduate students will benefit from a course of studying Judaism because of the interdisciplinary status of JWST which crosses boundaries between departments and even schools; the substantive contribution to human knowledge which a people and culture that has remarkably proceeded from one of humanity's oldest traditions into an entirely contemporary one; and the intersection between academic study and engagement with local institutions (such as the Holocaust Museum Houston) and public discussions of some urgency.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN JWST

JWST minor courses are generally 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. The following requirements apply to the JWST minor.

- Students must complete at least six courses (18 credit hours).
- Students must take at least one of the following core courses: HART 377 *Jews and Art*; RELI 208 or 324 *Secular Judaism*; or RELI 209 *Introduction to Judaism*.
- Students must take at least one course in each of the following categories: (1) language, and literature; (2) history and culture; and (3) thought, philosophy, and ethics. If a course is listed in more than one category,

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students can elect for which category the course counts, yet each course can only apply to one category. For a list of approved elective courses, covering a wide range of relevant topics, please review www.jewishstudies.rice.edu and/or speak with the minor advisors.

- No more than two Hebrew (HEBR) and two Religious Studies (RELI) courses will count towards the JWST minor.
- At least three courses must be at the 300-level or higher.
- No more than three courses can apply from study abroad or transfer credits.

For a complete listing of all courses offered each semester in JWST, as well as for more information about Jewish Studies at Rice in general, please visit www.jewishstudies.rice.edu.