

Learning Outcomes from Colby's Jewish Studies Program

The Jewish Studies program at Colby College seeks to impart the following knowledge, skills, and values in students who take its courses.

KNOWLEDGE

Students will gain at least basic familiarity with the following subject areas in the required survey courses; they will develop a more advanced understanding of selected areas through their electives within the program.

JS 181

- Hebrew Bible and ancient Israel
- Hellenistic Judaism
- Rabbinic Judaism
- Jewish life in the Middle Ages
- Judaism in Christian/Islamic thought

JS 182

- Jewish responses to modernity
- Jewishness in modern Europe and the Middle East
- Zionism and establishment of the State of Israel
- Israeli society, culture, and politics
- Jewishness in the United States, past and present

Students who complete the three-semester Hebrew language sequence will also develop sufficient command of grammar and vocabulary to enter Gimmel-level Ulpan classes in Israel and read Hebrew-language websites.

Students will develop at least basic familiarity with the following dynamics as they pertain to the experiences of Jews past and present, with the goal of being able to apply this knowledge to the experiences of non-Jewish communities as well.

- identity formation
- change over time
- how individuals and groups interpret texts
- community construction and maintenance
- prejudice, privilege, oppression, inequality, and injustice
- acculturation and the preservation of distinctiveness

SKILLS

Students will develop proficiency in the following:

- critical reading of secondary sources
- interpretation of primary sources
- comparative analysis
- understanding diverse perspectives
- relating broad dynamics and specific phenomena
- independent research
- reflective thinking
- academic writing

VALUES

Recognizing that these are not formally taught or assessed in Jewish studies courses, we nonetheless aim to model the following values and instill them in our students:

- integrity
- respect
- pursuit of excellence
- self-confidence tempered with humility
- ongoing self-reflection
- appreciation for diversity of cultures and perspectives
- teamwork and attentiveness to the needs of others
- concern for marginalized communities