The Jewish Studies Program creates transformational learning opportunities for students of all backgrounds by cultivating hands-on collaboration, mutual respect, concern for marginalized voices, and the dignity of high expectations. Through the study of Jewish traditions and experiences past and present, students gain a deeper understanding of how people construct and maintain communities, balance acculturation with the preservation of distinctiveness, and navigate challenges associated with prejudice, privilege, oppression, inequality, and injustice. Students also explore the evolution of cultural, ethnic, and religious identities as well as the interpretation of shared texts and practices. Jewish Studies courses develop broadly applicable skills associated with critical reading, reflective thinking, and effective communication. The program emphasizes personal mentorship and courses with civic engagement or global travel components.

Inspired by the rabbinic dictum, “learning leads to action,” the Jewish Studies Program works closely with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life to create teaching and leadership development opportunities for students as well as public programs for the Colby community and the people of Maine. Students and faculty members participate in interdisciplinary, campus, and public conversations, applying insights from Jewish Studies scholarship to contemporary challenges. Though a major in Jewish studies is not offered, interested students are encouraged to consult the director about an independent major.

Requirements for the Minor in Jewish Studies

A minimum of six Jewish studies courses, including the two core courses (Religious Studies 181 and 182) and one three- or four-credit course at the 300 or 400 level. Minors may count two two-credit courses or independent studies as the equivalent of a single course toward the requirement of six Jewish studies courses. Jewish Studies 125 does not count toward the minor. Minors may petition to receive credit toward the Jewish studies minor for up to three courses taken at other colleges and universities.

Successful completion of the minor requires a 2.00 average for all requirements above. None of the required courses may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Courses listed below are described in the appropriate department sections of this catalogue.

Courses from Other Departments Approved for the Minor in Jewish Studies

Government

- 251 Israelis and Palestinians: Conflict and Accommodation
- 252 Introduction to Politics of the Middle East

History

- 421 Research Seminar: Debating the Nazi Past

Music

- 121 Entartete (Degenerate) Musik

Religious Studies

- 143 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
- 144 Introduction to the New Testament
- 152 Israeli Popular Music
- 181 Conceptions of Jews and Judaism
- 182 Jews, Judaism, and the Modern World
- 221 The Jews of Maine
- 223 Religion in the Modern State of Israel
- 285 Faith, Class, and Community
- 322 Food and Religious Identity
- 346 Jews of Germany, Past and Present
- 384 Religious Responses to Ethical Dilemmas
- 387 Anti-Judaism and Islamophobia in Christian/Western Thought
Course Offerings

[JS121]  Entartete (Degenerate) Musik  Listed as Music 121.  Three credit hours.  A, I.

JS125f  Hebrew I  The first of three consecutive courses designed to develop fluency and accuracy in Modern Hebrew. Through an interactive approach to language learning, students gain communicative proficiency and a greater understanding of Israeli society. Videos, audio, and web materials introduce students to the nuanced and rich connections between Hebrew and Jewish culture in Israel and around the world.  Three credit hours.  SOLOCHEK

JS126s  Hebrew II  The second of three consecutive courses designed to develop fluency and accuracy in Modern Hebrew. Students will deepen their knowledge of Hebrew grammar and further develop the facilities for written and oral communication in Hebrew. Delves more deeply into Israeli culture through media and literature. Prerequisite: Jewish Studies 125 or equivalent.  Three credit hours.  SOLOCHEK

JS127f  Hebrew III  The third of three consecutive courses designed to develop fluency and accuracy in Modern Hebrew. Students will deepen their knowledge of Hebrew grammar and further develop the facilities for written and oral communication in Hebrew. Delves more deeply into Israeli culture through media and literature. Prerequisite: Jewish Studies 126 or equivalent.  Three credit hours.  WEISS

JS143f  Introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament  Listed as Religious Studies 143.  Four credit hours.  L.  SONIA

JS144s  Introduction to the New Testament  Listed as Religious Studies 144.  Four credit hours.  L.  SONIA

[JS152]  Israeli Popular Music  Listed as Religious Studies 152.  Three credit hours.  A.


JS182s  Jews, Judaism, and the Modern World  Listed as Religious Studies 182.  Four credit hours.  H, I.  FREIDENREICH

[JS219]  Violence and Religion through the Centuries  Listed as Religious Studies 219.  Four credit hours.

[JS221]  The Jews of Maine  Listed as Religious Studies 221.  Four credit hours.  H.

[JS223]  Religion in the Modern State of Israel  Listed as Religious Studies 223.  Two credit hours.

[JS226]  Community Organizing and Social Justice  For decades, ordinary citizens have exercised their power on a local and state level using the principles of congregation-based community organizing (CBCO). In this hands-on introduction to the principles of CBCO, students will learn how to organize to build power and create political change. With special attention to the Jewish texts that underlie this work, we will focus on the history of Jewish involvement in social justice movements as a case study for making change. Guest speakers from across the country will share their experiences.  Three credit hours.

JS251s  Israelis and Palestinians: Conflict and Accommodation  Listed as Government 251.  Four credit hours.  S.  DENOEUX

JS252f  Introduction to Politics of the Middle East  Listed as Government 252.  Four credit hours.  S.  DENOEUX


JS298s  Narratives of Israel/Palestine  Listed as Religious Studies 298.  Two credit hours.  FREIDENREICH

[JS322]  Food and Religious Identity  Listed as Religious Studies 322.  Four credit hours.  S.

[JS323]  Holocaust in French Cinema  Listed as French 323.  Four credit hours.
Four credit hours.  H, I.

[JS384] Religious Responses to Ethical Dilemmas  Listed as Religious Studies 384.  
Four credit hours.

JS387s Anti-Judaism and Islamophobia in Christian/Western Thought  Listed as Religious Studies 387.  
Four credit hours.  I.
FREIDENREICH

JS421s Research Seminar: Debating the Nazi Past  Listed as History 421.  
Four credit hours.  H, W3, I.
SCHECK

JS491f, 492s Independent Study  One to four credit hours.