Colby

JEWISH STUDIES

Director, *Professor Raffael Scheck*
Program Steering Committee and Faculty: *Professors Véronique Plesch (Art), Raffael Scheck (History), David Simon (Art), and Robert Weisbrot (History); Associate Professor John Turner (History); Assistant Professors Audrey Brunetaux (French) and David Freidenreich (Jewish Studies); Visiting Instructor Rachel Isaacs (Jewish Studies)*

Program Affiliated Faculty: Professors Guilain Denoeux (Government) and David Suchoff (English); Visiting Assistant Professor Phillip Silver (Music)

The Jewish Studies Program, in the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, is an academic program whose core mission is to educate students in the breadth and complexities of Jewish history, religion, politics, and culture and to situate this learning in the larger context of their liberal arts education. Jewish studies courses engage students of all backgrounds in diverse aspects of Jewish civilization and address themes as divergent as identity formation, prejudice, and intercultural relations. Through the minor in Jewish studies, the program offers students an opportunity to take courses in several disciplines of the humanities and social sciences, including history, religious studies, English, and government.

As the only program of its kind in Maine, Jewish studies seeks not only to educate Colby students but also to provide public programming to members of the Maine community through its curricular and cocurricular activities. 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 courses, including two core courses (Religious Studies 181 and 182) and four other courses in Jewish studies that are approved for the minor. Jewish Studies 125 and 126 do not count toward the minor.

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 Approved for the Minor in Jewish Studies

French

- 376 Shadows of the Past: Remembering Vichy France and the Holocaust

Government

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

History

- 421 Research Seminar: Debating the Nazi Past

Music

- 121 *Entartete* (Degenerate) *Musik*

Religious Studies

- 143 Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures
- 181 Conceptions of Jews and Judaism
- 182 Jews, Judaism, and the Modern World
- 219 Texts of Terror: Violence and the Religions of the Book
- 221 Topics in Maine's Jewish History
- 322 Food and Religious Identity
- 382 Abraham in the Abrahamic Religions
- 384 Jewish Responses to Ethical Dilemmas
- 397 Reading and Researching in Biblical Hebrew I
- 398 Reading and Researching in Biblical Hebrew II

For updates to the list of courses approved for the Jewish studies minor and courses offered in the 2012-2013 academic year, refer to the Jewish Studies Program's website.

Course Offerings

[JS115J] English Composition: Holocaust Lessons Listed as English 115J, Section C. *Three credit hours.*

JS121j *Entartete* (Degenerate) *Musik* Listed as Music 121. *Three credit hours.* **A, I** SILVER

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.* ISAACS

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.* ISAACS

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.* ISAACS

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

JS181f Conceptions of Jews and Judaism Listed as Religious Studies 181. *Four credit hours.* **H, I** FREIDENREICH

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

JS221j Topics in Maine's Jewish History Listed as Religious Studies 221. *Three credit hours.* **H, U** FREIDENREICH

JS224s Jewish Theology An introduction to the multiple Jewish answers to life's big questions. We will explore how to live the good life, the role of God in determining our fate, the meaning of suffering in our lives, and the relationship between politics and faith. We will interrogate ideas found in the Hebrew Bible, Jewish liturgy, rabbinic texts, and the works of modern thinkers such as Hermann Cohen, Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, and Abraham Isaac Kook. *Three credit hours.* ISAACS

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

JS252f Politics of the Middle East Listed as Government 252. *Four credit hours.* **I** DENOEUX

JS297Jj Schtick and Sympathy: Jewish Humor from Bible to Present A survey of the history of Jewish humor from the biblical era until the present. We will explore the cultural and historical factors that have shaped Jewish humor and how Jewish humor has contributed uniquely to the wider world of comedy. From the Book of Esther to *Curb Your Enthusiasm,* the ways that Jewish theology, linguistics, geography, ethnicity, trauma, and wit have been refracted through the lens of humor. Includes explorations of critical theory, classical texts, short stories, movie screenings, and performances. *Three credit hours.* **A** ISAACS

JS322s Food and Religious Identity Listed as Religious Studies 322. *Four credit hours.* **S** FREIDENREICH

[JS376] Shadows of the Past: Remembering Vichy France and the Holocaust Listed as French 376. *Four credit hours.* **L, I**

JS384f Jewish Responses to Ethical Dilemmas Listed as Religious Studies 384. *Four credit hours.* FREIDENREICH

[JS386] Medieval Judaism, Real and Imagined Listed as Religious Studies 386. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

JS397f Reading and Researching in Biblical Hebrew I Listed as Religious Studies 397. *Four credit hours.* MANDOLFO

JS398s Reading and Researching in Biblical Hebrew II Listed as Religious Studies 398. *Four credit hours.* MANDOLFO

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

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