

Jewish Studies

Jewish studies is the exploration of the history, languages, philosophy, and literature of the Jewish people. A variety of courses is offered at all levels in Hebrew language and literature, cognate Semitic languages, Yiddish language and literature, Jewish history, rabbinics, and Jewish philosophy, with occasional offerings in other fields such as English, sociology, and social work. Work in the area of Jewish studies is greatly enhanced by the presence of the Judaica collection (over 100,000 volumes) at University Libraries—one of the largest and finest of its kind in the United States.

Pursuing Jewish Studies at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Jewish studies within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor or director in the Melton Center for Jewish Studies and in Arts and Sciences Advising.

Jewish Studies Requirements

The Melton Center for Jewish Studies helps to coordinate a large number of undergraduate courses at Ohio State. Each year faculty in affiliated departments offer courses that emphasize various aspects of Jewish studies, as well as Hebrew and Yiddish language and literature. In addition, the center offers a basic introductory course to Jewish studies. Interdisciplinary courses are occasionally offered.

Undergraduate students can develop a comprehensive and well-rounded interdisciplinary major in Jewish studies. Major requirements include a minimum of 50 hours of course work approved by the student's faculty advisor. Courses in Jewish history and philosophy, other electives, and Hebrew courses are required.

Core courses include Hebrew 101 through 104. These courses satisfy the general education foreign language requirement, but do not apply to the major.

Additional electives and General Education Curriculum requirements totaling 181 hours are required by the College of the Arts and Sciences for graduation.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Jewish Studies

Jewish studies offers students a unique approach to all the major disciplines within the humanities. As a part of the Arts and Humanities, and hence of the liberal arts Jewish studies seeks to prepare students for further study in the humanities as well as prepare them for employment in state and local government, religious organizations, social agencies, teaching, business, and the arts. Moreover, past majors have become college and university professors, lawyers, and business executives.

Beginning salaries depend on candidates' skills and experience. Jewish studies graduates find their marketable skills considerably enriched by their humanities education.

For more information, check these web sites:

Jewish Studies: meltoncenter.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Jewish Studies. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests.

Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Jewish Studies. Consult the departmental web site, meltoncenter.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Introductory Hebrew I	5
Introductory Hebrew II	5
Intermediate Hebrew I	5
Introduction to Jewish Studies	5
GEC courses	25
Arts and Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Intermediate Hebrew II	5
Modern Hebrew Grammar, Composition, and Conversation	5
Review of Hebrew Grammar and Composition	5
Introduction to Jewish Philosophy	5
GEC courses	20
Total hours	40

Junior Year:

Intermediate Hebrew Conversation and Composition	5
Modern Hebrew Short Story	5
Ancient and Medieval Jewish Civilization	5
Modern Jewish Civilization	5
GEC courses	25
Total hours	45

Senior Year:

Yiddish Literature in Translation	5
Jewish Settlement in Palestine	5
Jewish Mysticism	5
GEC courses	15
Electives	20
Total hours	50

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields under consideration. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level, career employment. More information about both offices is found at ascareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

About Ohio State

The Ohio State University is recognized throughout the nation and the world for its innovative programs, exceptional faculty, and cutting edge facilities. In fact, Ohio State is consistently ranked among the country's best public institutions for overall academic reputation. Because Ohio State is a major teaching and research university, our students receive excellent preparation for entry into top graduate and professional programs and the job market.

Offering over 170 majors and more than 12,000 courses, Ohio State allows students to tailor their education to their interests through double majors, minors, and personalized study programs.

Apply to Ohio State

Students wishing to apply for admission have a number of options. Those with Internet access can download application materials or apply online by visiting undergrad.osu.edu/apply.html. Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or askabuckeye@osu.edu to have an application mailed.

Revised September 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the Jewish studies program, please visit meltoncenter.osu.edu.

Contact information:

Dr. Matt Goldish | Director of the Melton Center for Jewish Studies
306 Dulles Hall | 230 West 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1311 | (614) 292-0967