

# The Jewish Studies Program

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## I. Mission and purpose of the program

Jewish Studies (formerly Judaic and Holocaust Studies) promotes the academic study of Jewish culture, society and religion for students of all backgrounds. It is an interdepartmental program with a small number of majors, two of whose core faculty are eminent scholars with limited teaching responsibilities, so it operates differently from a usual department.

Jewish Studies contributes to FAU's mission by providing an education suitable for all students requiring a broad liberal arts background, including but not limited to preparation for professional studies in law or social work and graduate studies in history or religious studies, as well as being the natural preparation for careers in Jewish leadership, communal service and teaching at all levels.

Courses taught by faculty from across the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters Program are included in the degree, but core courses are taught affiliated program faculty members. These are excellent teachers as well as respected and well-published members of their disciplines. The four core faculty members together have produced five single-authored books in the last seven years, as well as numerous articles and contributions to books of essays. Our core faculty includes two faculty who hold endowed chairs (Frederick Greenspahn, the Gimelstob

Eminent Scholar of Judaic Studies and Alan Berger, the Raddock Family Eminent Scholar for Holocaust Studies), as well as full professor Marianne Sanua in History and associate professor Kris Lindbeck in the Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature (LLCL).

Our public programs meet community needs and enhance the university's visibility by providing lectures and symposia. The Gimelstob Symposia, organized by Dr. Greenspahn since 2005, present new research in Jewish Studies to the general public and are later published by New York University Press. Dr. Berger's Center for the Study of Values and Violence after Auschwitz, which sponsors an extensive yearly lecture series.

As of summer 2012, the Jewish Studies program is housed in LLCL, the tenure home of its new director, Kris Lindbeck. This is a natural choice given the program's academic foundations in Jewish scripture, traditional texts, history, and Hebrew language taught by faculty members in that department.

## **II. Responses to the last program review**

The last program review was done in 2005. It recommended a focus on increasing the number of majors and, through public programming, awareness of the major. The program has developed its public programming as well as significantly increasing its course offerings and number of students taught (see Appendix One), but has not succeeded in increasing its number of majors.

As a consequence of the small number of majors, the capstone course implemented in 2005 had to be rethought. Consequently, it has been removed and the program has focused on expanding its range of offerings. Since 2006 we have added more than six new courses, including Jewish Literature Through the Centuries, The Dead Sea Scrolls, Old Testament, Medieval Jewish History, The History of Zionism and the State of Israel, and Women and Judaism. These courses serve majors throughout the College, particularly in History and English, as well the Women's Studies and Religious Studies programs.

## **III. Instruction**

Because of the unusual nature of our program and our small number of majors, full departmental dashboard indicators were not collected. While the number of majors has fluctuated somewhat, it has not increased, and it remains too small to extract any significant trends, as the reader will see from the tables at the end of the "Majors" section.

## A. Major(s)

**Requirements for the Major, Retention and Opportunities for Student Involvement:** At the moment, the major requires 35 credit hours, including a year of Intermediate Hebrew. In general, the major serves well the students who do chose it: most of them stay with us and graduate from FAU, and they receive an education comparable or better to those of Jewish Studies majors at comparable institutions. At the moment, one Jewish Studies major has an internship in the department, and we want to expand this opportunity in the future.

**Changes Being Considered for the Major:** This fall, we will be considering, and probably implementing, two changes to the major. First, since we have had to let our senior seminar lapse, we will make a new requirement that majors take a course in which they receive guidance in writing an excellent research paper, either within the department or by taking the course on writing a research paper in either History or Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature, which are often taught by Dr. Sanua and Lindbeck respectively. We will also be examining whether we can reduce the number of credit hours for the major while retaining its integrity, in order to make it more attractive as a double major.

**Advising:** Students in the program are advised by the program director. As a consequence of the large amount of public programming associated with the Jewish Studies program, students have many co-curricular opportunities to meet and talk with the faculty. Both of these, we believe, contribute to the high quality of educational experience of our JST majors and certificate (minor) students.

**Assessment:** The program has a core set of student learning outcomes that guide its assessment. Assessment has covered core knowledge in Jewish Studies, critical thinking skills, and competence in speaking and writing Modern Hebrew. The current assessment plan is appended. It uses two foundational courses (Jewish Civilization I and II) and our Intermediate Hebrew courses for assessing student learning. We have worked to coordinate syllabi to assure that all core areas of Jewish Studies are covered, and reviewed written papers and student performance in Hebrew to assess student performance in those areas.

As the number of majors is small, we generally know what they do after graduation. Most of them go on to graduate work in Jewish or religious studies, or to rabbinical or cantorial programs, and a significant number go to work in Jewish schools and communal organizations.

## Jewish Studies Majors Enrolled and Degrees Granted

A. Jewish Studies Majors Enrolled 2004-04 to 2006-07 for the 2007 Program Review

**Only a subset of the Program Review measures is available for this interdepartmental program.**

	Jewish Studies			College Total	University Total
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2006-2007	2006-2007
Bachelors	11	8	8	4,435	24,339
Masters				453	3,909
Doctoral				110	769
Unclassified					5,571
Total	11	8	8	4,998	34,588

*Source: Student Data Course File*

Notes:

1. Students enrolled in more than one term during the year are included in the level of their latest term.
2. Only the Bachelors For Annual Headcounts, each student is counted once whether enrolled in summer, fall or spring. degree is awarded.

## Jewish Studies Majors Enrolled 2008-09 to 2010-2011

	Jewish Studies			College Total	University Total
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-2011	2010-2011
Bachelors	10	12	9	4,832	26,663
Masters/Specialist				473	4,486
Doctoral				69	905
Unclassified					4,192
Total	10	12	9	5,374	36,246

## Jewish Studies Degrees Granted 2002-02 to 2010-11

Jewish Studies Majors	Year Degree Granted									All
	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	08-09	09-10	10-11		
Degrees awarded with a:										
Single major	2.0	5.0	2.0	3.0		1.0	1.0	2.0	16.0	
Double major	0.5	1.0			0.5	0.5		1.0	3.5	
Total	2.5	6.0	2.0	3.0	0.5	1.5	1.0	3.0	19.5	

NOTE: A degree awarded with a single major contributes 1 degree, a double major contributes 1/2 degree in each major, and a triple major contributes 1/3 degree in each major to the degree totals.

## B. Other Aspects of the Program

**Other Majors Served:** Despite our small number of majors, our courses are well-attended: many students benefit from taking JST courses as general electives and as counting toward other majors, especially History, and also English and various LLCL majors that include Comparative Literature.

**Certificate Students:** As you can see from the table on the right, an increasing number of students taking multiple Jewish Studies courses is reflected by the increasing number of Jewish Studies Certificates, without any particular effort to publicize the option. The certificate is essentially a minor, but was created within the administrative category of certificate so that non-matriculated students can also take advantage of it, although few so far have done so.

**Student Evaluation of Teaching:** Because program SPOT scores were not available in the DDI's, we have collected them for all Jewish Studies (JST) courses taught within the program. (These data do not include courses which count toward the major but which have other prefixes). These data (see Appendix Two) show that the core faculty's average scores have been steadily increasing and are now generally above the college average.

**Compliance with official regulations:** The program is fully in compliance with State-approved prerequisites.

**Resources and Staffing:** Everything now planned by the program is feasible within our budgetary and time constraints. We have an outstanding faculty. Professor Lindbeck, the new director, has the support of her colleagues, as well as practical support from the academic advisor housed in the Department of Languages, , Linguistics and Comparative Literature. Furthermore, both the office of the Dean and LLCL are open to providing clerical support when needed.

Certificates Awarded 2007-20012	
Summer 2012	3
Spring 2012	3
Fall 2011	2
Summer 2011	1
Spring 2011	3
Fall 2010	1
Summer 2010	1
Spring 2010	1
Fall 2009	1
Summer 2009	0
Spring 2009	1
Fall 2008	0
Summer 2008	1
Spring 2008	1
Fall 2007	0
Summer 2007	0
Spring 2007	2

### C. Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities

**Strengths:** Our major strength is the scholarship and teaching of our faculty. The FAU Jewish Studies Program is the only comprehensive Jewish Studies program in South Florida. We already serve as an important resource for the community at large and for the many students who take our courses, and we believe that with consistent leadership and a clear plan we can also increase our number of majors.

These strengths, however, have not been enough to overcome student reluctance to major in an area that is both non-traditional and seemingly disconnected from the demands of the marketplace. Consequently, the program is threatened by its low number of majors.

**Weaknesses and Threats:** The program's major weakness (other than lack of majors) has been the lack of consistent leadership. Three people have served as director in the past seven years, leading to lack of continuity in planning and implementation of improvements. We are now stabilized in leadership and anchored within a department, and this should make a great deal of difference.

A significant threat to the program is our recent loss of an excellent Hebrew instructor. If we cannot get funding for her replacement in the next few years, we will have to re-think the Hebrew requirement for the major, which now includes Intermediate Hebrew, a fairly unusual requirement for Jewish Studies majors at state university programs roughly equivalent to FAU.

**Opportunities:** Based on experience over the life of the program, the faculty have concluded that it is not realistic to expect this major to be a large one. Nevertheless, we believe that the program can continue to be a significant asset to the university and the community as a whole, especially considering South Florida large Jewish population, and the many people inside and out outside the university who want to know more about it.

Furthermore, we plan to increase the number of majors through three strategies:

**First, Recruitment:** We will continue to work with FAU recruitment and college advising to attract prospective students and freshmen interested in the humanities, and also reach out directly to local high schools to make sure that they are aware of the Jewish Studies major. Improvements underway on the website will also make the program more visible.

**Second, Convert Current Students into Majors:** We will continue to emphasize the advantages of the major for the many students enrolled in Jewish Studies courses. For instance, students who wish to do graduate work in religion, humanities, or law can benefit from being a Jewish Studies major. Furthermore, Jewish Studies courses are rigorously interdisciplinary and stress critical thinking as well as writing skills. Consequently, a major in Jewish Studies is good preparation for many post-B.A. careers.

**Third, Encourage Double Majors:** We will emphasize the usefulness of Jewish Studies as part of a double major – Jewish Studies and an education degree, for example, prepare the student well for work in the increasing number of Jewish educational institutions in the region. We are continuing our work with the College of Education to develop a B.A. in Jewish Studies with Secondary Education Certification, as well as an alternate track in which students would receive a BA in Education and a Certificate in Jewish Studies.

We are also working with current majors to further increase graduation rates by improving advising and planning, which will be easier now the advising is centered in LLCL. As of next fall, course schedules will be announced two years in advance, so that students can easily plan their requirements.

In the long term, we will be cooperating with the development office to increase our available funds in order to rehire a Hebrew instructor and provide for other program needs. If this is not possible, it may be necessary to re-think the major. The program, however, should definitely continue, as it is grounded in two named chairs and offers excellent courses for all Florida Atlantic students and important programs for the community.

## Appendix One:

### Hebrew and Jewish Studies Full Time Enrollment 2005-2005 & 2010-2011

Hebrew & JST 2005-06		LOWER	UPPER	TOTAL	LOWER	UPPER	TOTAL
COURSE	section	CREDIT HOURS	CREDIT HOURS	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	ANNUALIZED STUDENT FTE	ANNUALIZED STUDENT FTE	ANNUALIZED STUDENT FTE
HBR 1120	1	32	0	32	0.8	0	0.8
	3	32	0	32	0.8	0	0.8
HBR 1121	1	44	0	44	1.1	0	1.1
	2	16	0	16	0.4	0	0.4
HBR 2203	1	36	0	36	0.9	0	0.9
JST 3408	1	0	81	81	0	2	2
JST 4415	1	0	33	33	0	0.8	0.8
JST 4425	1	0	96	96	0	2.4	2.4
JST 4701	1	0	201	201	0	5	5
JST 4905 (DIS)	1	0	27	27	0	0.7	0.7
	2	0	3	3	0	0.1	0.1
	3	0	3	3	0	0.1	0.1
JST 4930	1	0	30	30	0	0.8	0.8
	3	0	45	45	0	1.1	1.1
TOTAL		160	519	679	4	13	17

Hebrew and Jewish Studies 2010-2011							
		Lower Div	Upper Div	Total	Lower Div	Upper Div	Total
		STUDENT CREDIT HOURS	STUDENT CREDIT HOURS	STUDENT CREDIT HOURS	ANNUALIZED STUDENT FTE	ANNUALIZED STUDENT FTE	ANNUALIZED STUDENT FTE
Course							
HBR 1120		108	0	108	2.7	0	2.7
HBR 1121		108	0	108	2.7	0	2.7
HBR 2220		24	0	24	0.6	0	0.6
HBR 2221		40	0	40	1	0	1
JST 3102		0	48	48	0	1.2	1.2
JST 3403		0	75	75	0	1.9	1.9
JST 3404		0	63	63	0	1.6	1.6
JST 3513		0	57	57	0	1.4	1.4
JST 4417		0	54	54	0	1.3	1.3
JST 4430		0	12	12	0	0.3	0.3
ST 4701		0	141	141	0	3.5	3.5
JST 4905 (DIS)		0	14	14	0	0.4	0.4
JST 4930		0	45	45	0	1.1	1.1
LIT 6934		0	0	3	0	0	0.1
REL 4218		0	60	60	0	1.5	1.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>280</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>