



Jewish Studies

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge): Students will demonstrate knowledge of Jewish history, culture and thought from Biblical times to the present day. They will be aware of and have studied Jewish holy texts, Jewish history in Temple times, Judaism and the foundations of Christianity and Islam; Medieval Jewish history, the changing role of women in Jewish culture, Hasidism, and the Jews of Eastern Europe; the Jewish Emancipation in the late 1700; the development of denominationalism, modern Antisemitism, Zionism and the state of Israel, the Holocaust, American Jewish life.

In Classical Jewish Civilization (JST 3403) and Modern Jewish Civilization (JST 3404), students will demonstrate knowledge of major events, eras, ideas and development in Jewish history through various forms of written work and tests. They will be able to conceptualize the development of Jewish culture and history over time (from the era of the Bible until the present) and space (comparing the variety of Jewish cultural production in a given historical moment).

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Research Skills). Students will demonstrate the ability to reason from historical data and produce coherent arguments. Jewish Studies majors will demonstrate knowledge and mastery of scholarly research skills, including:

- a) the ability to conduct in-depth research via electronic library catalogs, databases, and web portals
- b) the ability to locate primary and secondary scholarly sources (in both print and electronic form) of clear relevance to the topic of research
- c) the ability to contextualize and situate the selected primary and secondary sources in clear and coherent relationship to each other.

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills): Students will engage in critical/reflective analysis and interpretation of materials derived from their independent research.

In Classical Jewish Civilization (JST 3403) and Modern Jewish Civilization (JST 3404), as well as other upper level Jewish Studies courses students will engage in research and analysis that may represent one or more disciplinary perspectives and may draw on various disciplinary perspectives, including (but not limited to) the historical, the literary, the linguistic, the cultural, and the religious.

Students' written work will demonstrate the following critical thinking skills:

- (a) the ability to assess the major theses of complex written works and situate those works within their intellectual context in Jewish Studies;
- (b) the ability to analyze competing perspectives on the same phenomenon or work;
- (c) the ability to develop a clear, original and internally consistent thesis supported by argument and evidence.

COMMUNICATION (Written Communication): Students will produce well-organized, well-conceptualized and grammatically correct writing.

In one or more written assignments in both Classical Jewish Civilization (JST 3403) and Modern Jewish Civilization (JST 3404), students will demonstrate the ability to produce written work that is grammatically and syntactically correct, well organized, and appropriately formatted. The work must conform to the bibliographic and citation standards of the field.