# Bachelor of Arts in Jewish studies

## Program information

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| **College** | Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters | | |
| **Department or school** | Jewish Studies Program | | |
| **Degree abbreviation** | B.A. | **CIP code** | 38.0206 |
| **Program website** | www.fau.edu/artsandletters/jewishstudies/programs/bajewishstudies | | |

### Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

## Program mission

The Jewish Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary curriculum in Jewish religion, culture and history, including Hebrew language, literature, the Holocaust and Israel. It also serves as a bridge to the wider South Florida community through events and cultural activities.

### Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

### How the program supports the university mission

The major supports the university's mission by forging partnerships that build connection across South Florida through the program's community events. Students also build research, writing and analysis skills that prepare them for many careers.

## About the program

Jewish studies majors explore Jewish history, culture and thought from biblical times to today. Students take two core courses in classical and modern Jewish civilization, study Hebrew and choose electives in history, arts and culture, politics and religion. The major is a great fit for students interested in religion, history and culture.

## Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

### A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

**Areas this program addresses (check at least two)**

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to explain major events, eras and ideas in Jewish history, culture and thought from biblical times to the present.
Graduates will be able to locate and organize credible primary and secondary sources for a research project using library catalogs and databases.

**How students show it**

Written work and tests in the two core courses on classical and modern Jewish civilization, and research papers in upper-level Jewish studies courses.

**Where it is assessed**

JST 3403 Classical Jewish Civilization; JST 3404 Modern Jewish Civilization

### B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

**Areas this program addresses (check at least two)**

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☐ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to write well-organized, grammatically correct papers in their own voice that follow the citation standards of the field.

**How students show it**

Written assignments in the two core courses on classical and modern Jewish civilization.

**Where it is assessed**

JST 3403 Classical Jewish Civilization; JST 3404 Modern Jewish Civilization

## C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

**Areas this program addresses (check at least one)**

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to assess the main arguments of complex works and compare competing perspectives on the same subject.
Graduates will be able to develop a clear, original thesis supported by argument and evidence.

**How students show it**

Written work and research papers in the core courses and upper-level Jewish studies courses.

**Where it is assessed**

JST 3403 Classical Jewish Civilization; JST 3404 Modern Jewish Civilization

# Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

Faculty review written assignments and tests in the two required core courses on Jewish civilization. They look at knowledge of Jewish history and culture, use of sources, strength of argument and quality of writing. Research papers in upper-level courses show how well students analyze sources and develop their own thesis.

*Assessment methods may change over time.*