

THE FIELD

The program in Judaic studies seeks to cultivate an appreciation of the central role played by Jewish culture in the development of human civilization. As an interdisciplinary program, Judaic studies exposes students to a variety of perspectives on issues of enduring importance and global concern. Students may choose from a wide selection of introductory and advanced courses in Jewish history and thought, a full program in Hebrew language and literature, and Yiddish language. Beyond the core area of instruction, the curriculum also includes courses offered by several distinguished faculty holding joint appointments in Judaic studies.

Minors in Judaic studies and Hebrew are available.

THE MAJOR

Requirements for majors in Judaic studies include JUDAIC 101 and 102: The Jewish Experience I and II, and two years of the Hebrew language. Students also complete six 3-credit or 4-credit upper-division Judaic studies courses (at or above the 200 level). Students must also complete the Junior Year Writing and Integrative Experience requirements. Secondary Judaic studies majors may fulfill the Junior Year Writing and Integrative Experience requirements in their primary major department.

Students may supplement the Judaic studies course offerings with special-problem courses in the area of a student's particular interest. This may be arranged with adjunct Judaic studies faculty. Consult the department's course description guide produced each semester.

HONORS

Contact the departmental honors coordinator, Susan Shapiro (413-545-4464, shapiro@judnea.umass.edu) for information on how to pursue honors opportunities within the major.

STUDY ABROAD

Students are encouraged to spend one or two semesters of study at a recognized Israeli university, and may, with prior permission, apply Judaic and Hebrew credits toward their major in Judaic studies. For detailed information on study abroad opportunities, contact the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies or the International Programs Office (413-545-2710, umass.edu/ipo).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A major in Judaic studies is suitable preparation for any pre-professional training that requires an undergraduate liberal arts education. Many of our majors have plans for a career related to Judaica or graduate study. Alumni who majored in Judaic studies have gone to graduate schools such as Brandeis, Harvard, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Yeshiva University School of Social Work, and have entered fields such as Jewish communal service, social work, the arts and communications, teaching, and advanced graduate study.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

The humanities focus on human creativity, endeavor, and culture. The imaginative and creative arts—literary and performing—derive from life and teach about human behavior and constructs of social reality. The history of social, political, and economic systems illuminates and shapes the present and the future. Students in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts are expected to broaden their perspectives on individual and cultural expression within their own and other societies, to understand the development and evolution of the discipline of study in relation to the culture from which it emanates, and to learn the methods by which knowledge in the discipline is gained.

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