

Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

The Program in Jewish Studies offers an undergraduate major (B.A. in Jewish Studies) and minor, Departmental Honors (both by research paper and by service learning), and courses in Jewish Studies, Hebrew, and Yiddish; we also co-sponsor courses in many other units, especially Religious Studies and History, Global and International Studies, and Political Science. Among our several focus areas are Jewish history and culture, Judaism, Holocaust studies, Israel Studies, Jewish languages and narratives, and applied service in Jewish organizations.

Students who choose to complete the B.A. in Jewish Studies often find employment working in Jewish education, non-profit organizations, outreach, and other areas where knowledge of Jewish languages, history, and culture is an asset. The Jewish Studies B.A. is easy to combine with other majors and/or minors within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Jewish culture and religion have flourished in a rich variety of forms and in remarkably disparate places on the globe for thousands of years. Jewish contributions have deeply affected the art, languages and literature, law, philosophy, and political thought, and the sciences of all nations. The global impact of Jewish culture thus warrants its study as an important component of the liberal arts curriculum at KU. The Jewish Studies Program at KU is the only such program in the state of Kansas. Its mission, therefore, is to celebrate the Jewish experience and promote the understanding of its cultural importance with courses and academic programs that focus on the history, diversity, culture, languages, thought, and practices of the Jewish people and their religion.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (<http://credittransfer.ku.edu/>) website.

Requirements for the B.A. Major

Students take 30 credit hours structured according to the following plan:

- 1 Gateway course to Jewish Studies;
- 7 Jewish Studies core courses;
- 2 Capstone Research Coursework

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
Gateway course to Jewish Studies		3

Students must take one of these courses:

JWSH 177	First Year Seminar: _____
JWSH 400	Foundations of Jewish Studies

Jewish Studies Core Courses 21

Choose 7 courses (21 credit hours) from the following lists. Up to 5 courses can be taken from the same list.

List 1: Jewish Languages

Other relevant languages not taught at KU could also be considered for credit transfer.

HEBR 210	Intermediate Modern Hebrew I
HEBR 220	Intermediate Modern Hebrew II
HEBR 340	Advanced Modern Hebrew I
HEBR 350	Advanced Modern Hebrew II
HEBR 300	Topics in Hebrew: _____
ARAB 210	Intermediate Arabic I
ARAB 220	Intermediate Arabic II
ARAB 310	Advanced Arabic I
ARAB 320	Advanced Arabic II
RUSS 204	Intermediate Russian I
RUSS 208	Intermediate Russian II
RUSS 504	Advanced Russian I
RUSS 508	Advanced Russian II

List 2: Jewish Religion

JWSH 107	Jews, Christians, Muslims
JWSH 124	Understanding the Bible
JWSH 125	Understanding the Bible, Honors
JWSH 301	Topics in Jewish Religion: _____
JWSH 320	The Bible Then and Now
JWSH 323	The Jewish World of Jesus
JWSH 325	Introduction to Judaism
JWSH 326	The Talmud: Its Origins, Nature, and Evolution
JWSH 330	Mystical Tradition in Judaism
JWSH 337	Religious Zionisms
JWSH 347	Jewish Ethics
JWSH 379	Prophets and Profits
JWSH 525	Jews and Christians

List 3: History and Culture of the Jewish People

JWSH 300	Topics in History and Culture of the Jewish People: _____
JWSH 314	Anthropology and the Jews
JWSH 315	The Spanish Inquisition
JWSH 327	Jewish Secular Culture
JWSH 336	Jewish American Literature and Culture
HIST 340	The History of the Second World War
JWSH 341	Hitler and Nazi Germany
JWSH 343	The Holocaust in History
JWSH 344	Modern Jewish History
JWSH 345	Theatre and Genocide
JWSH 349	Antisemitism: A Long History
JWSH 380	Ethics and the Holocaust: Perpetrators, Collaborators, and Bystanders
JWSH 396	Hitler and Nazi Germany, Honors
JWSH 645	Theatre and Genocide

List 4: Israel Studies

HIST 328	The Modern Middle East	
JWSH 329	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: An Introduction	
JWSH 410	Israel: From Idea to State	
JWSH 422	Topics in Israeli Society: _____	
JWSH 412	Mandatory Palestine: 1920-1948	
JWSH 414	Israel/Palestine: The War of 1948	
JWSH 420	Politics and Government in Israel	
JWSH 434	Arab-Palestinian Society, Culture and Politics	
JWSH 681	Regimes in the Middle-East and North Africa	
Capstone Research Coursework		6
Students must take two courses from the following list, one at the 400 level and one at the 600 level.		
HEBR 490	Independent Study	
JWSH 490	Directed Study in Jewish Studies	
YDSH 490	Independent Study	
JWSH 491	Directed Study in Jewish Studies, Honors	
JWSH 601	Senior Seminar in Jewish Studies	
JWSH 650	Service Learning in Jewish Studies	
Total Hours		30

Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 30 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

Below is a sample 4-year plan for students pursuing the BA in Jewish Studies. To view the list of courses approved to fulfill Core 34, please visit the KU Core 34 page (<https://catalog.ku.edu/core34/>).

Freshman

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
HEBR 110 (BA Second Language, Major Pre-requisite) ¹	5 HEBR 120 (BA Second Language, Major Pre-requisite) ¹	5
Core 34: English (SGE) ⁰¹⁰	3 Jewish Studies Religion Course (Major Requirement; 1 of 2) ²	3
Second Area of Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3 Core 34: English (SGE) ⁰¹⁰	3
Core 34: Math and Statistics (SGE) ⁰³⁰	3 Core 34: Communications (SGE) ⁰²⁰	3

Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) ⁰⁶⁰		3
14		17
Sophomore		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
HEBR 210 (BA Second Language, Major Requirement) ¹	3 HEBR 220 (BA Second Language, Major Requirement) ¹	3
Jewish Studies Religion Course (Major Requirement; 2 of 2) ²	3 Jewish Studies Culture or History Course (Major Requirement; 1 of 2) ²	3
Core 34: Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE) ⁰⁴⁰	4-5 Core 34: Social and Behavior Science (SGE) ⁰⁵⁰	3
Core 34: Social and Behavior Science (SGE) ⁰⁵⁰	3 Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) ⁰⁶⁰	3
Core 34: Global Culture (SGE) ⁰⁷⁰	3 Core 34: US Culture (SGE) ⁰⁷⁰	3
16-17		15
Junior		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
Jewish Studies Culture or History Course (Major Requirement; 2 of 2) ²	3 Jewish Studies Major Elective Course (Major Requirement; 2 of 3) ³	3
Jewish Studies Major Elective Course (Major Requirement; 1 of 3) ³	3 Jewish Studies Major Elective Course (Major Requirement; 3 of 3) ³	3
Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3 Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3 Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3 Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
15		15
Senior		
Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3 JWSH 601 (Capstone Requirement)	3
Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3 Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3 Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3 Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	1 Second Area of Study/Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
13		15
Total Hours 120-121		

- ¹ Please note: the HEBR and YDSH Intermediate I and II courses listed on this four-year plan will fulfill both the BA Second Language requirement and the Language requirement in major. A complete list of courses that can count toward the Language requirement for the major is listed on the Degree Requirements tab. Not all the courses listed will fulfill the BA Second Language requirement. Students who use courses from the course list to fulfill the major Language requirement that do not also fulfill the BA Second Language requirement need to be sure that they either complete coursework or obtain a letter of proficiency to satisfy the BA Second Language requirement.
- ² See the Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/jewish-studies/ba-jewish-studies/#degreerequirementstext>) tab for a list of courses that fulfill this major requirement.
- ³ This major requires 3 courses of Jewish Studies major electives, which can be chosen from all the course lists provided under the Degree Requirements tab.
- ⁴ Hour requirements (incl. 45 jr/sr hrs) are typically met through Core 34, degree, major, second area of study and/or elective hours. Students completing the BGS with a major must choose a secondary area of study. Individual degree mapping is done in partnership with your advisor.

Please note:

All students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are required to complete 120 total hours of which 45 hours must be at the Jr/Sr (300+) level.

Notes:

* - This course is a Required major course and is also part of Core 34: Systemwide General Education. If this course is not taken to fulfill the Core 34:SGE requirement, it must be taken in place of elective hours.

** - This course is a Recommended Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. This specific course is not required but is recommended by the program's faculty.

*** - This course is a Required Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. This program is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents to require this specific Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. If a student did not take this course it must be taken in addition to other degree requirements.

Departmental Honors

For departmental honors in Jewish Studies, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Candidates will have a grade-point average in Jewish Studies of 3.5 both at the time of declaring their intention to seek honors and by graduation.
2. In consultation with the JS honors coordinator and with approval from a supervising professor, candidates will declare their intention to seek honors no later than the time of enrollment for the final undergraduate semester.
3. Candidates will fill out a Departmental Honors Intent form (<https://deptsec.ku.edu/~clasforms/forms/form/47/>) and submit a copy of that form to College Undergraduate Academic Services (109 Strong Hall).

4. Candidates intending to conduct research and write a substantial, original research paper (honors essay) will enroll in JWSH 490 Directed Study in Jewish Studies or in JWSH 491 Directed Study in Jewish Studies, Honors (if they are in the University Honors Program) for one or two semesters. Candidates intending to engage in service learning at a community organization will enroll in JWSH 650 and, at the end of service, will submit an essay that describes the service and reflects on the student's experience. A grade of B or higher must be earned in this/these courses.

5. A committee of three members of the University faculty (the supervising professor and two others, one of whom must be a member of the Jewish Studies faculty) will approve the honors essay or service learning project and will certify to the JS honors coordinator that the candidate has successfully completed the requirements to earn honors. The JS honors coordinator will write to notify College Undergraduate Academic Services that the JS Honors Program has been successfully completed.

6. If the candidate is earning a double major and is attempting to earn departmental honors in two different departments, one research project may be used to satisfy the requirements of both departments if the candidate obtains approval from both. Both departments must be represented on the student's committee.