

# Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

The Program in Jewish Studies offers an undergraduate major (BA 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 BA 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 BA 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:

- 2 Jewish culture or history courses;
- 2 religion courses relevant to Judaism;
- 2 courses of intermediate or advanced Hebrew and/or Yiddish;
- 1 capstone seminar course (JWSH 601), writing intensive; 1 and
- 3 elective courses, allowing the student to explore Jewish Studies in greater breadth and depth.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Courses</b>		
<b>2 Courses in Jewish History and/or Culture</b>		<b>6</b>
HEBR 410	Studies in Modern Hebrew Literature	
JWSH 315/ HIST 325/ SPAN 302	The Spanish Inquisition	
JWSH 318	Jews and Slavs in Eastern Europe	
JWSH 327	Jewish Secular Culture	
JWSH 329	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: An Introduction	
JWSH 335	History of Jewish Women	
JWSH 336	Jewish American Literature and Culture	
JWSH 338	Languages of the Jews	
JWSH 339	Languages of the Jews, Honors	
JWSH 341	Hitler and Nazi Germany	
JWSH/HIST 343	The Holocaust in History	
JWSH 344	Modern Jewish History	
JWSH 346	The Jewish Experience in America	
JWSH 350	Contemporary Jewish Identities	
JWSH 361	Jewish Film	
JWSH 371	Archaeology of Ancient Israel	
JWSH 382	Jerusalem Through the Ages	
JWSH 410	Israel: From Idea to State	
JWSH 412	Mandatory Palestine: 1920-1948	
JWSH 414	Israel/Palestine: The War of 1948	
JWSH 416	Israel in the First Decade	
JWSH 420	Politics and Government in Israel	
JWSH 422	Topics in Israeli Society: _____	
JWSH 426	Polls and Public Opinion in Israel	
JWSH 434	Arab-Palestinian Society, Culture and Politics	
JWSH 440	International Relations of the Middle-East	
JWSH 445	Local Self-Governments in Israel	
JWSH 590	Research Methods	
JWSH 681	Regimes in the Middle-East and North Africa	
JWSH 695	Study Abroad Advanced Topics: _____	
<b>2 Religion Courses Relevant to Judaism</b>		<b>6</b>
JWSH/REL 107	Jews, Christians, Muslims	
JWSH/REL 124	Understanding the Bible	
JWSH 125	Understanding the Bible, Honors	
JWSH 320	The Bible Then and Now	
JWSH 326	The Talmud: Its Origins, Nature, and Evolution	
JWSH 330	Mystical Tradition in Judaism	
JWSH 562	Judaism and Political Theology	
JWSH/REL 325	Introduction to Judaism	
JWSH/REL 525	Jews and Christians	
<b>Language (2 courses)</b>		<b>6</b>
prerequisite: successful completion of introductory Hebrew or Yiddish		

2 further courses in Languages (Hebrew and/or Yiddish) at or above the 200-level

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 395	Study Abroad Topics in Hebrew: _____
HEBR 420	Studies in Modern Hebrew
HEBR 490	Independent Study
YDSH 300	Studies in Yiddish: _____
YDSH 490	Independent Study

### 1 Capstone Seminar Course 3

JWSH 601	Senior Seminar in Jewish Studies
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### Electives 9

Other JWSH courses not chosen to satisfy the above requirements. HEBR and YDSH courses at 300+ level qualify as electives for up to 6 credit hours total. HEBR/YDSH courses at 200 level must be approved manually.

## 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 (<http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa/>).

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

### Freshman

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
HEBR 110 (BA Second Language, Major Pre-requisite) <sup>4</sup>	5 HEBR 120 (BA Second Language, Major Pre-requisite) <sup>4</sup>	5
ENGL 101 (Goal 2.1 Written Communication/BA Writing I) <sup>1</sup>	3 ENGL 102 (Goal 2.1 Written Communication/BA Writing II) <sup>1</sup>	3
Goal 1.2 Quantitative Literacy	3 Jewish Studies Religion Course (Major Requirement) <sup>3</sup>	3
First Year Seminar (Goal 1.1 Critical Thinking)	3 Quantitative Reasoning (QR) <sup>2</sup>	3
	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

### Sophomore

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
HEBR 210 (BA Second Language, Major Requirement) <sup>4</sup>	3 HEBR 220 (BA Second Language, Major Requirement) <sup>4</sup>	3
Jewish Studies Religion Course (Major Requirement)	3 Jewish Studies Culture or History Course (Major Requirement) <sup>3</sup>	3
Goal 3 Humanities	3 Goal 3 Social Science	3
Goal 3 Natural Science	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
BA Laboratory/Field Experience (LFE)	2 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3	
	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>

### Junior

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
Jewish Studies Culture or History Course (Major Requirement) <sup>3</sup>	3 Jewish Studies Major Elective Course (Major Requirement) <sup>5</sup>	3
Jewish Studies Major Elective Course (Major Requirement) <sup>5</sup>	3 Jewish Studies Major Elective Course (Major Requirement) <sup>5</sup>	3
Goal 4.1 US Diversity	3 Goal 4.2 Global Awareness	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

### Senior

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
JWSH 601 (Goal 6 Integration & Creativity, Major Requirement)	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
Goal 5 Social Responsibility & Ethics	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3 Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours <sup>6</sup>	3
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

### Total Hours 120

- <sup>1</sup> The BA requires completion of two courses of collegiate-level writing instruction. Students who test out of Composition will still need to complete ENGL 102 (or equivalent) and one additional Goal 2.1 course.
- <sup>2</sup> Visit this website (<https://collegeadvising.ku.edu/ba-quantitative-reasoning-courses/>) ([http://college.ku.edu/undergrad/curriculum/ba\\_QR/](http://college.ku.edu/undergrad/curriculum/ba_QR/)) for a list of courses that fulfill the BA Quantitative Reasoning requirement.
- <sup>3</sup> See the Degree Requirements tab for a list of courses that fulfill this major requirement.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.
- <sup>6</sup> Hour requirements (incl. 45 jr/sr hrs) are typically met through KU core, 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.

The same course cannot be used to fulfill more than one KU Core Goal. However, overlap of a KU Core course with a major or degree-specific requirement is allowed. Overlapping is recommended to allow more opportunities to explore other majors and/or minors.

## 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 Advising and Student 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.