Serving as a model for interdisciplinary study in the humanities and social sciences, academic Jewish studies is a completely non-denominational program. Based on a broad range of literary, historical, cultural, and other models, the program permits students to analyze the ways in which Jews have lived with and among other peoples and cultures throughout the world, from antiquity to the present, from ancient Israel through medieval Europe to contemporary America. Jewish studies provides a context for learning about issues that have had a profound impact upon other disciplines. These include identity under conditions of Diaspora life, the literature of post-colonialist communities, the authority of a traditional literary canon, the role of law and legal systems, the impact of modernization upon culture, the role of memory, and the construction of gender.

The faculty of Jewish studies, as an interdisciplinary program, includes members from the departments of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, History, German, English, and American Studies. Members are also appointed from the School of Music and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The program offers courses in areas ranging from the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and classical Judaism through Holocaust history, contemporary German-Jewish poetry, Diaspora literature, American popular culture, and Women and Judaism.

Study abroad in Israel or Europe is encouraged as a valuable augment to the major; consult the University’s Global Campus office for further information.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete at least 120 credits to graduate, including at least 30 credits in the major.

The program seeks to

- give students substantive understanding of the historical, religious, literary, philosophical, sociological, and political experiences of the Jewish people,
- demonstrate how scholars of diverse academic disciplines conceptualize and examine issues in their field. Students will learn how to approach the same subject with different perspectives and methodologies.

The program joins humanistic and social scientific approaches to learning. The principal disciplines represented in the program are the Hebrew and Aramaic languages (Yiddish and Arabic when available), history, literature, religious studies, archaeology, art, American studies, women’s studies, political science, sociology, and music.

Required Courses

- JwSt 1034—Introduction to Judaism
- Students must also complete at least 30 additional credits, distributed as follows:
  24 credits in courses of 3xxx-level or above in Jewish languages and literature, social sciences, and philosophy and religion. The major focus of the courses, chosen with adviser approval, should be on the Jewish people and Judaism in any of their lands and cultures, from antiquity to the present. At least one course must utilize the methods of the social sciences (sociology, political science) and at least one course must utilize the methods of the humanities (religious studies, history, literature).
- A course that provides the student with methodological tools and insights relevant to his or her area of concentration (e.g. comparative religion, history, etc.)
What can I do with a major in Jewish studies?

Language Requirements
Language requirements are currently under review; interested students are urged to contact the program’s office.

Major Project
A major project is required, including registration in JwSt 3951 (1-4 cr). Students majoring in Hebrew and Jewish studies are required to complete only one major project. The project generally takes the form of a paper, but other forms may be considered.

Minor Requirements
Language expectations for the minor are under review; interested students are encouraged to contact the program’s office.

Introduction to Judaism (JwSt 1034)
At least 6 additional credits of related coursework at the 3xxx level or higher must be chosen in consultation with the adviser. These courses may include courses in Jewish literature of any period or genre, Holocaust studies, and social science courses related to the study of the Jewish people or their religion and culture. All courses at the 3xxx level must be taken A-F.

Skills
Jewish studies emphasizes the analysis of text, culture, history, and identity. The skills thereby gained provide a strong foundation for both general undergraduate education and for continuing on to graduate or professional school. These skills include:

- Close reading and critical analysis of texts
- Ability to construct arguments and to conduct independent research
- Analysis of material and non-material culture
- Historical perspective on the continuing impact of religion upon culture
- Clear awareness of cultural diversity and of minority perspectives
- Solid foundation to begin rabbinical training or ministerial education

Employment
Jewish studies logically opens out to a wide range of graduate and professional opportunities, which include:

- Law school—given the importance of the legal tradition in Jewish history
- Business school—given the historical perspective on foreign cultures
- Medical school—given the intellectual training and the focus upon ethics
- Graduate education—in literature, history, religion, or philosophy
- Rabbinical school
- Divinity school
- Government—international relations, public information, diplomatic service
- Non-profit—fundraising, programming, and management
- Media—writing, editing, public relations, and management

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
- filed a copy with the major department
- filed a copy with your CLA student community
- be sure to keep a copy for yourself
For more information

About the Jewish studies major:
Undergraduate Advising
305 Folwell Hall
(612) 625-5353
http://cnes.cla.umn.edu/jewishstudies/

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:
CLA Society and Culture Student Community
122 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-2549
http://sandc.cla.umn.edu/
sac@class.cla.umn.edu

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
http://www.mlk.umn.edu/
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:
Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:
Students interested in graduating with honors should contact:
CLA Honors Division
115 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu