

# JEWISH SOCIAL STUDIES

Program Office: 1546 Hunter West; (212)772-5542

Program Director: Robert M. Seltzer  
1510 Hunter West, (212)772-5490, rseltsz@hunter.cuny.edu

## Coordinating Committee:

Friedman (Hebrew)  
Moses (Urban Affairs)  
Seltzer (History)

HEGIS Code: 0309

Majors Offered	Number Credits	Recommended Required GER	Prereq	Recommended Minor
BA in Jewish Social Studies	36-39 combined major/minor including: 1. at least 6 cr Jewish history 2. 6 cr Jewish Literature and Thought 3. 12-15 cr other courses 4. minor approved by the program.	Consult with adviser	Students must fulfill a language requirement either by passing a reading test in Hebrew or Yiddish with the aid of a dictionary or by successfully completing a one-year course in either language.	Hebrew, History, Religion, Sociology, Political Science, English, or another department or program that leads to a BA degree and is approved by the program director

The Jewish Social Studies Program is an interdisciplinary major that coordinates courses dealing with historical and contemporary Jewry and Judaism offered by a wide range of Hunter departments and programs. The Program also sponsors academic lectures and conferences for Hunter students, faculty and staff and for the general community.

The interdisciplinary specialization in Jewish social studies consists of 36 to 39 credits leading to a BA degree forming a combined major and minor with 24 to 27 credits dealing with Jewish studies taken in various departments and programs, plus 12 credits constituting a minor to be chosen from a department or program approved by the Jewish Social Studies Program. Students must fulfill a language requirement either by passing a reading test in Hebrew or Yiddish with the aid of a dictionary or by successfully completing a one-year course in either language. There is opportunity to receive academic credit for fieldwork with a Jewish community agency, as well as for accredited summer study programs in Israel and guided independent study.

## REQUIRED OF ALL MAJORS

a. **Jewish History** at least 6 cr chosen, in consultation with the program director, from such courses as:

- HIST 210 History of Judaism (GER/2/B).....3 cr
- HIST 242 The Holocaust: An Introduction ..3 cr
- HIST 309 Jewish History in the Ancient World (PD/A).....3 cr
- HIST 319 Jewish History in Medieval and Early Modern Periods (PD/D).....3 cr
- HIST 320 Jewish History in the Modern World (PD/D) .....3 cr
- HIST 321 History of the Holocaust
- HIST 357 American-Jewish History (PD/A).....3 cr

b. **Jewish Literature and Thought** at least 6 credits chosen, in consultation with the program director, from courses offered in the Hebrew or Religion programs or the English or Philosophy departments, such as the following:

- HEBR 211(W) Masterpieces of Medieval Hebraic Literature in Translation .....3 cr
- HEBR 212(W) Readings in Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation .....3 cr
- HEBR 218 Masterpieces of Yiddish Literature in Translation.....3 cr
- HEBR 281(W) Masterpieces of Ancient Hebraic Literature in Translation (GER/3/A) .....3 cr
- ENGL 386.63 The Bible in British and American Literature .....3 cr
- ENGL 390.58 Literature and Catastrophe (focus on Holocaust Studies) .....3 cr
- ENGL 399.98 Jewish American Literature ....3 cr

c. **Other Courses** up to 12 or 15 additional credits chosen in consultation with the program director, including some of the above courses or such courses as the following:

- HIST 384 Problems in European History (on a Jewish-studies topic) .....3 cr
- POLSC 264 Government and Politics of Israel.....3 cr
- REL 252 Ancient Near Eastern Religions .....3 cr
- REL 253 Western Religions .....3 cr
- HIST 740 Modern Jewish Social and Intellectual History (see graduate catalog) .....3 cr
- JSS 300 Independent Studies .....3-9 cr
- JSS 310 Jewish Social Studies Fieldwork ....3-6 cr
- JSS 400 Individual Honors Project .....3-6 cr
- JSS 410.50 Jewish Social Studies Seminar I ....3 cr
- JSS 410.51 Jewish Social Studies Seminar II ..3 cr

## Minor

12 credits in appropriate courses related to the student's area of concentration in such fields as history, philosophy, economics, political science, sociology and literature. Courses used for the major may not count toward the minor.

## Minor in Jewish Social Studies for Non-Majors

Jewish Social Studies can be taken as an allied minor along with a major in such fields as history, political science, sociology and religion, with the approval of the student's major adviser.

## Honors in Jewish Social Studies

Students will be eligible for honors in Jewish Social Studies upon completion of 24 credits in Jewish Social Studies with a 3.5 GPA and a 2.8 cumulative GPA at the time of graduation. To be eligible to graduate with honors in Jewish Social Studies, students can take JSS 400 (Individual Honors Project) or JSS 410 (Jewish Social Studies Seminar), or graduate courses with special permission, with a grade of B or better. Eligible students should apply for honors at the time they file for graduation.

## COURSE LISTINGS

### JSS 300 Independent Studies

Not open to students who have completed fewer than 30 credits. Guided readings under faculty supervision on a topic in Jewish Social Studies. May be repeated up to 3 times for a total of not more than 9 credits.

*prereq: 3 cr. in Jewish Social Studies recommended*  
1-6 hrs, 1-6 cr.

### JSS 310 Jewish Social Studies Fieldwork

Supervised experience in a Jewish community agency, periodic consultation with program director and preparation of report or term paper based on the experience.

*prereq: qualified Jr/Sr.*  
hrs TBA, 3-6 cr.

### JSS 400 Individual Honors Project

Not open to students who have completed fewer than 60 credits. Guided readings on a topic in Jewish studies under faculty supervision. May be repeated on different topics for a total of 6 credits. A substantial research paper is required.

*prereq: 12 cr. in Jewish Social Studies, perm program director*  
3-6 hrs, 3-6 cr.

### JSS 410.50, 410.51 Jewish Social Studies Seminar I & II

Selected topics and problems in Jewish studies.

*prereq: qualified Jr/Sr, perm instr. or program director*  
3 hrs, 3 cr. each