

Jewish and Israel Studies at Wesleyan



1. Introduction
2. Jewish and Israel Studies Certificate Program—p. 2
3. Research Opportunities for Students—p. 3
4. Fall Courses in JIS Certificate and Preview of Spring Courses—p. 4
5. Preview of Upcoming Events in 2010-2011—p. 6
6. JIS Faculty—p. 7
7. JIS Certificate Enrollment Form—p. 9

1. Introduction

For over forty years Wesleyan has offered courses in Jewish and Israel Studies. At the time Wesleyan was at the avant-garde of Jewish Studies. In 1967, when the first courses were offered mainly in Judaism and Hebrew language taught in the Religion Department, the flagship, scholarly Association of Jewish Studies did not even exist. It was created only two years later in 1969. But even without the support of the scholarly associations, the first professor in Jewish Studies, Jeremy Zwelling had a vision: to bring to Wesleyan Jewish Studies at its best, focusing on highest quality scholarship and cultural programming. Over the decades, the field of Jewish studies as whole and at Wesleyan has matured. The Association of Jewish Studies now has over 1800 members, and the JIS Program at Wesleyan, offers a wide range of courses in several departments, from the core courses in Jewish History and Religion, and Hebrew, to courses in Philosophy, Government, Music, and Film. We now have eight core-faculty contributing to the program, and five additional faculty affiliated with the program

(<http://www.wesleyan.edu/jis/faculty.html>)

JIS at Wesleyan is one of the most active programs contributing academic and cultural events to a broader Wesleyan and Middletown Communities. Last year, there were seven public events organized by JIS in the fall alone, some within classes taught in JIS. They included lectures and film showings. The curriculum has been especially enriched through the auspices of an endowed chair that allows Wesleyan each year to bring to the University a distinguished scholar as a visiting professor, over the years the position has been held by, among others, Joshua Sobol, Etgar Keret, Ori Sivan, and for a part of the semester by Hagit Molgan.

Please visit JIS website:

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/jis>

You can follow us on our blog: <http://jis.blogs.wesleyan.edu>

Or on **Facebook**:



2. Jewish and Israel Studies Certificate Program

The certificate program offers undergraduate students a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary training in Jewish and Israel Studies. Over a three-year cycle, courses are offered in various departments and in a number of academic areas including Jewish religion, Jewish history and culture, Israel studies, and Jewish letters. The certificate program gives students an opportunity to forge coherence in that large part of the curriculum that falls outside the major.

The program requires students to take seven courses in a sequence that includes two required gateway courses, Hebrew, a distribution of more advanced classes, and a capstone seminar on theory and methodology.

Courses are grouped into four pathways (clearly labeled in WesMaps):

- History of the Jewish People
- Jewish Literature and Culture
- Israel Studies
- Religion of the Jewish People

Courses required for the Certificate:

- Two gateway courses (one in the Religion Department and another in the History Department) from among the following:
 - HIST247 Jewish History I: From Biblical Israel to Diaspora Jews
 - HIST248 Jewish History II: Out of the Ghetto
 - HIST267 Jewish History: Jews in Eastern Europe
 - RELI201 Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
 - RELI204 Judaism(s)
- The capstone seminar course RELI396: Performing Jewish Studies: Theory, Method, and Models, offered every other year to allow candidates for the certificate to take the course in either their junior or senior year. Next offering in 2011-12
- At least four additional courses, of which no more than two can be taken in one department. Hebrew language is the exception for students pursuing the Israel Studies pathway and counting two Hebrew credits toward the certificate. The four courses can be chosen from a wide array of courses included in the Certificate Program and listed in Wesmaps (see the list in this booklet for Fall 2010).

Candidates for the certificate are encouraged to study Hebrew or another foreign language relevant to their program of studies. Up to two of the Hebrew courses can be included among the seven courses required for the certificate. However, if students pursue the Israel Studies pathway, they will be required to demonstrate their proficiency of Hebrew, or take at least two years of the language (the two second-year credits will count toward the Certificate).

Students can enroll in this certificate program at any point in their undergraduate career. To receive the certificate, students must maintain a B+ average in courses in the program.

3. Research Opportunities for Students in Jewish and Israel Studies Certificate Program

Students enrolled in the JIS Certificate Program are eligible to apply for research funds in support of their senior capstone project. The research grants are competitive. Applications with research proposals and budget will be due in April. Please check our Facebook page and our blog for announcements.

The first recipient of the grant in 2010 was Ross Shenker THEA'11 in support of his senior project on Playwright Donald Margulies: "Embedding The Author in the Play: An Examination of How Margulies Draws on His Identity in Playwriting".

Other Research Opportunities:

The Center for Jewish History in New York has announced programs supporting undergraduate research in Jewish studies:

Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program

Advanced undergraduate students at North American universities are invited to apply to carry out research in the archives and libraries of CJH's partner institutions. This fellowship is designed for third and fourth year undergraduates preparing theses or other major projects in Jewish history and related fields. Projects require substantive use of archival and printed sources (e.g., newspapers, collections of sermons, memoirs, institutional reports) housed at CJH and not available at the student's home institution. The amount of the fellowship is up to \$1,000 and students are encouraged to seek matching funding from their home institutions. The award may be used for travel purposes and lodging while at CJH.

Joseph S. Steinberg Emerging Jewish Documentary Filmmaker Fellowship

Undergraduate and graduate emerging filmmakers working on topics related to modern Jewish history are encouraged to apply for this fellowship, which supports research in the archives housed at CJH. The award is designed to help further existing projects, or to start new projects, whose subject matter is in line with the collections housed at CJH. Recipients are eligible for awards of up to \$5,000 and are provided with access to the resources at CJH. Students are selected for one academic year of research through a rigorous and competitive process and are expected to present finished documentary works, or works in progress, to a public audience at CJH.

For more information, go to: www.research.cjh.org

The JIS Faculty at Wesleyan is available for consultation and academic support of your research projects.



4. FALL 2010 Courses in Jewish and Israel Studies:

Gateway courses:

HIST247: Jewish History: From Biblical Israel to Diaspora Jews
Prof. Magda Teter, Mon-Wed, 1:10-2:30PM in PAC002

RELI201: Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
Prof. Annalise Glauz-Todrank, Tue-Th, 10:30-11:50AM, Butterfield A 413

Hebrew Language and Literature:

HEBR101: Elementary Hebrew I
Prof. Katz, Dalit, M.W.F. 10-10:50AM, Fisk 210

HEBR201: Intermediate Hebrew I
Prof. Dalit Katz, M.W.F. 11-11:50AM, Fisk 210

HEBR210: Hebrew Literature
Prof. Dalit Katz, Tuesday-Thursday 10:30-11:50AM, Religion SEM

Elective Courses:

COL311: Spinoza's ETHICS
Prof. Brian Fay, Monday, 7-9:50PM, Russel House, Seminar Room

COL324: Freud and Psychoanalysis
Prof. Paul Schwaber, Tuesday-Thursday, 2:40-4 PM, Butterfield C 314

GOVT270: Comparative Politics of the Middle East
Prof. Anne Peters, Tuesday-Thursday 2:40-4 PM, Judd Hall B6;

GOVT344: Religion and Politics
Prof. Nancy Schwartz, Monday-Wednesday, 1:10-2:30PM, PAC104;

GRST250: Cultural Criticism and Aesthetic Theory: Walter Benjamin and Theodor Adorno
Prof. Ulrich Plass, Tuesday-Thursday 10:30-11:50AM, Fisk 404

HIST210: American Jewish History: 1492-2001
Prof. Ronald Schatz, Monday-Wednesday, 2:40-4 PM, Allbritton 004;

HIST234: The Middle East in the 20th Century
Prof. Bruce Masters, M.W.F. 9-9:50AM, PAC001;

Highlights for Spring 2011:

In the Spring semester we will have a cluster of courses related thematically to each other:

HIST 267: Out of the Shtetl: Jews in Eastern Europe with Prof. Magda Teter

This course on the history of Jews in Eastern Europe is a service-learning course, with hands-on experience on historical artifacts. We will be working with the Adath Israel Congregation in Middletown, and their Judaica Collection.

MUSC 297: Yiddish Cultural Expression: Music, Theater, Literature, Film with Prof. Mark Slobin

In this course, students will work with musical, theatrical, literary, and film texts and take part in performance of songs and informal staging of musical theater.

RELI 224: Hasidism: European Origins & American Identities with Prof. Annalise Glauz-Todrank

For details of Fall and Spring Courses, please check out the WesMaps, and follow us on our blog: <http://jis.blogs.wesleyan.edu>

Or on **Facebook**.



5. Preview of Upcoming Jewish Studies Events in 2010-11:

Fall Semester:

September 16, screening of "Beaufort" and a talk with Ron Leshem, the scriptwriter at the Goldsmith Cinema at 8pm.

October 7, Susan Einbinder: "Seeing the Blind: Medieval Jewish Martyrdom, Poetry, and Hysterical Blindness," 4:30pm at PAC 004

October 12, Playwright Joshua Sobol will talk about his new book *Cut Throat Dog* at Russell House at 8pm.

October 25, Author Michal Govrin will talk about her new book *Holds on to the Sun* at Russell House at 8pm.

First Week of November, Jewish and Israel Studies – Open House

November 17, Berel Lang will give the annual Hallie Lecture, 4:15 PM, the COL Lounge. The Hallie Lecture Series was created by David Rhodes '68 to honor the late professor of philosophy, Philip Hallie. The series focuses on key ethical questions of our day.

Spring 2011:

February 1: The Frankel Memorial Lecture: Director Andrzej Krakowski will present his 2002 documentary "Farewell to My Country" about Jews forced to leave Poland in 1968, Powell Family Cinema, Film Studies, 8 pm

February 23: Professor Shalom Sabar will speak about Jewish material culture, and stories that objects can tell.

Israeli Film Festival:

On six Thursdays in the Spring Semester, Wesleyan will host its Ring Family Film Festival. Please check out the JIS blog, or Facebook page for details:

February 10, 17 24,

March 3, 31, and April 7

First Week of April—Jewish and Israel Studies--Open House

You can follow us on our blog: <http://jis.blogs.wesleyan.edu>

Or on Facebook



6. JIS Faculty

JIS Director: Magda Teter, Department of History

The Jeremy Zwelling Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Associate Professor of History

Professor Teter teaches courses in Jewish history, including the three gateway courses. In her research, Professor Teter focuses on Jewish-Christian relations. She is the author of two books, *Jews and Heretics in Catholic Poland: A Beleaguered Church in the Post-Reformation Era* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), *Sinners on Trial: Jews and Sacrilege after the Reformation* (Harvard University Press, forthcoming Spring 2011), and editor, with Adam Teller, of *Early Modern Poland: Social and Cultural Boundaries* (Oxford: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2009). She is also the author of more than 15 articles in English, Hebrew, and Polish.

In the Fall of 2010, Professor Teter will teach the gateway to JIS Certificate: HIST 247: From Biblical Israel to Diaspora Jews

Email: mteter@wesleyan.edu,

Tel. 860-685-5356

Core Faculty:

Annalise Glauz-Todrank, Department of Religion

Professor Annalise Glauz-Todrank teaches courses in Judaism, Hebrew Bible, and Jewish Studies, focusing on questions of modern Jewish identity. In the Fall 2010, she will teach the gateway course for the JIS Certificate, RELI201: Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

Dalit Katz, Department of Religion

Professor Dalit Katz teaches Hebrew language and literature. She brings to campus major figures in contemporary Israeli culture and organizes the annual Ring Family Israeli Film Festival. In the Fall of 2010, Professor Katz will teach HEBR101: Elementary Hebrew I, HEBR201: Intermediate Hebrew I, and HEBR210: Hebrew Literature.

Ethan Kleinberg, Department of History and COL

Professor Ethan Kleinberg teaches courses in modern intellectual history. His research interests include European intellectual history with special interest in France and Germany, critical theory, educational structures, and the philosophy of history. In 2006, his book *Generation Existential: Heidegger's Philosophy in France, 1927-1961* was awarded the Morris D. Forkosch prize for the best book in intellectual history by the *Journal of the History of Ideas*. He is currently finishing *The Myth of Emmanuel Levinas*.

Ruth Nisse, Department of English

Professor Ruth Nisse teaches medieval literature, specializing in theater and exegesis, with a focus on relations among Jews, Muslims and Christians in the Middle Ages. She is author of *Defining Acts: Drama and the Politics of Interpretation in Late Medieval England* (Notre Dame University Press, 2005), and is currently finishing *Jacob's Shipwreck: Diaspora in the Postbiblical Literature of the Jewish and Christian Middle Ages*.

Ronald Schatz, Department of History

Professor Ronald Schatz teaches courses in American history, labor history, and American Jewish history. He is the author of *Electrical Workers: A History of Labor at General Electric and Westinghouse, 1923-60*. In the fall of 2010, Professor Schatz will teach HIST210: American Jewish History: 1492-2001

Paul Schwaber, COL

Professor Paul Schwaber, a scholar and a psychoanalyst, teaches courses on fin-de-siecle Vienna, Freud, and Ulysses. He is the author of *The Cast of Characters: A Reading of Ulysses*. In the Fall 2010, Professor Schwaber will teach COL324: Freud and Psychoanalysis.

Vera Schwarcz, Department of History and East Asian Studies Program

The Freeman Professor of East Asian Studies.

Professor Vera Schwarcz teaches courses in Chinese History and in History and Memory, in a comparative Jewish and Chinese perspective. She is the author of numerous book, including most recently, *Place and Memory in the Singing Crane Garden*.

Mark Slobin, Department of Music

The Richard K. Winslow Professor of Music.

Professor Mark Slobin has written and edited widely on the music culture of the eastern European Jews in Europe and North America, including seven books since 1982, two awarded the ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award and one a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. He incorporates much of this work in his teaching, from frosh and senior seminars through graduate methodology courses in ethnomusicology. In Spring 2011, he will offer a course combining Yiddish song, theater, and literature.

Associated Faculty

Erik Grimmer-Solem, Department of History and CSS

Oliver Holmes, Department of History

Peter Mark, Department of Art History:

Howard Needler, COL

Nancy Schwartz, Department of Government and CSS; Fall course: GOVT344: Religion and Politics

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Certificate in Jewish and Israel Studies (CJIS) at Wesleyan

Enrollment form

Student's Name _____

WesID _____

Major _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Courses taken so far for the Certificate and grades:

Gateway:

1. HIST _____

2. RELI _____

Capstone:

3. RELI396 _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Academic Advisor for CJIS: _____

Signature of the CJIS Director: _____

Date: _____