

# JEWISH STUDIES, B.A.

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**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park

## Program Learning Objectives

- **Critical thinking and reading skills:**
  - Develop and enhance skills in analyzing texts, images and objects.
  - Learn to identify and evaluate an author's perspective, the argument, and the use of different kinds of sources.
  - Differentiate between relevant and less relevant information.
- **Content Knowledge:**
  - Students will develop knowledge of the evolution of different forms of Jewish life and Jewish/non-Jewish relations within various settings and time periods with a focus on cultural, religious, social and economic aspects, as well as contemporary relevance. Develop the ability to compare or explain different communities or eras.
  - Through studying Jewish experiences and Jewish-non-Jewish relations in different cultural settings over time and comparatively, students will learn about international cultures and civilizations to sharpen abilities to reflect on cultural differences.
  - Students will read and understand major Jewish texts and significance within Jewish spheres and beyond.
  - Students will critique stereotypes and prejudices directed against members of specific groups.
  - Students will develop an understanding of different conceptions of Judaism and how these relate to ideas about human existence, God, and the world.
  - Acquiring language skills in Hebrew contributes to the development of analytical and organizational skills and of intercultural skills, in regard to communication, cultural sensitivity and competence.
  - Students will acquire a specific skill set related to a course or sub-discipline (i.e. Archaeology, Comp. Lit., History, Political Science, Philosophy).
  - For students specifically focusing on Hebrew language the study of language reaches into culture, connecting with the cross-cultural requirement. It refines intellectual skills applicable to all areas of learning, and it explores the richness of other cultures.
    - Learning a foreign language not only implies challenging our personal and cultural ideas, but it is also a unique method to further our intellectual and personal growth.
    - Studying a language that is not our own pushes us to communicate through a great variety of sounds and letters, while providing us with a special opportunity to gain deeper insight into the practices of other individuals, places, and cultures.
    - Language learning is intimately intertwined with our cognitive abilities, such as memory and creativity, attention control and problem solving
- **Expressive skills:**
  - In both written and oral form, students will craft a sound narrative that is backed up by sources, contains an argument, and reflects the results of the research conducted using a range of different materials.
- Students will be able to summarize information in a concise and accessible manner.
- **Research Skills:**
  - Understand and apply theoretical and conceptual approaches guiding research.
  - Develop questions that engage critically with a topic and devise a research strategy to analyze a certain aspect of the topic in greater detail.
  - Learn to differentiate between primary vs. secondary sources.