

**Report of the Educational Policy Committee to the Faculty of the
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
September 20, 2011**

Revision of the Minor in Jewish Studies

Title: Revision of the Minor in Jewish Studies

Sponsor: Jewish Studies Program
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Description: The Minor in Jewish Studies is being revised to create a more coherent and student-attractive program. The intellectual focus emphasizes an understanding of Judaism as both a religious and a cultural phenomenon; it also places Jewish religion and culture in comparative contexts.

The proposal involves:

1. Revising the description of the minor. The minor will now bring out the fact that Jews are both a religious and a cultural group and will incorporate comparative courses into its requirements.
2. Changing JST 101, Introduction to Jewish Studies: Literature and Society, and JSt 102, Introduction to Jewish Studies: Religion and Culture, which have thus far been introductions to Jewish Studies, as a field, from a humanities and a social science perspective. JSt 101 will be revised and renamed "Introduction to Judaism," and JSt 102 will be revised and renamed "Introduction to Jewish History." This reflects the two-sidedness of Jews and Judaism mentioned above.
3. Changing the requirements of the minor from nine semester hours at the 100-level and nine semester hours at the 200-level to six semester hours in Jewish history and culture and six semester hours in Judaism as a religion. Students will be free to choose any Jewish studies courses, other than language courses, for the additional six semester hours they must complete. The total number of hours required for the minor remains 18.
4. Adding the requirement of two courses on Jewish culture or religion in a comparative context.
5. Adding a number of courses—mostly topics courses—at both the intermediate and advanced levels:
 - JSt 230, Topics in Jewish Thought
 - JSt 402, Jewish-Christian Relations before the Modern Era
 - JSt 403, Advanced Topics in Israel Studies
 - JSt 410, Advanced Studies in Jewish Literature, Art and Culture
 - JSt 420, Advanced Studies in Jewish Religion
 - JSt 430, Advanced Studies in Jewish Thought

These offerings provide a flexible range of courses by which the new requirements can be met.

6. Removing the cross-list of Engl 115/JST 115, Understanding the Bible as Literature. The course does not serve as a Jewish Studies course if it focuses on the New Testament or Christian readings of the Hebrew Bible. Moreover, when the course focuses on the Hebrew Bible and its Jewish reception, it duplicates JSt 124, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible.
7. JST 294, Topics in Jewish Studies; JSt 394, Topics in Jewish Studies; and JSt 494, Topics in Jewish Studies will be deleted and replaced with more focused topics courses.

Justification: 1. The Minor in Jewish Studies was temporarily suspended in 2010 out of concern that the program lacked coherence and was not attracting students. The proposed revision

addresses both concerns. The new requirements focus a student's course of study on the two-sidedness of Jewish identity: the fact that Jews constitute both a religious and a cultural group. Whether Jews should be seen as primarily a religious or a cultural group is a much-contested question, both among Jews themselves and among the academics who study them; by thematizing this question, we are heeding the pedagogical injunction to "teach the conflicts." We are also providing an organizing tool that will help minors bring their various classes together, and allow us to ensure that they get a well-rounded picture of Jews and Judaism. Finally, by doing this we encourage students to consider the relationship between religion and culture in general, using Jews as a model or test case for that relationship; this may be attractive to many students beyond the core group that ordinarily takes Jewish Studies classes.

2. The new comparative component of the program ensures that minors take up external as well as internal perspectives on Jewish thought and experience. It should also attract a broader range of students to our courses than we have had hitherto, since it encourages students with interests in Catholicism, Islam and other non-Jewish groups to consider a minor in Jewish Studies, and makes it fairly easy for such students to fit a minor in Jewish Studies into their schedule. Of course, a number of these courses are already being taught, but by requiring them of our minors, we commit ourselves to making sure that they form an integral and regular part of our offerings.
3. Our restructured 101 and 102 will provide a far more solid grounding in Jewish texts and history than their predecessors did. This makes them useful to our minors—the division of labor between them also encapsulates the general structure of our new minor—but also, and perhaps more importantly, ensures that we provide good service courses to students at UIC who would like some introduction to Jews and Judaism, but have time in their schedules for just one or two such classes.
4. The addition of various topics courses (all but one of the courses listed in revision 5, above) enables students to fulfill the requirements of the minor in a flexible way. This gives them the chance to pursue a variety of issues that interest them even while meeting our requirements, but it is also important for staffing reasons: a program that relies almost entirely on faculty from other departments to staff its courses needs to have those courses fit in as much as possible with the pedagogical needs of other units at UIC. The one non-topics course listed in revision 5 is one that UIC's new hire in Catholic Studies, Ralph Keen, is uniquely qualified to teach. It enriches our comparative and historical offerings greatly and does not need to be set up as a topics course.
5. Revision 6 above is independent of our general changes to the minor, but it removes from our curriculum a course that either does not properly serve the needs of a program in Jewish Studies or duplicates something we already offer.

Catalog Statement:

Current

Minor in Jewish Studies

The Jewish Studies program is committed to furthering knowledge and understanding of the fundamental questions and issues of Jewish life and identity in the past and the present. Jewish Studies is an exciting interdisciplinary field of teaching and research ranging from the study of texts, such as the Bible, to the experience of Jews as a people. The program encourages participation by all students at all levels of study. Jewish Studies faculty members are prominent professors drawn from the humanities and the social sciences at UIC. The minor in Jewish Studies offers students the opportunity to design a program of study to fit their individual interests, goals, and knowledge. Whatever the chosen field or areas of inquiry may be, the goals of the Jewish Studies Minor are identical:

- study the experience and/or texts of Jews from Biblical times to the present;
- acquire a deeper understanding of Jewish culture as one strand in contemporary multicultural America;
- develop critical thinking, writing, and discussion skills; and
- gain a reading and speaking knowledge of Jewish languages.

Requirements for the Minor

For the minor, a minimum of 18 semester hours in Jewish Studies, selected from an approved list of courses. Students are encouraged to consult with a minor advisor when selecting courses. Included in the 18 semester hours must be nine semester hours (nonlanguage) at the 100-level, and nine semester hours at or above the 200-level. The study of Jewish languages is strongly encouraged but not required. Upon petition to the faculty committee, other courses can count toward the minor.

Proposed

Minor in Jewish Studies

The Jewish Studies program is committed to furthering the understanding of Jewish life and identity in the past and present and of the relationships between Jewish thought and practice to other cultures and religions. Jewish Studies is an exciting interdisciplinary field of teaching and research ranging from the study of texts, such as the Bible, to the cultural and historical experiences of Jews as a people. The program encourages participation by all students at all levels of study. Jewish Studies faculty members are prominent professors drawn from the humanities and the social sciences at UIC. The minor in Jewish Studies offers students the opportunity to design a program of study to fit their individual interests, goals, and knowledge. Whatever the chosen field or areas of inquiry may be, the goals of the Jewish Studies Minor are identical:

- study the experience and/or texts of Jews from Biblical times to the present;
- acquire a deeper understanding of Jewish culture and religion and their relationship to other groups in the world at large and in the United States in particular; and
- develop critical thinking, writing, and discussion skills.

Requirements for the Minor

For the minor, a minimum of 18 semester hours in Jewish Studies, of which 6 semester hours must be on Judaism as a religion and 6 must concern Jewish culture and history. Two courses must consider Jews or Judaism in a comparative context, although these courses may overlap with courses taken to satisfy the religion and history/culture requirement (see list of comparative courses). Students are strongly urged to consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) when selecting courses, and must have a written statement from the DUS stating that the courses they plan to take will satisfy the requirements for the minor before beginning their final semester in the program. The study of Jewish languages is encouraged but not required; one course in a

Current

Note: Effective Fall, 2010, no new students are being admitted to this minor. Contact the College with any questions.

Required Courses–Jewish Studies Minor	Hours
<i>Three courses from the following:</i>	9
JST 101–Introduction to Jewish Studies: Literature and Society (3)	
JST 102–Introduction to Jewish Studies: Religion and Culture (3)	
JST/ENGL/RELS 115–Understanding the Bible as Literature (3)	
JST/ENGL 116–Jewish American Literature of the 20th Century (3)	
JST/HIST 117–Understanding the Holocaust (3)	
JST/GER 122–Minority Perspectives in the Germanic Context (3)	
JST/GER 123–Introduction to Yiddish Culture and Literature (3)	
JST/CL/RELS 124–Hebrew Bible (3)	
JST/PHIL/RELS 240–Philosophy and Revelation: Jewish and Christian Perspectives (3)	
Additional courses at the 200-level or above	9

Proposed

Jewish language may, however, count toward the total number of courses required by the minor. Upon petition to the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the faculty committee, other courses can count toward the minor.

DELETE

Required Courses–Jewish Studies Minor	Hours
Judaism as a religion	6
<i>Two of the following:</i>	
JST 101–Introduction to Judaism (3)	
JST 124–Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (3)	
JST/CL/RELS 225–Topics in Jewish/Muslim Relations* (3)	
JST 230–Topics in Jewish Thought* (3)	
JST/CL/RELS 235–Introduction to Jewish Thought I	
JST/PHIL/RELS 240–Philosophy and Revelation: Jewish and Christian Perspectives (3)*	
JST/CL/RELS 242–History of Jewish Biblical Interpretation (3)	
JST 254–Prophets in Judaism and Islam (3)	
JST 311–Gender and Sexuality in Early Christianity and Judaism (3)	
JST 420–Advanced Studies in Jewish Religion (3)	
JST 430–Advanced Studies in Jewish Thought* (3)	
JST 478–The Bible as Literature (3)	

DELETE

Jewish history and culture	6
<i>Two of the following:</i>	
JST 102–Introduction to Jewish History (3)	
JST 103–Israel Studies (3)	
JST/ENGL 116–Jewish American Literature of the 20 th Century (3)	
JST/HIST 117–Understanding the Holocaust (3)	
JST/GER 122–Minority Perspectives in the Germanic Context (3)	

Current

Proposed

- JST/GER 123–Introduction to Yiddish Culture and Literature (3)
- JST/GER 125–Diaspora, Exile, Genocide Aspects of the European Jewish Experience in Literature & Film (3)
- JST/CL/RELS 225–Topics in Jewish/Muslim Relations* (3)
- JST 230–Topics in Jewish Thought* (3)
- JST/POLS 243–Politics and Government of the Middle East (3)
- JST 402–Jewish-Christian Relations before the Modern Era (3)
- JST 403–Advanced Topics in Israel Studies (3)
- JST 410–Advanced Studies in Jewish Literature and Culture (3)
- JST 430–Advanced Studies in Jewish Thought* (3)

**Course may count for the religion requirement or the history and culture requirement, depending on the topic.*

Jews or Judaism in a comparative context 6

Two of the following (may also count toward Religion and History/Culture requirements):

- JST/GER 122–Minority Perspectives in the Germanic Context (3)
- JST/GER 125–Diaspora, Exile, Genocide: Aspects of the European Jewish Experience in Literature & Film (3)
- JST/CL/RELS 225–Topics in Muslim-Jewish Relations (3)
- JST/PHIL/RELS 240–Philosophy and Revelation: Jewish and Christian Perspectives (3)
- JST/CL/RELS 254–Prophets in Judaism and Islam (3)
- JST/GWS/RELS 311–Gender and Sexuality in Early Christianity and Judaism (3)
- JST 402–Jewish-Christian Relations before the Modern Era

Total Hours–Jewish Studies Minor 18

Total Hours–Jewish Studies Minor 18

Current**Courses Approved for the Minor in Jewish Studies**

The following courses are approved to be taken for the Minor in Jewish Studies.

Courses	Hours
<i>Germanic Studies (GER)</i>	
404–Yiddish for Reading Knowledge	3
<i>Hebrew (HEB)^a</i>	
101–Elementary Hebrew I	4
102–Elementary Hebrew II	4
103–Intermediate Hebrew I	4
104–Intermediate Hebrew II	4
<i>Jewish Studies (JST)</i>	
101–Introduction to Jewish Studies: Literature and Society	3
102–Introduction to Jewish Studies: Religion and Culture	3
115–Understanding the Bible as Literature	
<i>Same as ENGL 115, RELS 115</i>	3
116–Jewish American Literature of the 20th Century	
<i>Same as ENGL 116</i>	3
117–Understanding the Holocaust	
<i>Same as HIST 117</i>	3
122–Minority Perspectives in the Germanic Context	
<i>Same as GER 122</i>	3
123–Introduction to Yiddish Culture and Literature	
<i>Same as GER 123</i>	3
124–Hebrew Bible	
<i>Same as CL 124, RELS 124</i>	3
125–Diaspora, Exile, Genocide: Aspects of the European Jewish Experience in Literature & Film	
<i>Same as GER 125</i>	3
240–Philosophy and Revelation: Jewish and Christian Perspectives	
<i>Same as PHIL 240, RELS 240</i>	3

^a *Hebrew courses may be applied toward minor requirements only with special approval.*

Proposed**DELETE**

The following courses are approved for the minor; however, only one may be used to satisfy the requirements of the minor.

DELETE

Germanic Studies (GER)
404–Yiddish for Reading Knowledge (3)

Hebrew (HEB)

101–Elementary Hebrew I (4)
102–Elementary Hebrew II (4)
103–Intermediate Hebrew I (4)
104–Intermediate Hebrew II (4)

DELETE

Current		Proposed
225–Topics in Muslim-Jewish Relations <i>Same as CL 225, RELS 225</i>	3	DELETE
235–Introduction to Jewish Thought I <i>Same as CL 235, RELS 235</i>	3	
242–History of Biblical Interpretation <i>Same as CL 242, RELS 242</i>	3	
243–Politics and Government of the Middle East <i>Same as POLS 243</i>	3	
254–Prophets in Judaism and Islam <i>Same as CL 254, RELS 254</i>	3	
294–Topics in Jewish Studies	3	
311–Gender and Sexuality in Early Christianity and Judaism <i>Same as GWS 311, RELS 311</i>	3	
394–Topics in Jewish Studies	3	
478–The Bible as Literature	3	
494–Topics in Jewish Studies	3	

Minority Impact Statement: There will be no negative impact on minority students.

Budgetary and Staff Implications: None immediately (the College has historically hired adjuncts to teach 101 and 102, or compensated departments when UIC faculty taught them).

Library Resource Implications: Current library resources are sufficient.

Space Implications: No additional space is required.

Unit (e.g., departmental approval date: March 16, 2011

College (educational policy committee, faculty) approval dates:
LAS Educational Policy Committee: 08.23.11

Contact Person: Samuel Fleischacker

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2012

Revision of the Minor in Jewish Studies

New Courses

JSt 230, Topics in Jewish Thought (selective course)

3 hours. Survey of major topics in Jewish theology, philosophy, ethics and political thought. May be repeated for credit if topic is different for each registration. Recommended Background: JST 101 or the equivalent.

JSt 402, Jewish-Christian Relations before the Modern Era (selective course)

3 hours. Social and intellectual relationships between Jewish communities and medieval Christendom, with attention to Jewish understandings of diaspora and redemption; and the roles Jewish scholars played in the rise of Christian humanism. Recommended Background: JST 101 or JST 102. May be repeated for credit if topic is different for each registration.

JSt 403, Advanced Topics in Israel Studies (selective course)

3 hours. Focused study of specific topics in Israeli literature, culture, or history. Recommended Background: JST 102 or JST 103. May be repeated once for credit if topic is different for each registration.

JSt 410, Advanced Studies in Jewish Literature, Art and Culture (selective course)

3 hours. Advanced Studies in Jewish Literature, Art and Culture

Selected topics in Jewish literature and/or arts, in one or more places and time periods. *Prerequisite(s):* One course in Jewish Studies. Recommended Background: JST 102. May be repeated once for credit if topic is difference for each registration.

JSt 420, Advanced Studies in Jewish Religion (selective course)

3 hours. In-depth study of a period or mode of Jewish religious development or textual production, or an examination of a religious tenet or practice across various historical periods. Topics will vary.

Prerequisite(s): JSt 101; and JSt 230 or 242 or 254. May be repeated once for credit if topic is difference for each registration.

JSt 430, Advanced Studies in Jewish Thought (selective course)

3 hours. Advanced topics in Jewish theology, philosophy, ethics or political thought. *Prerequisite(s):*

One 100-level and one 200-level course in Jewish Studies. May be repeated for credit if topic is different for each registration.

Revised Courses

JSt 101, Introduction to Judaism as a Religion (formerly Introduction to Jewish Studies: Literature and Society)

3 hours. Introduction to the Jewish religion as it has developed from its roots in the Hebrew Bible until today, emphasizing its central texts and concepts. *Individual and Society course.*

JSt 102, Introduction to Jewish History (formerly Introduction to Jewish Studies: Religion and Culture)

3 hours. Overview of Jewish history from Biblical times until the present. Topics will range from second Temple Judea and the beginning of the diaspora through 21st-century Jewish life in America and Israel.

Individual and Society and Past course.

JSt 103, Introduction to Israel Studies (formerly Israel Studies: Narratives of a Complex Society) (selective)

3 hours. Introduction to major themes, issues, writers and contexts of the founding, establishment, and conflicts of the modern state of Israel. *Past and World Cultures course.*

JSt 115, Understanding the Bible as Literature (removing JSt cross-list; no longer selective)

3 hours. A broad overview of various literary genres in the Bible such as origin narrative, historical narrative, poetry, wisdom literature, prophetic/apocalyptic literature, parable, and epistle. Same as ENGL 115, and RELS 115. *Creative Arts, Past, and World Cultures course.*

JSt 124, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (formerly Hebrew Bible) (selective)

3 hours. A study of the Five Books of Moses (a.k.a Torah or Pentateuch) within the contexts of the ancient Near East and biblical literature. Same as CL 124 and RELS 124. Taught in English. *Past course.*

Dropped Courses

JSt 294 Topics in Jewish Studies (no longer selective)

3 hours. How Jews became a modern ethnic group, how their experiences compare with other ethnic groups, and how their experiences in modern times vary from nation to nation. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours.

JSt 394, Topics in Jewish Studies

3 hours. Selected topics in Jewish culture and history. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 hours. Students may register in more than one section per term. *Prerequisite(s):* Consent of the instructor.

JSt 494, Topics in Jewish Studies

3 or 4 hours. Selected topics in Jewish studies. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours if topics vary. *Prerequisite(s):* JST 101 or JST 102 or consent of the instructor.