

EP09.49 RECEIVED LAS  
OCT 15 2008

**PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR**

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**Title of the proposed minor:** Interdisciplinary Minor in Jewish Culture and Society

**Sponsoring unit(s):** Bruce Rosenstock and Matti Bunzl; Program in Jewish Culture and Society, 109 English Bldg.; [brsnstck@illinois.edu](mailto:brsnstck@illinois.edu)

**College Sponsor:** Ann Mester, College of LAS, 294 Lincoln Hall; [mester@illinois.edu](mailto:mester@illinois.edu)

**Brief description of the program of study:**

The Minor in Jewish Society and Culture offers students a broad overview of the religion, history, and culture of the Jewish people, from antiquity until the present day. The Minor will be fulfilled with 18 hours of coursework, divided into three basic clusters: Religion; History; Culture. Students must take at least one course from each cluster. Coursework in second-year Hebrew or Yiddish (or above) may count for up to 9 hours of the required 18 hours.

Only 6 hours of all coursework may be at the 100-level. A list of courses fulfilling each cluster requirement is provided in an appendix, but, with some exceptions, the cluster in Religion is fulfilled by Jewish Studies related courses in the Department of Religion; the cluster History is fulfilled by Jewish Studies related courses in the History Department; and the Culture cluster is fulfilled by Jewish Studies related courses in the Comparative and World Literatures, English, German, and Anthropology departments.

**Justification:**

The main reason for the proposed change in the Interdisciplinary Minor in Jewish Culture and Society is to reduce the required hours from 21 to 18. We believe that an 18-hour minor offers both an attractive and intellectually viable introduction to the study of Jewish culture and society and will be more accessible to students campuswide.

We also are seeking greater flexibility in the courses satisfying the minor. The previously required course RLST 120 (A History of Judaism) is no longer taught on a regular basis, because the faculty member who introduced and taught it (Gary Porton) has retired.

Finally, we want to encourage the study of Jewish languages and therefore we are accepting up to 9 hours of language study at the second-year level or above.

**Budgetary and Staff Implications:**

This revision will have no impact on budget or staffing. All of these courses are part of the regular course rotations of the various offering departments.

**Requirements:**

3	One course in the cluster of Religion, chosen from a list of courses maintained by the Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office.
3	One course in the cluster of Culture, chosen from a list of courses maintained by the Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office.
3	One course in the cluster of History, chosen from a list of courses maintained by the Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office.
9	Electives within the minor. Students may choose additional courses from any of the three clusters or can choose from the following language courses:  HEBR 199 Undergraduate Open Seminar HEBR 205 Intensive Biblical Hebrew HEBR 403 Intermediate Modern Hebrew I HEBR 404 Intermediate Modern Hebrew II HEBR 405 Advanced Modern Hebrew I HEBR 406 Advanced Modern Hebrew II HEBR 407 Topics Hebrew Lang & Lit I HEBR 408 Topics Hebrew Lang & Lit II YDSH 103 Intermediate Yiddish I YDSH 104 Intermediate Yiddish II
18	Total

**Prerequisites for the minor:** None with the following exception: Students who wish to take Hebrew or Yiddish within the minor will need to take the elementary sequence as elective courses.


**Expected enrollment in the minor:** We expect to graduate from 20 to 30 students every year, beginning in 2009/10.

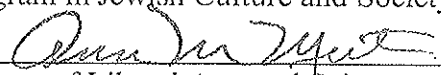
**Admission to the minor:** Undergraduate students in any college of the university may elect to complete an Interdisciplinary Minor in Jewish Culture and Society. Enrollment in the minor will not be limited. To enroll as Jewish Culture and Society minor, undergraduates must visit the office of the Program in Jewish Culture and Society in 109 English Building.

**Minor advisor:** The Associate Director of the Program in Jewish Culture and Society (currently Bruce Rosenstock) serves as the undergraduate advisor and will meet with students on a regular basis to approve course selection and oversee timely progress.

**Certification of successful completion:** The college of the student will confirm whether the minor has been completed, based on the course work designated by LAS and the Program in Jewish Culture and Society. If a Minor Modification Form is needed, LAS will review the course substitutions, in consultation with the Program in Jewish Culture and Society and approve completion of the minor with the college of the student.

CLEARANCES:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Program in Jewish Culture and Society

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

11/26/08

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the Provost

**Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2009**

**Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog:**

Jewish Culture and Society

[www.jewishculture.uiuc.edu](http://www.jewishculture.uiuc.edu)

Interdisciplinary Minor in Jewish Culture and Society

Director: Matti Bunzl

The Program in Jewish Culture and Society, under the aegis of the Program for the Study of Religion, offers an interdisciplinary minor.

E-mail: [jewishculture@illinois.edu](mailto:jewishculture@illinois.edu)

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
3	One course in the cluster of Religion, chosen from a list of courses maintained by the Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office.
3	One course in the cluster of Culture, chosen from a list of courses maintained by the Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office.
3	One course in the cluster of History, chosen from a list of courses maintained by the Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office.
9	Electives within the minor. Students may choose additional courses from any of the three clusters or can choose from the following language courses:  HEBR 199 Undergraduate Open Seminar HEBR 205 Intensive Biblical Hebrew HEBR 403 Intermediate Modern Hebrew I HEBR 404 Intermediate Modern Hebrew II HEBR 405 Advanced Modern Hebrew I HEBR 406 Advanced Modern Hebrew II HEBR 407 Topics Hebrew Lang & Lit I HEBR 408 Topics Hebrew Lang & Lit II YDSH 103 Intermediate Yiddish I YDSH 104 Intermediate Yiddish II
18	Total

Of the 18 required hours, two courses (6 hours) must be 300-or 400-level courses.

No more than 6 hours (two courses) may be at the 100 level.

The 18 hours selected by students for a minor in Jewish Culture and Society should form a coherent program and must be approved by the undergraduate advisor for the Program in Jewish Culture and Society.

A list of courses, regularly updated by the Program in Jewish Culture and Society, is available from the Program Office, 109 English Bldg., 608 South Wright Street, Urbana, Illinois, 61801.

## **List of Courses that Fulfill the Jewish Culture and Society Minor**

### **Religion Cluster**

PHIL 230. Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion  
RLST 108. Religion and Society in the West I  
RLST 109. Religion and Society in the West II  
RLST 110. World Religions  
RLST 116. Faith and Self in Global Context  
RLST 120. A History of Judaism  
RLST 130. Jewish Customs and Ceremonies  
RLST 201. Hebrew Bible in English  
RLST 242. The Holocaust: Religious Responses  
RLST 415. Introductory Readings of the Talmud  
RLST 416. Readings in Rabbinic Midrash  
RLST 442. History of Early Judaism  
RLST 443. Ancient Near Eastern Cultures  
RLST 496. Topics in the History of Judaism  
RLST 498. Topics in Biblical Studies

### **History Cluster**

HIST 135. History of the Islamic Middle East  
HIST 252. The Holocaust  
HIST 261. Introduction to Russian-Jewish Culture  
HIST 268. Jewish History to 1700  
HIST 269. Jewish History since 1700  
HIST 281. Constructing Race in America  
HIST 433. The History of the Jews in the Diaspora  
HIST 437. The Middle East in the Twentieth Century  
HIST 456. Twentieth-Century Germany  
HIST 472. Immigrant America  
PS 347. Government and Politics of the Middle East  
RLST 106. Archaeology and the Bible  
RLST 235. History of Religion in America  
RLST 458. Christians and Jews 1099-1789

### **Culture Cluster**

CWL 221. Jewish Storytelling: From the Russian Shtetl to New York  
CWL 320. Literary Responses to the Holocaust  
CWL 421. Jewish Life-Writing  
ENG 272. Minority Images in American Film  
ENG 284. Modern Jewish Literature

ENG 363. Jewish Immigrant Literature  
ENG 460. Literature of American Minorities  
GER 257. Vienna 1900  
GER 260. The Holocaust in Context  
RLST 101. The Bible as Literature  
RLST 201. Hebrew Bible in English  
ANTH 161. The Holocaust and Its Meanings  
ANTH 275. The World of Jewish Sepharad  
ANTH 290. Jewish Cultures of the World