Jewish Studies

Jewish studies is the exploration of the history, languages, philosophy and literature of the Jewish people. A variety of courses are offered at all levels in Hebrew language and literature, cognate Semitic languages, Yiddish language and literature, Jewish history, rabbinics, and Jewish philosophy, with occasional offerings in other fields such as English, sociology and social work. Work in the area of Jewish studies is greatly enhanced by the presence of the Judaica collection (over 300,000 volumes) at University Libraries—one of the largest and finest of its kind in the United States.

Pursuing Jewish Studies at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Jewish studies within the College of Arts and Sciences. Interested students should contact the director in the Melton Center for Jewish Studies.

Jewish Studies Requirements
The Melton Center for Jewish Studies helps to coordinate a large number of undergraduate courses at Ohio State. Each year faculty in affiliated departments offer courses that emphasize various aspects of Jewish studies, as well as Hebrew and Yiddish language and literature. In addition, the center offers a basic introductory course to Jewish studies. Interdisciplinary courses are occasionally offered.

Undergraduate students can develop a comprehensive and well-rounded interdisciplinary major in Jewish studies. Major requirements include course work approved by the student’s faculty advisor. Courses in Jewish history and philosophy, other electives, and Hebrew courses are required.

Core courses include Hebrew 1101 through 1103. These courses satisfy the general education foreign language requirement, but do not apply to the major.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Jewish life on campus offers a myriad of activities to choose from, including the Jewish Studies Student Association (JSSA), Greek life, and a variety of organizations for Jewish students, including Hillel Wexner Jewish Student Center and OSU Chabad. The purpose of JSSA is to build a connection between students and faculty at the Melton Center for Jewish Studies, and to foster a deeper appreciation for Jewish studies outside of the classroom. It is open to all students at Ohio State who are interested in Jewish Studies, regardless of their major. JSSA provides a social environment for students and faculty to interact within a Jewish Studies context; plans and implements Jewish educational events; and works to promote and support the study of and research in Jewish Studies.

The Melton Center’s internship program offers students the opportunity to enrich their organizational skills and gain work experience in a variety of settings in the Columbus Jewish community. At the same time that the students earn academic credits, they contribute needed services to organizations and institutions.

Honors & Scholars Programs
Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Learn more at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Jewish Studies
Undergraduates completing a degree in Jewish Studies have many exciting career opportunities open to them. They are, of course, prepared for any position for which a bachelor’s degree in the humanities is the qualification needed.

There are also a large number of well paying jobs within the Jewish community for which an undergraduate Jewish Studies degree is excellent preparation. These include Jewish community centers, federations, national and international Jewish
organizations; Jewish education, including day and supplementary school; synagogue administration; youth group advising; work with the elderly; Israel support organizations; and Jewish media, to name a few. The demand for motivated employees is very high, and our former students have made successful careers in many of these fields.

Jewish studies majors are also well prepared to apply for graduate studies in fields such as law, education, business and communal work, as well as prime candidates for rabbinical or cantorial school, theological studies, and advanced levels of Jewish studies. Beginning salaries depend on candidates’ skills and experience. Jewish studies graduates find their marketable skills considerably enriched by their humanities education.

**Career Counseling and Job Placement**

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields under consideration. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level, career employment. More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

**About Ohio State**

The Ohio State University is recognized throughout the nation and the world for its innovative programs, exceptional faculty and cutting edge facilities. In fact, Ohio State is consistently ranked among the country’s best public institutions for overall academic reputation. Because Ohio State is a major teaching and research university, our students receive excellent preparation for entry into top graduate and professional programs and the job market.

Offering over 175 majors and more than 12,000 courses, Ohio State allows students to tailor their education to their interests through double majors, minors and personalized study programs.

Revised January 2014. For the most up-to-date information on the Jewish studies program, please visit meltoncenter.osu.edu.

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