

# JEWISH STUDIES, B.A.

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**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park

## Program Learning Objectives

- **Content Knowledge:** Students will be able to summarize the evolution of different forms of Jewish life within various settings and time periods with a focus on cultural, religious, social and economic aspects, as well as contemporary relevance.
  - Students will be able to discuss the different forms of Jewish-non-Jewish relations in different cultural settings over time and comparatively.
  - Students will read major Jewish texts and will be able to explain their significance within Jewish spheres and beyond.
  - Students will be able to compare different conceptions and currents of Judaism and how these relate to ideas about human existence, God, and the world.
  - Students will demonstrate a specific skill set related to a course or sub-discipline (i.e. Archaeology, Comp. Lit., History, Political Science, Philosophy).
- **Critical Thinking:** Students will be able to implement specific skills in analyzing texts, images and objects related to Jewish history, religion, and culture.
  - Students will be able to address the topics studied by going beyond personal impressions to an analytical examination of the assigned sources.
  - Students will be able to recognize stereotypes and reject simplistic generalizations.
- **Expressive Skills:** In both written and oral form, students will craft a sound narrative on a question related to Jewish Studies 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.
- **Reading Skills:** Students will be able to identify and evaluate authors' arguments and perspectives about Jews and Jewish life.
  - Students will differentiate between relevant and less relevant information for the understanding and study of Jewish history.
- **Research Skills:** Students will describe and apply relevant theoretical and conceptual approaches for guiding their research in Jewish Studies.
  - Students will be able to develop questions that engage critically with a topic connected to Jews and Jewish life and devise a research strategy to analyze a certain aspect of the topic in greater detail.
  - Students will be able to differentiate between primary vs. secondary sources.