

# JEWISH STUDIES

## Departmental Notes

*Subject Code for Hebrew:* **HEBR**

*Subject Code for Jewish Studies:* **JWST**

*World Wide Web Address:* [www.queensu.ca/jewishstudies](http://www.queensu.ca/jewishstudies)  
(<http://www.queensu.ca/jewishstudies/>)

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## Overview

Jewish civilization has a recorded global history of 4,000 years. Drawing from texts spanning from the Hebrew Scriptures to post-modern writing, the study of the Jewish diasporas in their transnational historical and cultural contexts provides students with insight into the complexities of global culture, identity, religion, and politics. All Jewish Studies courses are offered by several departments.

## Advice to Students

Students considering a minor in Jewish Studies should consult with the Director of Jewish Studies.

No specific background is required to enrol in many Jewish studies courses. Students wishing to take advantage of the opportunity to study Jewish life in the context of the surrounding cultures are urged to consider a degree in Religion as a Major (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/religious-studies/religious-studies-major-arts-ba-honours/>), Joint Honours (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/religious-studies/religious-studies-medial-arts-ba-honours/>), or Minor (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/religious-studies/religious-studies-minor-arts/>).

## Special Study Opportunities

Courses taken at Israeli universities, subject to Faculty of Arts and Science regulations on credit for courses taken elsewhere (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/academic-regulations/#text>), may be counted toward a Minor in Jewish Studies (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/jewish-studies/jewish-studies-minor-arts/>) with the prior permission of

the Director, toward credit in other departments, or toward general electives. Consult the International Programs Office as well as the Director for more information on Israeli and other universities, programs and scholarships.

One of the special features of the Jewish Studies Program at Queen's is dialogue courses, particularly courses about Jewish-Muslim and Palestinian-Israeli relations. These seminar courses are taught by two instructors with training in parallel fields who engage narratives from different perspectives about historical situations and contemporary situations.

## Future Prospects

In addition to providing an undergraduate program, Jewish studies, offers a background for many careers requiring liberal arts training, especially strong writing, research, and speaking skills. These include public service, government, education, law, business, social work, clergy, graduate study, journalism, and communal service. A minor in Jewish Studies equips you to navigate an increasingly interconnected and multicultural world with greater sensitivity, respect, and awareness. It provides a unique lens through which you can examine historical, sociological, and religious issues, allowing you to develop a nuanced understanding of complex topics and hone your analytical abilities. This interdisciplinary approach fosters adaptability and a well-rounded perspective, traits that are highly desirable in today's rapidly changing job market. Furthermore, a minor in Jewish Studies equips you with strong research, writing, and communication skills, which are valuable assets in today's professional settings.

## Faculty

For more information, please visit: <https://www.queensu.ca/jewishstudies/people-search> (<https://www.queensu.ca/jewishstudies/people-search/>)

### General

- Jewish Studies – General (Arts) – Bachelor of Arts (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/jewish-studies/jewish-studies-general-arts-ba/>)

### Minor

- Jewish Studies – Minor (Arts) (<https://queensu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/jewish-studies/jewish-studies-minor-arts/>)



## Courses

### Hebrew (HEBR)

#### **HEBR 101 Introduction to Modern Hebrew I Units: 3.00**

For students with no (or a minimal) background in Hebrew. This course introduces elements of grammar and vocabulary of modern Hebrew.

NOTE Students can self-enrol during the course registration period. However, for students with previous knowledge of the language, final approval of enrolment is at the discretion of the instructor, pending an assessment of a student's language competency. Students can contact the instructor for an assessment anytime during the academic year (September-May). Please note that instructors may not be available for language competency assessments in May, June, July, and early August. Non-disclosure of previous knowledge of the language is considered a departure from academic integrity.

**Learning Hours:** 120 (36 Lecture, 84 Private Study)

**Requirements:** Prerequisite None. Exclusion HEBR 190/6.0.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

#### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Engage in everyday conversations using common vocabulary and basic grammatical structures, allowing them, for example, to introduce themselves, ask and answer simple questions, and express their basic needs and preferences in the language.
2. Understand spoken language on familiar topics, such as personal information, basic descriptions, and daily routines, delivered at a slow to moderate pace and using beginner-level vocabulary.
3. Read and comprehend short texts related to everyday life, employing basic reading strategies to understand sentence structure, main ideas, and key details with limited use of a dictionary.
4. Write simple messages, notes, and paragraphs employing correct syntax and basic vocabulary to express personal experiences, daily activities, and simple opinions.
5. Cultural Context: Throughout the course, students will gain an introductory understanding of the cultural context of the target language, including significant customs, traditions, and social norms associated with the regions where the language is spoken.

#### **HEBR 102 Introduction to Modern Hebrew II Units: 3.00**

For students who have basic knowledge of Hebrew and can read and write all the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This course continues where HEBR 101 left off and proceeds to introduce elements of grammar and vocabulary of modern Hebrew.

**Learning Hours:** 120 (36 Lecture, 84 Private Study)

**Requirements:** Prerequisite HEBR 101/3.0. Exclusion HEBR 190/6.0.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

#### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Enhance their ability to read and write Hebrew Script and Print with and without Nikud.
2. Write in complete and complex sentences in script.
3. Understand basic passages on a variety of topics.
4. Affectively use present and past tense verbs.
5. Affectively use prepositions and coordinators to create grammatical sentences.
6. Count, calculate, and use both masculine and feminine numbers until 100.

#### **HEBR 190 Introduction to Modern Hebrew Units: 6.00**

For students with no (or a minimal) background in Hebrew. Introduces elements of grammar and vocabulary of modern Hebrew.

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Permission of the Instructor.

Exclusion Maximum of 6.0 units from: HEBR 101/3.0; HEBR 102/3.0; HEBR 190/6.0.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

#### **HEBR 201 Intermediate Modern Hebrew Units: 3.00**

An advanced extensive grammar review with practice in speaking, reading and writing that continues where HEBR 102 left off.

**Learning Hours:** 120 (36 Lecture, 84 Private Study)

**Requirements:** Prerequisite HEBR 102/3.0 or HEBR 190/6.0. Exclusion HEBR 294/3.0\*.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

#### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Write complex and coherent sentences.
2. Understand and use past tense and future tense.
3. Understand and use imperative.
4. Increase vocabulary.
5. Write a full-length essay using complex sentences and integrate the variety of elements learned in the course.

**HEBR 301 Topics in Hebrew Units: 3.00**

Specialized study, as circumstances permit, of a particular author, genre, theme, movement, literary form or some combination of these elements. Course details to be announced on website.

NOTE This course is repeatable for credit under different topic titles.

**Requirements:** Prerequisite HEBR 294 or permission of the Instructor. Note Visit the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures website for more information about this course.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**HEBR 393 Reading Modern Hebrew Literature Units: 3.00**

Selections from current Israeli media including music, newspapers and television, as well as from modern Hebrew prose and poetry (e.g., Ahad Haam, Bialik, Tchernichowski, Agnon, Amichai, Oz, Yehoshua). The selections are studied in Hebrew; written assignments may be submitted in English.

**Course Equivalencies:** HEBR293, HEBR393

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**HEBR 502 Directed Reading Hebrew Units: 3.00**

Directed Hebrew reading of material not covered in other courses, appropriate to the student's level.

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Permission of the Instructor or the Program Director.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**Jewish Studies (JWST)****JWST 301 Topics in Jewish Studies I Units: 3.00**

A topic of current interest in Jewish Studies not covered in other available courses. Seminars offered by regular and visiting faculty on topics related to their own research or interest. Consult the Jewish Studies website.

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**JWST 302 Topics in Jewish Studies II Units: 3.00**

A topic of current interest in Jewish Studies not covered in other available courses. Seminars offered by regular and visiting faculty on topics related to their own research or interest. Consult the Jewish Studies website.

**Requirements:** Prerequisite Level 2 or above.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**JWST 501 Directed Reading in Jewish Studies I Units: 3.00**

Directed reading on topics in Jewish Studies not covered in other courses available to the student.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science

**JWST 502 Directed Reading in Jewish Studies II Units: 3.00**

Directed reading on topics in Jewish Studies not covered in other courses available to the student.

**Offering Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Science