

## Jewish studies

**Convener:** Associate Professor Ziva Shavitsky (Centre for Jewish History and Culture).

The Jewish studies program at the University of Melbourne offers an unparalleled opportunity to study the development of Jewish civilisation from its origins to the contemporary world. Students will benefit from the interdisciplinary breadth of this area of study and the opportunity to combine this with options in Hebrew language study. It is the only program in Australia that teaches Hebrew language from beginners to advanced levels. Jewish studies maintains formal international arrangements with other universities to provide students with the option of completing some of their study overseas. Students also have access to one of the most comprehensive Hebrew and Jewish archival resources available in Australia. The program leads to an articulated structure of higher degree study and provides graduates with highly valued and transferable skills in their vocational pursuits. Jewish studies is conducted in a dynamic environment by dedicated teaching staff who are able to draw on the resources of one of the country's leading history departments. Special seminar and public lecture programs are conducted to promote discussion of issues relevant to the Jewish community in Melbourne and Australia today.

Jewish studies investigates the history, literature, archaeology, philosophy, ethnography and social theory of Jewish society and culture. Students of Jewish studies are encouraged to engage in contemporary debates about ethnicity and identity, assimilation, exile and diaspora cultures. Subjects cover a range of interests and are drawn from offerings by the Department of History and the School of Fine Arts, Classical Studies and Archaeology.

Although language study is not a formal component of the major in Jewish studies, students are encouraged to complete a Hebrew studies major concurrently. See *Hebrew studies* (p.1) for more information.

### Prerequisites

The program may be commenced at first year, and there are no prerequisites for entry at this level.

Students may, however, enter at second year after the completion of 25 points of first year in approved subjects in consultation with the program convener.

### Requirements for a major

A major in Jewish studies usually consists of nine 12.5-point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first-year subjects from the Jewish studies subjects listed below (25 points); and
- seven second/third-year subjects from the Jewish studies subjects listed below (87.5 points).

A major may or may not include language study in Hebrew. However, students intending to undertake combined honours in Jewish studies must complete two semesters of Hebrew language study or an approved equivalent within the course of the BA degree. They must also complete a major in the combining area of study.

### Jewish studies subjects

Students must consult the relevant area of study entries in the Handbook to make sure that they meet the prerequisites, if any, for entry into the following subjects.

Non-language study	Sem.
<b>First/second year</b>	
109-130 Introduction to Modern Jewish Culture (p.4)	1
<b>Second/third year</b>	
109-013 Exploring the World of Jewish Literature (p.4)	1
109-011 Jewish National Thought (p.4)	N/A
109-012 Reading the Holocaust (p.4)	N/A
109-021 Kabbalah and Jewish Mystical Traditions (p.5)	2
109-210 The Modern Jewish World and Israel (p.5)	2
109-211 Israeli Film: Society through the Movies (p.5)	2
131-030 From the Shtetl to Postmodernity (p.6)	N/A
131-052 The Holocaust & Genocide (p.8)	1
131-058 The Rise & Fall of the German Empire (p.9)	1
131-066 The Modern Middle East (p.9)	1
131-069 God Through History (p.10)	1
131-048 Hitler's Germany (p.8)	2
131-211 The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (p.13)	2
131-212 Screening the Holocaust (p.13)	N/A

Language study	Sem.
<b>First/second year</b>	
109-128 Hebrew 1A (p.2)	1
109-129 Hebrew 1B (p.2)	2
922-126 MCD-Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (p.4)	1
922-127 MCD-Biblical Hebrew: The Book of Ruth (p.4)	2
109-131 Hebrew 2A (p.2)	1
109-132 Hebrew 2B (p.2)	2
109-113 Hebrew 2C (p.3)	N/A
109-114 Hebrew 2D (p.3)	N/A
<b>First/second/third year</b>	
109-006 Hebrew 3A (p.3)	1
109-007 Hebrew 3B (p.3)	2
109-008 Hebrew 3C (p.3)	N/A
109-009 Hebrew 3D (p.3)	N/A
<b>Second/third year</b>	
922-128 MCD-Advanced Biblical Hebrew Reading (p.6)	Year
<b>Third/fourth year</b>	
109-455 Special Study Research Project (Hebrew) (p.6)	1 rep 2
109-400 Hebrew 4A (p.3)	1
109-401 Hebrew 4B (p.3)	2
109-402 Hebrew 4C (p.3)	N/A
109-403 Hebrew 4D (p.4)	N/A

### Combined honours entry

Currently there is no pure honours in Jewish studies. This means that students must combine fourth-year honours in Jewish studies with another area of study.

The prerequisites for entry to combined honours in Jewish studies are:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA; and
- completion of a major in Hebrew studies or a major in Jewish studies which must include two semesters of Hebrew language study; and
- an average grade of H2B or higher over the second/third-year subjects within the major; and
- admission to honours in another area of study within the Faculty of Arts.

Entry to honours must be approved by the convener of Jewish studies and the Faculty of Arts honours course adviser.

### Combined honours requirements

Students undertaking combined honours in Jewish studies and another area of study must complete:

- 109-507 Hebrew and Jewish Studies Thesis (p.6) or 109-508 Hebrew and Jewish Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.6) (37.5 points); and
- two honours subjects in Jewish studies chosen from the list below (totalling 25 points); and
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 37.5 points).

or

- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points); and
- two honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 25 points); and
- three honours subjects in Jewish studies (totalling 37.5 points).

Students should note that they are encouraged to complete at least one semester of Hebrew language study at intermediate or advanced level (12.5 points) in their first semester of honours study. Consult the list of language study subjects above and *Hebrew studies* (p.1)

Fourth-year honours subjects	Sem.
107-416 The Visual Culture of Colonial Australia (p.8)	1
109-453 Literature of Destruction (p.6)	2
109-454 Jerusalem in Jewish Literature (p.6)	N/A
109-455 Special Study Research Project (Hebrew) (p.6)	1 rep 2
131-450 Remembering the Holocaust (p.18)	1

Note: additional fourth-year level subjects are available with the approval of the convener of Jewish studies and the Associate Dean.

### Studying overseas

Suitably qualified students may include subjects completed at an accredited overseas university as part of the second/third-year component of their Jewish studies major. Formal arrangements exist with the Rothberg School for Overseas Students of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Tel Aviv University School for Overseas Students and the Oxford One-Year Program in Jewish Studies. In certain cases, financial assistance for overseas study may be arranged in consultation with the program convener. Interested students

should consult the Faculty of Arts Office regarding credit and the International Centre for application forms and information on the programs.

Students proceeding to overseas study must have the permission of the convener of Jewish studies and the Faculty of Arts **before** commencing their overseas study. See *Studying overseas for credit* (p.8).

## Career opportunities

Graduates who have majored in Jewish studies have found employment as teachers, academics, translators, interpreters, writers, journalists, editors and in various areas of the public service and professions serving local Jewish communities.

## For more information

Associate Professor Ziva Shavitsky  
Centre for Jewish History and Culture  
Room 250, Old Arts Building  
The University of Melbourne  
Victoria 3010  
Tel: +61 3 8344 7562/5518  
Email: [ziva@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ziva@unimelb.edu.au)  
Web: <http://www.languages.unimelb.edu.au/hebrew/>