



JEWISH STUDIES

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Introduction to Jewish Studies

The Jewish Studies minor examines the historical, religious, artistic, intellectual, and political contributions of Jews and Judaism from antiquity to modernity. Students will learn about cultures and traditions vital to an understanding of ethics, aesthetics, politics, and the history of communities. The interdisciplinary minor is supported by faculty across a range of fields: from History to English; Religious Studies to German Studies; Political Science to Classical Studies; Theater; and Art History.

Jewish Studies Minor

Jewish Studies minors must select five units of approved courses, grouped into two areas. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the minor, courses must be selected from at least two different departments. Up to two courses may be taken at another accredited institution or through an approved study abroad program, with prior permission from the program coordinator.

- Group A courses — “Identity and Representation” includes courses like American Identities, Politics of Cultural Pluralism, and Representing the Holocaust.
- Group B courses — “Literature, Culture, and History” includes courses like The Bible as Literature, Archaeology of the Middle East, and Europe in Crisis.

Research

Because the Jewish Studies minor is interdisciplinary in nature, research projects typically originate in a student’s major field of interest and may include issues pertaining to Judaism and the history of the Jewish people. For instance, a student interested in examining racial ideology in the Third Reich might begin by finding a research advisor in political science, German studies or history. From there, the student might invite a second advisor who regularly teaches Jewish studies courses.

Skills Gained as a Jewish Studies Minor

- Global perspective
- Increased understanding of different value systems and cultures
- Ability to convey complex information
- Informed comparison of beliefs/social systems
- Capacity for making connections between history, culture, and politics
- Ability to interrogate assumptions and presuppositions
- Textual analysis and critique

Experiential Learning

Four walls can’t contain an entire education. That’s why most Richmond students participate in experiential learning opportunities that take what has been learned in the classroom and apply it to the real world, via research, an internship, or study abroad.

Internships

Located in a thriving capital city and less than two hours south of Washington, D.C., the University of Richmond is well-situated for students interested in securing engaging internship opportunities. Jewish Studies minors can

volunteer or intern with the Virginia Holocaust Museum or at one of eight synagogues in the Richmond area (two orthodox, two conservative, three reform, and one independent).

In Washington, D.C., political action committees like the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and the Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs advocate at the national level for Jewish issues and ethical issues that impact democracy and world affairs. Students interested in pursuing opportunities like these should visit Career Services early in their academic careers to identify possible internships.

Study Abroad

As is the case with research and internships, students will find a diverse array of study abroad opportunities that can typically complement their major fields of interest. The University of Richmond has a partnership with the International School at the University of Haifa, which offers English-taught classes for undergraduate students. Students are also encouraged to consider studying Judaism in other locations such as the Czech Republic, Poland, and Spain. Courses taken at Haifa can count toward the Jewish Studies minor.

Faculty

The Jewish Studies faculty includes scholarly specialists in Middle Eastern thought and politics; Judaic, Christian, and Arab religions; German culture and politics; European history; Holocaust representation; and Jewish life and culture in European context.



OFFICE OF ADMISSION

(804) 289-8640

richmond.edu

Dr. Manuella Meyer, Associate Dean
(804) 287-6374 • mmeyer@richmond.edu

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