



Judaic Studies **Major**

The undergraduate major in Judaic Studies offers students an opportunity to explore the diverse histories, traditions, and cultural expressions of Jews living across the globe. Students use the tools of Jewish textual studies and source analysis to contend with contemporary political and social issues. They gain vital skills in research and writing, critical and creative thinking, as well as public and persuasive speaking. The major is flexible and individualized, providing opportunities for in-depth language studies, experiential learning, study abroad, and personal connections with faculty.

Prerequisites to the Major

None

Requirements for the Major

- 28 credits of work in approved courses
- 15 credits must be at the 300- or 400-level, one of these courses must be at the 400-level. 100-level courses may not be included in a major plan.
- 1 of the following core courses:
 - JUDAIC 205: What is Judaism?
 - JUDAIC 210: Sources of Jewish History
 - JUDAIC 281: Jews in the Modern World
- Electives: All courses must be at the 200-level or above with a Judaic listing or be approved by a major advisor; advanced Hebrew language courses (300-level and 400-level) may count toward the major.

Hebrew Sub Plan

Optional sub plan for Judaic Studies majors

- Prerequisite of first year proficiency in Hebrew achieved through coursework (Hebrew 102) or placement examination.
- Judaic Studies Hebrew Sub Plan Language Requirement (6 credit minimum taken in residence): one 200 level course can count toward the language requirement (but does not count toward the 28 credit major). At least one Hebrew language course must be taken at the 300-level or above.

Language

- 200 level or above language courses in less commonly taught languages (such as Yiddish, Ladino, or Biblical Hebrew) can count toward the 28 credit major (up to 8 credits) if the student meets LSA's language requirement in another language.

Constraints

- 15 of the 28 credits must be elected in residence unless special permission is given by the major advisor.
- Students can pursue both a Judaic Studies and a Middle East Studies major as long as the student does not elect to pursue both a Middle East Studies Hebrew submajor and a Judaic Studies Hebrew sub plan. Students pursuing a Middle East Studies Hebrew submajor or Judaic Studies Hebrew subplan cannot use the Hebrew credits used to fulfill the Hebrew submajor/subplan to also fulfill requirements for the Judaic Studies or Middle East Studies major.
- Only 1 Independent Study course may be used toward the major unless approved by the major advisor.

Honors

The Center offers an Honors plan to qualified Judaic Studies students. Application for an Honors plan is usually made at the beginning of the third year. Participation requires a 3.5 grade point average. Graduation with Honors is recommended for students who complete all College and Judaic Studies graduation requirements, maintain a 3.5 GPA, and write a substantial Honors thesis which is judged worthy of Honors designation by the thesis advisor and at least one other faculty reader. An Honors plan is not limited to students who have been in the College Honors Program in the first and second years. For more information about Honors, email Ask.Honors@umich.edu or call 734.764.6274.

Advising

A student who is interested in a major in Judaic Studies should meet with the major advisor as early as possible to plan a coherent course of study. Please email js-student-services@umich.edu or call 734-615-6097 to schedule an appointment.