Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures is an academic department, unique in North America, in which Jewish Studies and Islamic Studies are integrated. It is an interdisciplinary department whose purpose is to explore the historical experience; literary, religious and cultural expression; and political and material life of the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern civilizations. Whether students favor the study of language, literature, religion, history or politics, they will find in our courses a way to deepen their appreciation of these complex and diverse societies and cultures. Students will also be encouraged to explore the interaction of Jews and Muslims with neighboring societies and cultures in the Middle East, Europe, North Africa, and other parts of the world.

The Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (JINELC) offers both a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies, and a Master of Arts in Islamic and Near Eastern Studies.

The department does not currently offer a home-based PhD program. Students who would like to pursue a PhD in one of the fields of Jewish Studies or Islamic and Near Eastern Studies may do so under the auspices of a PhD granting department or program (such as History, Anthropology, or Comparative Literature) in cooperation with participating faculty from Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. In such instances, the prospective student should apply directly to the appropriate disciplinary department or program at Washington University.

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Master of Arts in Jewish Studies

The AM program in Jewish Studies offers students an opportunity for dedicated, interdisciplinary study of the history, literatures, and cultures of the Jewish people from ancient to modern times. It is designed for students who have some college-level preparation in the field and who wish to deepen their expertise in preparation for a PhD program. It is also well-suited for those planning on professional careers in education, law, business, or social work. Our faculty offer graduate-level instruction in Hebrew Bible; rabbinic culture and texts; medieval, early modern and modern Jewish history in both Europe and the Middle East; Jewish-Muslim encounters throughout history; and premodern and modern Hebrew literature. Applicants to the AM program must show proficiency in Hebrew language equivalent to at least one year of college-level study. Students will be expected to have successfully completed third-year Hebrew before receiving the AM degree.

Degree Requirements

- A minimum of 30 credits from graduate-level courses, which may include up to 6 units transferred from another institution. (Note: first- and second-year language classes do not count toward these 30 credits.)
- Successful completion of third-year Hebrew.
- Ability to use Hebrew source material and scholarly articles, to be demonstrated in at least one major seminar paper.
- A second major research paper to be written either in a second seminar or in an independent study to be supervised by one of the faculty associated with the program.
- Students have the option of writing a master's thesis in place of the two major research papers (see Policies and Timelines (p. 4), below).
- At the end of their program of study, degree candidates are required to complete successfully an oral examination, lasting no more than one hour, based on either the two research papers submitted for this purpose or the master's thesis.
- Please note also the departmental Policies and Timelines (p. 4) below.

Recently-offered Graduate-Level Courses in Jewish Studies

Jewish History

- L75 JINE 535C, Becoming "Modern": Emancipation, Anti-Semitism, and Nationalism in Modern Jewish History
- L75 JINE 536, The History of the Jews in Islamic Lands
- L75 JINE 5330, Out of the Shtetl: Jews in Central and Eastern Europe Between Empire, State, and Nation in the 19th and 20th Centuries
- L75 JINE 5334, Crusade, Disputation, and Coexistence: Jews in Christian Europe
• L75 JINE 5900, Identity: Genocide and Migration: Flight and Displacement Under Nazi Regime

Biblical Studies
• L75 JINE 501C, Kings, Priests, Prophets, and Rabbis: The Jews in the Ancient World
• L75 JINE 584, Introduction to Biblical Hebrew for Graduate Students
• L75 JINE 585D, Topics in Biblical Hebrew Texts: Biblical Law
• L75 JINE 585D, Topics in Biblical Hebrew Texts: Biblical Poetry
• L75 JINE 585D, Topics in Biblical Hebrew Texts: The Book of Isaiah
• L75 JINE 5012, Biblical Law and the Origins of Western Justice
• L75 JINE 402, Fourth-Level Modern Hebrew I and II
• L75 JINE 4741, Topics in Jewish Literature: Exile, Jewish Historical Experience and Literary Imagination
• L75 JINE 5060, Modern Jewish Writers
• L75 JINE 5348, Travelers, Tricksters, and Storytellers: Jewish Travel Narratives and Autobiographies, 1100-1800
• L75 JINE 540, Israeli Women Writers

Hebrew and Jewish Literature
• L75 JINE 402, Fourth-Level Modern Hebrew I and II
• L75 JINE 4741, Topics in Jewish Literature: Exile, Jewish Historical Experience and Literary Imagination
• L75 JINE 5060, Modern Jewish Writers
• L75 JINE 5348, Travelers, Tricksters, and Storytellers: Jewish Travel Narratives and Autobiographies, 1100-1800
• L75 JINE 540, Israeli Women Writers

Rabbinic Culture and Texts
• L75 JINE 440, Topics in Rabbinic Texts: Midrash
• L75 JINE 440, Topics in Rabbinic Texts: Mishnah and Gemara
• L75 JINE 444, The Mystical Tradition in Judaism
• L75 JINE 5082, From the Temple to the Talmud: The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism

Research Seminars
• L75 JINE 49JK, Advanced Seminar: Blood and Sacred Bodies: Ritual Murder and Host Desecration Accusations
• L75 JINE 401W, Seminar in Hebrew Literature: Israeli Culture
• L75 JINE 405, Diaspora in Jewish and Islamic Experience
• L75 JINE 409, Beyond Geography: The Meaning of Place in the Near East
• L75 JINE 492, Advanced Seminar: Europe’s “Jewish Question”: Emancipation, Anti-Semitism, and Jewish-Christian Confrontation
• L75 JINE 4001, Convivencia or Reconquista? Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia
• L75 JINE 4020, Jerusalem, the Holy City
• L75 JINE 502, Proseminar in European Jewish History

This list is not exhaustive and departmental course offerings may change. Other graduate-level courses in anthropology, history, various languages and literatures, philosophy, and political science may be taken, as long as they are related to a student’s specific field of study and have been approved by his or her academic advisor.

Policies and Timelines Applying to Both AM Programs
For policies and timelines applying to both AM programs, please refer to the section below (p. 4).

Master of Arts in Islamic Studies
The AM program in Islamic and Near Eastern Studies offers students an opportunity for dedicated, interdisciplinary study of the history, literatures, and cultures of the Middle East from the Middle Ages to the present. It is designed for students who ideally have some undergraduate training in Arabic or other Near Eastern languages, and offers as an excellent preparation for a PhD program in the field. It is also well-suited for those planning on professional careers in education, law, business, government, and private agencies whose work touches upon some aspect of Islamic and Near Eastern Studies. Our faculty offer graduate-level instruction in Islamic and Near Eastern history; Islamic religion and thought; premodern Muslim political thought and practice; Islam in world history; Near Eastern urban studies; and both classical and modern Arabic literature. Students will be expected to have successfully completed third-year Arabic before receiving the AM degree.

Degree Requirements
• A minimum of 30 credits from graduate-level courses, which may include up to 6 units transferred from another institution. (Note: first- or second-year language classes do not count toward these 30 credits.)
• Successful completion of third-year Arabic.
• Ability to use Arabic source material and scholarly articles, to be demonstrated in at least one major seminar paper.
• A second major research paper to be written either in a second seminar or in an independent study to be supervised by one of the faculty associated with the program.
• Students have the option of writing a master's thesis in place of the two major research papers (see Policies and Timelines (p. 4), below).
• At the end of their program of study, degree candidates are required to complete successfully an oral examination, lasting no more than one hour, based on either the two research papers submitted for this purpose or the master’s thesis.
• Please note also the departmental Policies and Timelines (p. 4) (below).
Recently-offered Graduate-Level Courses in Islamic and Near Eastern Studies

Islamic and Near Eastern History
- L75 JINE 4274, Palestine, Israel, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
- L75 JINE 4675, Beyond the Harem: Women, Gender, and Revolution in the Modern Middle East
- L75 JINE 4872, Colonial Cities and the Making of Modernity
- L75 JINE 501M, Historical Methods-Middle Eastern History: Law and Revolution in Modern Egypt
- L75 JINE 536, The History of the Jews in Islamic Lands
- L75 JINE 5061, City of Peace: Baghdad in Medieval Times (ca. 762-1250)
- L75 JINE 5149, The Late Ottoman Middle East
- L75 JINE 5150, The Middle East in the Twentieth Century
- L75 JINE 5314, Islamic History: 1200-1800
- L75 JINE 5510, Muhammad in History and Literature

Qur'an, Islamic Law and Theology
- L75 JINE 412, Islamic Theology
- L75 JINE 445, Topics in Islam: Readings in Islamic Political Thought
- L75 JINE 546, Islamic Law
- L75 JINE 562, Approaches to the Qur'an
- L75 JINE 5622, Topics in Islam: Islam in the Modern World

Arabic Literature
- L75 JINE 471, Topics in Modern Arabic Literature in Translation: The Syrian Revolution: Literature, Art, Ideology
- L75 JINE 4081, Fourth-Level Modern Arabic I and II
- L75 JINE 529, Middle Eastern Islamic Literatures in Translation
- L75 JINE 5325, Introduction to Arabic Literature

Research Seminars
- L75 JINE 49NR, Advanced Seminar: Egypt and the Arab Spring: Middle Eastern Revolution in Historical Perspective
- L75 JINE 405, Diaspora in Jewish and Islamic Experience
- L75 JINE 409, Beyond Geography: The Meaning of Place in the Near East
- L75 JINE 4001, Convivencia or Reconquista? Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Iberia
- L75 JINE 4020, Jerusalem, the Holy City
- L75 JINE 4970, Empire and Messianism in the Middle East
- L75 JINE 5442, Core Seminar in World/Comparative History: Social and Cultural History of the Modern Middle East

This list is not exhaustive and departmental course offerings may change. Other graduate-level courses in anthropology, history, various languages and literatures, philosophy, and political science may be taken, as long as they are related to a student's specific field of study and have been approved by his or her academic adviser.

Policies and Timelines Applying to Both AM Programs

To complete our AM programs, including the third-year language requirement, within the typical course of two years, students need to be self-motivated and should develop close working relationships with their academic advisers.

Master's students planning to graduate WITHOUT THESIS should meet with their academic adviser at the beginning of the fall term of their second year to discuss their graduation plans. By the first week of the spring semester, students and their advisers should have determined the two research papers (each of which should be at least 30 pages long) to be defended, set all pertinent submission deadlines, selected the three members of the defense committee, and set a date for the oral defense to be scheduled no later than the first two weeks of April.

Master's students planning to graduate WITH THESIS should approach a potential thesis adviser (who may but does not need to be identical with their academic adviser) toward the end of their first year. The thesis represents original work of highly polished quality and is significantly more substantive than a research paper (usually about 80-100 pages long). The guidelines issued by the Graduate School for master's theses also apply in this case (http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/policies-and-guides). In both the fall and spring terms of their second year, students need to enroll in L75 JINE 591 Directed Writing: Thesis. At the beginning of the spring term, students, together with their adviser(s), are expected to determine a thesis committee consisting of three readers. The final draft of the thesis is due to the thesis adviser on the Friday before Spring Break. The oral defense should be scheduled no later than the second week of April.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students are expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in courses approved for their degree programs. Students with full or partial tuition remission are expected to maintain a significantly higher grade point average.

Students may be dismissed immediately for extreme academic underperformance. Examples of extreme underperformance might be two grades of C or below in one semester or three unfinished courses (I, X or N) in one semester. In any case, unfinished courses should not remain on the record for longer than one semester. Students who encounter personal situations that contribute to academic underperformance have the option to request a Leave of Absence rather than continuing enrollment with poor performance. Most academic difficulties are not of the severity associated with immediate dismissal.
Guidelines for Academic Probation and Dismissal

Academic Dismissal is distinct from withdrawal (initiated by the student), deactivation of a student's record by a failure to register, and dismissal or other sanctions associated with the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS) Academic and Professional Integrity Policy (http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/files/graduate/AcademicIntegrity.pdf) or the University Student Judicial Code. Dismissals are recommended by the degree program and are not final until approved by the Dean of the GSAS.

Except for circumstances justifying immediate dismissal, a student cannot be dismissed on the basis of academic performance without the opportunity to return to good standing during an identified period of probation. The purpose of probation is to: (1) explicitly warn the student of his or her status, (2) provide the student with clear guidelines of the performance that will be necessary to return to good standing, and (3) provide the student with reasonable time to meet these expectations. A student on probation must receive a detailed letter from the director of graduate studies stating the reasons for the probation and explicitly identifying the steps necessary for the student to return to good standing by the end of the probation period. A copy of this letter should be sent to the Dean of the GSAS. While the purpose of the probationary period is to provide the student with time to improve, the decision of the program at the end of a probationary period could involve short-term or immediate notification of dismissal.