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.

Our majors and minors have gone on to do many things after graduation. Many have entered professional schools in such fields as law, journalism, education, the rabbinate or ministry, government, and communal or social work. Others have gone on to do graduate work in either Jewish or Islamic studies or in related disciplines. Still others have combined their interest in Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern languages and cultures with careers in business, medicine or scientific research. All have found the major to have been an intellectually and emotionally rewarding experience and an important component of their overall development.

Our goals are to:

1. Convey an appreciation for the complexities, depth, diversity and cultural richness of Jewish and Islamic civilizations in their historical context from antiquity to the present.
2. Explore the interaction of Jewish, Islamic and other Near Eastern societies and cultures with neighboring peoples both within and outside the Middle East.
3. Encourage mastery of the primary languages and literatures in which Jews and Muslims have expressed their cultures.
4. Prepare students for graduate or professional studies in these or related fields.

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As majors in one of the Near Eastern languages and literatures (Arabic; Hebrew; or Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern studies), students can expect to gain proficiency in one or more Near Eastern languages, study the area’s literary and cultural landmarks, and gain familiarity with Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern history and civilizations.

The Majors

For information on the major in Arabic, visit the Arabic page of this Bulletin.

For information on the major in Hebrew, visit the Hebrew page of this Bulletin.

For information on the major in Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern studies, visit the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies page of this Bulletin.

The Minors

The Minors

For information on the minor in Arabic, visit the Arabic page of this Bulletin.

For information on the minor in Hebrew, visit the Hebrew page of this Bulletin.

For information on the minor in Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern studies, visit the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies page of this Bulletin.

For information on the minor in South Asian languages and culture (Hindi), visit the Hindi page of this Bulletin.

Courses

For Arabic courses, visit the Arabic page of this Bulletin.

For Hebrew courses, visit the Hebrew page of this Bulletin.

For Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies courses, visit the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies page of this Bulletin.