

# Judaic Studies

## DIRECTOR

Jonathan C. Finkelstein

Jay M. Freyman  
*Ancient studies*

## JUDAIC STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jere M. Cohen  
*Sociology*

Judith M. Schneider  
*Modern languages  
and linguistics*

*Courses in this program are listed under JDST and HEBR.*

The minor in Judaic studies addresses the interests of students seeking an intellectual examination of the Jewish experience.

The interdisciplinary program provides a curriculum designed to build understandings of Judaism from historical, literary, social, cultural, religious and philosophical perspectives. The curriculum allows students to organize their studies within several areas of concentration and to tailor the minor to their academic and career interests.

Judaic studies and Hebrew courses are taught by members of the UMBC faculty and by scholars, researchers, authors, rabbis and artists from the Greater Baltimore-Washington area.

## Career and Academic Paths

Students who minor in Judaic studies have chosen careers in fields such as archaeology, historical research, education, social work, Jewish communal service, intercultural and international relations. The minor can be a useful adjunct to majors in Africana studies, American studies, ancient studies, history, English, modern languages and linguistics, philosophy, political science, psychology, social work, sociology and anthropology.

Although a major is not offered by the program, students may design a major course of study focusing on Judaic studies within the Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

## Academic Advising

Any member of the Judaic Studies Advisory Committee and the program director may serve as an academic advisor to students selecting the minor. Although the structure of the minor curriculum and its requirements are provided below, students interested in the Judaic studies minor are urged to meet with an academic advisor to discuss their plans and to learn of recent and planned developments in the program and special events.

## Minor Program

### Areas of Concentration

The minor program is structured into six areas of concentration: ancient Judaism, Jewish history: modern and contemporary, Holocaust studies, Judaic literature and language, Jewish religion and philosophy, and modern Israel. A listing of the courses within each area of concentration is available from the director.

**For additional information, call 410-455-2427 or e-mail [finkelst@umbc.edu](mailto:finkelst@umbc.edu). Also see [www.umbc.edu/judaic](http://www.umbc.edu/judaic).**

## Requirements

The minor in Judaic studies requires a minimum of 18 credits. This requirement can be fulfilled in several ways:

- ▶ By taking at least nine credits from one area of concentration and nine more credits from the same or another area of concentration. Alternatively, the additional nine credits may be from other courses approved by the Judaic Studies Advisory Committee and listed each semester in the Schedule of Classes, including JDST 400: Special Study or Project.
- ▶ By taking a survey of Judaic studies that includes at least one course from each of five areas of concentration. Selection of the courses should be made with the guidance of an academic advisor.

**Note:** At least 12 of the 18 credits of the minor must be from HEBR or JDST courses.

At least six credits of the minor must be from upper-level courses, and at least nine credits must be from courses taken at UMBC.

## Evening Option

One or two courses usually are offered in the evening each semester. However, not all courses are offered on an evening basis.

## Student Organizations

The Jewish Student Union and UMBC Hillel are active on the UMBC campus. Neither is formally associated with the Judaic Studies Program.

## Special Opportunities

JDST 400 Special Study or Project provides students the opportunity to extend and apply their knowledge in a research, internship or supervised study experience. The Greater Baltimore-Washington area offers a variety of settings and opportunities for research and internships, including the Jewish Museum of Maryland; the Baltimore Hebrew University; the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; the B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum in Washington, D.C. and various community research, social service and advocacy agencies in Baltimore.

Opportunities for study abroad are available. In some cases, students have spent their freshman year studying in Israel while maintaining enrollment at UMBC. In other cases, students have gone abroad for one or two semesters in their junior year. Study abroad projects also can be arranged for the winter and summer sessions. To ensure the maximum transfer of overseas course credit to UMBC, and to the Judaic Studies Program, prior planning with a Judaic studies academic advisor is urged.