

Ramapo College

Jewish Studies Minor

What does it mean to be Jewish? Where do Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness come from? The history, religion and culture of the Jewish people originated some three-thousand years ago in the land of ancient Israel. As Jews spread throughout the globe, they developed distinct Jewish communities. Studying these communities from an interdisciplinary perspective prepares students to see contemporary Jewish life in a more informed and richer way.

The Jewish Studies Minor introduces students to Jewish history, religion, literature, art, language, and culture from the Bible to the present day. This interdisciplinary minor complements a wide range of Ramapo majors as well as the Human Rights and Genocide Studies Minor. All courses in the Jewish Studies Minor are open to students of all faiths and backgrounds including those with no knowledge of the subject as well as those who arrive with deep understanding and personal connections.

Convenor: Ira Spar, HGS

Courses

Students must take a minimum of 16 credit hours (usually four courses) to complete the minor.

Students must take one course on the Holocaust or genocide. No more than two courses can have a primary focus on the Holocaust or genocide. No more than two courses may be counted for this minor and another concentration.

Required Course

HIST 264 Jewish History

Holocaust or Genocide Category

At least one Holocaust and Genocide course is required. Student may not count more than two courses from this category.

HIST 330 Holocaust and Media

HIST 357 The Holocaust

LITR 366 Literature of the Holocaust

Elective Category

Student must take at least one course from the following.

ANTH 235 Religion—Cross Cultural Perspective

HIST 150 History Matters (Spar section only)

HIST 340 Biblical Archaeology and History

INTL 400 Study Abroad (program based on convenor approval)
 LITR 265 Hebrew Bible
 PHIL 302 World Religions
 SOCI 331 Sociology of Religion

Additional courses with permission of the convenor

Student Learning Goals and Outcomes

Goal: Students will gain a nuanced understanding of Jewish history and culture, while developing the skills required to pursue further education and research in these fields, either independently or in graduate study.

Outcome 1: Students will analyze primary Jewish and related texts and commentaries in historical perspective.

Direct Assessment: Rubric based evaluations of class assignments and papers.

Indirect Assessment: Survey of student perceptions of their abilities to analyze Jewish and related texts, and commentaries in historical perspective.

Outcome 2: Students will demonstrate an ability to understand works of secondary sources in the field of Jewish Studies.

Direct Assessment: Rubric based evaluation of student products (papers, oral presentation) in the required core course.

Indirect Assessment: Survey of student perceptions of their ability to understand works of secondary sources in the field of Jewish Studies.

Note: assessments will focus on the required course (HIST 264) while the program is being established.

Jewish Studies Minor Curriculum Map

	Students will analyze primary Jewish and related texts and commentaries in historical perspective	Students will demonstrate an ability to understand works of secondary sources in the field of Jewish Studies.
HIST 264 Jewish History	X	X
Holocaust and Genocide Studies Category	X	X
Electives		X

