Center for Jewish Studies

Director

- David Schloen, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

Professors

- Leora Auslander, History
- Orit Bashkin, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
- Philip Bohlman, Music
- Arnold I. Davidson, Philosophy, Divinity, and Comparative Literature
- Michael Fishbane, Divinity
- Cornell Fleischer, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
- David Levin, Germanic Studies
- Françoise Meltzer, Romance Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, and Divinity
- Paul Mendes-Flohr, Divinity
- David Nirenberg, Social Thought and History
- Martha Nussbaum, Law, Philosophy, and Divinity
- Dennis Pardee, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
- Moishe Postone, History
- Martha Roth, Oriental Institute
- Eric Santner, Germanic Studies
- Bożena Shallcross, Slavic Languages and Literatures
- Josef Stern, Philosophy
- Tara Zahra, History

Associate Professors

- Hakan Karateke, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
- James Robinson, Divinity
- Sofia Torallas-Tovar, Classics and Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

Assistant Professors

- Simeon Chavel, Divinity
- Sarah Hammerschlag, Divinity
- Faith Hillis, History
- Raoul Moati, Philosophy
- William Nickell, Slavic Languages and Literatures
- Richard Payne, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and History
- Na’ama Rokem, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
- Jeffrey Stackert, Divinity
- Sonali Thakkar, English Language and Literature
Senior Lecturers

- Ari Almog, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
- Sunny Yudkoff, Germanic Studies

Emeritus Members

- Howard I. Aronson, Slavic Languages & Literatures
- Menachem Brinker, Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations
- Michael Geyer, History
- Joel Kraemer, Divinity
- Judith Nadler, Library
- Shulamit Ran, Music
- Jerrold Sadock, Linguistics
- Bernard Wasserstein, History

Jewish Studies has been an important field of research at The University of Chicago since the days when its first president, the Biblical scholar William Rainey Harper, oversaw the beginnings of programs in Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations. In addition to Professor Harper, Rabbi Emil Gustav Hirsch taught Jewish Studies from the very founding of the university. In 1892 he was appointed one of the first four full professors at the fledgling university, occupying a chair in “Rabbinical Literature and Philosophy.” He held the chair until his death in 1923. In fact, the University of Chicago was one of the first universities in the world to have a full fledged program in Jewish Studies. A few decades later, these early initiatives received a huge institutional boost with the founding of the Oriental Institute, which remains one of the preeminent centers for the study of ancient Near Eastern language, civilization, and archeology. But the flourishing of Jewish Studies over the years at Chicago has also been sustained by appointments in a wide range of departments: professorships of Jewish Hellenism in Classics, Medieval Jewish Philosophy in Philosophy, Jewish Social and Economic History in History, to name only a few. During the past decade, the University has appointed eminent scholars in the study of Hebrew Bible, Midrash, Jewish Medieval Studies, Hebrew Literature, American Jewish Literature, and German Jewish Culture. Working together, they have created one of the most modern comprehensive, distinguished and interdisciplinary programs in Jewish Studies available at any American university. Students can make full use of the resources in Jewish Studies available through the Divinity School, the Departments of Germanic Studies, History, Linguistics, Philosophy, Music, Near Eastern Languages & Literature, and the Oriental Institute.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Graduate students in Jewish Studies at the University of Chicago earn their degrees in a department, school, or committee, while supplementing their disciplinary training through participation in the inter-disciplinary activities and scholarship opportunities offered by the Center. Students who wish to pursue graduate work in an area of Jewish Studies should apply to the appropriate department, school, or committee, and not to the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies.
The following departments and schools offer specialized graduate study in the following tracks or programs of Jewish Studies:

**THE DIVINITY SCHOOL**
- Biblical Studies
  - Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East
  - Hebrew Bible and Early Jewish Literature
  - Jewish and Christian Bible
- History of Judaism
- Rabbinic literature, Midrash, and mysticism
- Medieval Jewish philosophy, thought, and literature (including Islamic philosophy)
- Modern Jewish thought and intellectual history
  For information about the Divinity School please visit http://divinity.uchicago.edu.

**DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC STUDIES**
- German-Jewish Intellectual History
- Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture
  For information about the Department of Germanic Studies please visit http://german.uchicago.edu.

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**
- Modern Jewish History
  For information about the Department of History please visit http://history.uchicago.edu.

**DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS (NELC)**
- Near Eastern Judaica (including Modern Hebrew Studies and Hebrew Studies)
- Northwest Semitic Philology (including Hebrew, Phoenician-Punic, Ugaritic, Aramaic, and Syriac)
- Ancient Near Eastern History (including the ancient history of Syria-Palestine)
- Near Eastern Art and Archaeology
- Modern Hebrew Language and Literature
- Islamic History and Civilization (including the study of Jews in the Islamic world)
- Islamic Thought (including the interaction between Jewish and Islamic thought)
  For more information about NELC please visit http://nelc.uchicago.edu/.

In addition, students and faculty work in specific areas of Jewish Studies in the Departments of Music, Philosophy, Political Science, and Slavic Languages and Literatures.
The Chicago Center for Jewish Studies seeks to provide a common space in which graduate students of all disciplines working in the diverse areas of Jewish Studies can participate in a rich and lively intellectual community. We are planning interdisciplinary graduate courses, lectures and conferences, and graduate workshops and seminars for faculty and students. The faculty of the Center guide students to the multiple opportunities for the study of Judaism and Jewish culture available across the university. In addition, the Center awards research and travel grants and dissertation year fellowships to students in any department and school working on topics related to Jewish Studies. Prospective and current students should keep in mind that, given the deeply ingrained interdisciplinary culture of the University of Chicago, their opportunities for study and research can range across the entire faculty in addition to the resources of their home department or unit. Although each program has its own requirements, students typically take courses and seminars in departments other than their own, and dissertation committees often include faculty from multiple departments, thus reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of graduate study at this university.

**Jewish Studies & Hebrew Bible Workshops**

Bringing together faculty and students from across various disciplines, the Jewish Studies and the Hebrew Bible workshops seek to provide a forum for vibrant discourse and critical reflection on work and topics included in these broad fields of Judaica. From Jewish language, literature, and music to religion and philosophy, these workshops look to engage students and faculty interested in Jewish studies while stretching them to think beyond the strictures that currently typify their sub-disciplines.

**Research and Library Resources**

The University of Chicago library system serves the research and study interests of faculty and students and houses a bound volume and microfilm collection of more than 5 million volumes; a manuscript and archival collection of over 7 million pieces; serial holdings of some 95,000 titles; and a photographic study collection of visual art of more than 500,000 pieces. The physical facilities of the library system consist of the Joseph Regenstein Graduate Research Library, supporting research activities and graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences; Harper Memorial Library, serving primarily students in the College; and six professional and departmental libraries. Regenstein Library provides the central location for research materials in the humanities, the social sciences, and the ancient and modern languages, an array of resources numbering more than 3 million volumes.

Regenstein Library contains the Department of Special Collections, a major repository of archival and rare published materials. Regenstein also houses the Middle East Collection, with rich holdings in Assyriology and Egyptology. Of particular interest to students in Jewish Studies is the unique Ludwig Rosenberger Collection, which contains thousands of items in German Judaica. In addition, the Oriental Institute maintains extensive holdings in ancient Near Eastern and biblical studies and archaeology.
Library resources are not limited to the University community. The libraries of the cluster of five theological schools in the University neighborhood enrich the available library facilities by more than 1,000,000 volumes. The libraries of the Art Institute and the Chicago Historical Society also contain extensive resources for historical study. The Newberry Library, located on Chicago’s Near North Side, is a world-renowned research collection of some 1,000,000 titles and 5,000,000 manuscripts in the humanities, chiefly in history, literature, music, and philosophy, with special strengths in European, American, and Latin American history and literature.

**STUDENT FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**DISSERTATION YEAR FELLOWSHIP**

The Chicago Center for Jewish Studies periodically offers Dissertation Year Fellowship(s) for students in all Divisions and Schools at the University of Chicago pursuing projects on any topic relating to Jewish Studies, including (but not restricted to) study of the history, culture, and thought of the Jews, classical and modern Jewish texts, and languages of the Jews (e.g., biblical through modern Hebrew, Yiddish).

**TRAVEL AND RESEARCH GRANTS**

The Chicago Center for Jewish Studies awards grants to students to support their work in any area of Jewish Studies. Eligible expenses include (1) research travel and materials, and (2) advanced foreign language study in an accredited program (beyond the level offered at the University). Because funds are currently limited, priority will be given to proposals in the order listed. Awards are also available for conference travel and fees when a paper has been accepted for presentation. Students may combine their awards with funding from other sources.

**TEACHING NOMINATIONS TO THE GRAHAM SCHOOL FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**

The Chicago Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Chicago, in cooperation with the Graham School of General Studies, organizes an annual competition for Jewish Studies courses to be taught at the Graham School (at the Gleacher Center). The Graham School offers an array of open enrollment non-credit courses in the liberal arts for adult students; for examples of current courses, see http://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/has. The Center for Jewish Studies oversees three such courses on topics in Jewish Studies, to be taught by University of Chicago Ph.D. students, one in each quarter of the academic year.

Each course meets for a total of 20 hours per quarter; usually they are taught over eight weeks, each meeting lasting 2 ½ hours. Courses are contingent on minimal enrollment (typically six students). Each student teacher will be assigned a faculty mentor who will work with the student on syllabus preparation and oversee student teaching.
For additional information about the Jewish Studies program, please see http://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/ccjs/.