Judaic Studies

This major is offered jointly by the USC School of Religion and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, an independent college adjacent to the USC campus. It provides the opportunity for in-depth study of Jewish thought, ethics, history, literature, tradition, spirituality, and women's studies using approaches developed through the academic study of religion.

Opportunities for Students

- **The West Semitic Research Project**: For the past 20 years, WSRP has used advanced photographic and computer imaging techniques to document objects and texts from the ancient world to make them available to scholars, students, educators, and the general public.

- **USC Hillel Jewish Center**: Hillel strives to offer Jewish students, staff and faculty an opportunity to explore their Jewish heritage in meaningful ways.

- **Shoah Foundation**: The Foundation's Visual History Archive holds nearly 52,000 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors, liberators and liberation witnesses, political prisoners, rescuers and aid providers, and war crimes trials participants. The testimonies cover 32 languages, representing 56 countries and are the largest collection of its kind in the world.

- **Study Abroad**: Improve your Hebrew skills and understanding of religion, international relations, and philosophy by spending a semester or year in Jerusalem at The Hebrew University.

Notable Courses

- **JS 100: Jewish History** — Major ideas, personalities, and movements in Jewish history from antiquity to the present in light of the interaction of the Jews with the general culture.

- **JS 321: Gender and Judaism** — An investigation into the ways in which gender has structured Jewish religious, social, political and intellectual life from the Biblical period through the present.

- **JS 382: Judaism as an American Religion** — The development of American expressions of Judaism as part of the American religious context, from the perspective of the social scientific study of religion.

- **REL 359: Culture in Diaspore - The Jews of Spain** — Course traces the Jewish diaspora from Spain and Portugal with particular attention to how Sephardic Jews maintained ties of culture, commerce, language, and identity.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Language Requirement*
- Hebrew language sequence up to HEBR 220: Hebrew III

Prerequisite Course Requirement*
- JS 100: Jewish History
  or JS 180: Introduction to Judaism

Judaic Studies Elective Course Requirements (select three)*
- JS 321: Gender and Judaism
- JS 361: Scripture and Polemic in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- JS 382: Judaism as an American Religion
- JS 467: Modern Jewish Thought
- REL 312: Biblical Wisdom Literature

Religion Core Requirements*
- REL 301: Introduction to the Study of Religion
- REL 401: Seminar in Religious Studies

Religion Elective Course Requirements (select three)**
- REL 319: Religious and Ethical Issues in Death and Dying
- REL 331: Religions of East Asia
- REL 360: Ethical Issues in the New Medical Revolution
- REL 366: Religion and Social Change
- REL 462: Religion and Violence
- REL 473: Advanced Hebrew Bible Studies

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/jewishstudies/majors-minors/. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.