

Carleton

Program in Judaic Studies

507-222-5437

Hello Friend,

Welcome to Carleton!

Congratulations on being accepted to a college where I always feel that your next, most stimulating conversation is just around the corner! This is certainly true in Judaic Studies, where we explore Jewish civilization in diverse cultural contexts through the lenses of many academic disciplines. These include the study of Jewish history, thought, religion, literature, and lived experience in environments ranging from biblical to digital.

[Judaic Studies](#) does not offer a major or minor at Carleton, but courses regularly taught in the Religion department focus on Jewish ritual and on biblical, rabbinic, and liturgical texts in conversation with contemporary social and ethical issues. In the Religion department, beyond Introduction to Judaism you can also [take classes](#) such as How to Read the Talmud, Judaism in America, Judaism and Gender, Jesus, the Bible, and Christian Beginnings, and Martyrdom. Courses in the History department include Jews, Muslims, and Christians in the Medieval Mediterranean, and an advanced seminar on the Holocaust.

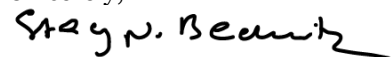
We explore Jewish history even more globally in Jewish Collective Memory, a class I teach in the Middle Eastern Languages department. My teaching also includes Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Israeli and Palestinian Identity (a first year Argument and Inquiry seminar), East/West in Israeli and Palestinian Fiction and Film, and Israeli Society in Israeli Cinema. [Modern Hebrew](#) is of great relevance to Judaic Studies as well.

Many Carleton students have studied, interned, or volunteered in Israel for a summer or for part of an academic year with support from a [Jonathan Paradise Israel Experience Scholarship](#). It can assist students who wish to learn more about the history, cultures, and politics of Israel, in order to understand the global community in which they live. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required, and one to three awards are made each year. Past recipients have studied Hebrew, Arabic, and Middle East Studies in Jerusalem and Haifa. They have also worked at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, volunteered at the Hand in Hand Arab and Jewish bicultural school, and they've been camp counselors at Ultimate Peace. Some have done research in History and Art History at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem.

In past years a number of Carleton students have participated in the annual Undergraduate Jewish Studies Conference, both as organizing board members and as presenters. When the conference was virtual and sponsored by Princeton University in 2021, a Carleton sophomore gave a paper she developed in our Jewish Collective Memory class. Overall, while Judaic Studies at Carleton welcomes students of all interests and backgrounds, our learning is complemented by a vibrant Jewish student community on campus and its diverse ways of engaging with a range of Jewish holidays, traditions, and questions.

We hope to see you in some of our Judaic Studies classes at Carleton! I will be very glad to learn about your interests and to answer questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at any time, at sbeckwit@carleton.edu.

Sincerely,



Stacy Beckwith
Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies

