

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

**Minutes**

240 SH

September 21, 2023

*Attending:* Cornelia Lang (chair), Jill Beckman, Asha Bhandary, Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Amira Qidwai, Christine Shea, Amy Strathman, Cinda Coggins Mosher, Anita Jung

*Absent:* Rodica Curtu, Jan Wessel

1. The minutes from the previous meeting on September 14, 2023, were approved.
2. The next item on the agenda was an introductory discussion about the CLAS undergraduate Teaching Assistant (UTAs) policies that are outlined on [this informational website](#). Associate Dean Lang would like UEPC to review the current policies and make recommendations on any revisions that are needed.

Currently the website outlines a process of reporting by departments and assessment at the college level that is not being followed. Another discussion topic centered around whether the title of the role for students who support learning in classes should be changed from UTAs to Learning Assistants, a more general title that is used by the Office of Academic Support and Retention (ASR) in University College. There can be confusion about the roles and responsibilities of UTAs compared with TAs.

Members of the committee shared that there is a need to provide more information to departments on which options are available for instructors who would like to incorporate undergraduate learning assistants/undergraduate TAs in their courses. There is also a need to address supervision and training for undergraduates who will serve in these roles. Going forward, the committee will review information on the [Learning Assistant Program out of ASR](#), and committee members agreed to continue the discussion, with the goal of having a revised set of policies and more comprehensive information for instructors by spring semester 2024.

3. The committee next reviewed a proposal for a new certificate in Jewish Studies, presented by Elizabeth Heineman (History and GWSS) and Ari Ariel (History and International Studies). The administrative home for the certificate is still under discussion. The proposal provides a detailed motivation and context for the certificate, including the fact that all Big10 academic alliance universities except the University of Iowa have Jewish Studies programs. These range from large donor-funded Centers with extensive programming and tenure-track lines of their own to more modest programs offering majors and minors on the strength of jointly appointed faculty and/or cross-listed courses. The field of Jewish Studies is inherently transnational, interdisciplinary, and

concerned with issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The proposal makes that case that the certificate will be a significant benefit to our faculty and undergraduate students, both in the courses that are taught and in the community that the certificate will build and recognize.

Students successfully completing the Jewish Studies certificate will:

1. develop knowledge of important events, figures and topics in Jewish history and culture
2. understand the diversity of the Jewish experience and Jewish practice, and thus an awareness of the problem of essentializing any group, community, or tradition
3. understand the historical development and modern manifestations of antisemitism, both as a distinct phenomenon and in the framework of bias more generally
4. develop understanding of the historical and present-day interactions between different religious/cultural/ethnic groups and thus an increased ability to engage with people who have backgrounds or ideas different than their own
5. develop technical skills that are foundational to advanced work in Jewish Studies

Requirements for the Certificate in Jewish Studies: the certificate will include two foundational courses and then 15 s.h. of elective classes, which are offered every year.

To complete the Certificate in Jewish Studies students must take one foundational course and five elective courses (which can include the second foundational course). The Jewish Studies Certificate has distribution recommendations but not requirements. The categories within the certificate are: Cross-Chronological, the Ancient and Medieval World, the Modern World, and Languages. In organizing it this way, the aim is to increase accessibility to students and to avoid roadblocks caused by unanticipated developments in course availability. Students will be encouraged to fulfill the recommendations as closely as possible by taking electives across the categories below.

### ***Foundations***

HIST:1040: Diversity in History: Global Jewish History  
SJUS:2240: Introduction to Jewish Studies (in development)

### ***Cross-Chronological***

RELS:1001: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam  
ENGL:3247: The English Bible

### ***The Ancient & Medieval World***

RELS:1070: Intro to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament  
CLSA:1415: Ancient Origins of Religious Conflict  
CLSA:1454: The Bible in Antiquity: The Old Testament  
CLSA:1455: The New Testament for Everyone  
CLSA:2444: Cities of the Bible  
HIST:2461: Middle East and Mediterranean from Alexander to Suleiman

CLSA:2482: Ancient Mediterranean Religions  
CLSA:2489: Jerusalem: The Holy City  
RELS:2620: Politics, Sex, and the Bible  
CLSA:3247: Banned from the Bible: Pseudepigrapha  
CLSA:3520: Religious Violence and Nationalism: Dying for the Promised Land  
ENGL:3226: Literature & Culture of the Middle Ages: Mapping Jews and Saracens in Medieval England  
CLSA:4452: The Dead Sea Scrolls

***The Modern World***

HIST:1016: The History that Made Our World: Israel-Palestine Conflict  
HIST:1040: Diversity in History: Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel  
HIST:2151: Introduction to the History Major: Nazi Germany  
SJUS:2250: Jews, Judaism, and Social Justice  
GRMN:2168: Film and Literature of the Holocaust  
GRMN:2620 / WLLC:2620: Anne Frank and Her Story  
RELS:2265: Hard Cases in Healthcare/End of Life  
GRMN:2675: Politics/Memory: Holocaust-Genocide-9/11  
POLI:3423: The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy  
FREN:4433 France Under Nazi Occupation, 1940-1944  
HIST:4478: Holocaust in History and Memory

***Language***

CLSA:4901 Biblical Hebrew I  
CLSA:4902 Biblical Hebrew II  
CLSA:5903 Biblical Aramaic  
CLSA:5904 Targumic Aramaic  
WLLC:3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005 (online courses via Big 10 CourseShare) in Modern Hebrew or Yiddish

4. There was a discussion about whether students could take all of their certificate courses from a single area/department, thus potentially losing the interdisciplinary aspect of the certificate, and the proposers answered that advice to students in the certificate would be to take courses across various academic areas/departments. They hope to develop language in the catalog and in other advising materials indicating that it is most advisable to take courses across the wide range of offerings. UEPCC was incredibly supportive of this certificate proposal and approved the certificate to be added to the curriculum offerings of the college. The committee also discussed the administrative home for the certificate with the proposers, and it was decided that after more decisions are made this academic year about reimagining units in the college related to social and cultural analysis, a clearer picture would emerge about this certificate's administrative home.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Maurel-Destruel

Associate Professor, French & Italian, Linguistics  
Secretary, UEPCC