

I. Program Overview

A. Department Profile

Emory's Institute for Jewish Studies was established in 1999 and gave recognition to the University's strength in the study of Jewish life and culture. In 2001, Emory received an endowment for this institute which is now called the Rabbi Donald A. Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, which strives to make Emory the premier site for Jewish Studies in the southeastern United States.

Emory offers two post-baccalaureate degrees in Jewish Studies, a M.A. and a joint Juris Doctor/M.A. in Jewish Studies. Emory also promotes teaching and research on Israeli history, society, and politics through the Institute of the Study of Modern Israel, a unit within the Institute for Jewish Studies. There is also a plan to offer a Ph.D. in history and a Ph.D. in religion with a concentration in Jewish Studies. Emory's Jewish Studies faculty demonstrate particular strength in American Jewish studies, the diaspora and the holocaust, law and religion, Jewish identity, rabbinic tradition, the study of Israel and Jewish languages, linguistics and literature, with a particular emphasis on Hebrew.

Currently, the department has 16 core faculty and 18 affiliated faculty members. There are 15 majors, 19 minors, 9 M.A. students, and 12 affiliated PhD. Graduate students (5 Religion, 3 History, 2 Comparative Literature, 1 Political Science, and 1 Anthropology). Courses include the following subjects: Israeli studies, Hebrew language and literature, Yiddish language and culture, Biblical archaeology, Bible and other Jewish religious studies, Jewish history and Holocaust studies. The master's program requires a knowledge of Hebrew (equivalent to three years of college Hebrew as determined by an entrance exam), experience with traditional Jewish text, and familiarity with Jewish civilization.

B. Coordination/ Cooperation / Collaborative Relationships

Emory's Jewish Studies program focuses on the multiple dimensions and complexities of Jewish civilization wherever it existed. Therefore, the program must cover a wide range of disciplines, including languages, linguistics, literature, textual analysis, ritual studies, sociology, art and philosophy.

The Institute has close ties to the History Department, the Law School, and the Department of Religion. The program encourages scholarship across other disciplines and supports new faculty appointments (including endowed chairs). They have an endowed lecture series and have helped to create an enrichment fund to support student and faculty travel and study.

II. Description of Material Collected

A. Scope of the Collection

1. Subject Areas –

BM Judaism

DS 101 – 151 History of Israel and Jews in Diaspora

PJ 4501 – 519 Hebrew and Judaic languages and literature.

Our library's strengths include material on American Jewish studies, the diaspora and the holocaust, law and religion, Jewish identity, rabbinic tradition, the study of Israel and Jewish languages, linguistics and literature, with a particular emphasis on Hebrew. Pitts theology library has large collection of Jewish studies material, including one of the nation's most extensive collections of Biblical and Rabbinic texts, as well as archaeology and history of Israel in its Ancient Near Eastern context. Special Collections houses many archives, including papers related to the local Jewish community and extensive Holocaust material.

2. Chronology

There are no restrictions in regards to chronology.

3. Language

We collect primarily in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish but do have material in a variety of other European languages.

4. Date of Publication

We collect anything from sacred early texts to contemporary publications concentrating on Jewish Studies topics.

5. Geographic Areas

We mainly collect material related to Israel, Europe (East and West) and the Americas (North and South).

B. Formats and Publication Type

1. Monographs and Texts

2. Serials

3. Electronic Publications

4. Microforms

5. Multimedia

6. Government Publications

7. Exclusions – none

The library collects material in all of the above 6 formats. Recently, there has been some significant microform purchases, including

- The microfiche collection of Yiddish books from the Harvard College Library
- Microfilm back files of Jewish periodicals from America and Latin America
- The Cairo Geniza microfilm from Cambridge

- The Jewish Theological Seminary Geniza microfilm collection.

The library has recently purchases some important electronic material, such as the Judaic Classics, the Talmudic Encyclopedia, Index to Jewish Periodicals, the Otzar ha-hochma full library, and the Bar-Ilan Resonsa Project on CD-ROM.