Jewish Studies has been an important field of research at the University of Chicago since the institution’s founding in 1890. Among its first five full professors, two taught Judaica: William Rainey Harper and Emil Gustav Hirsch. In 1994 the Divinity School established its History of Judaism program for the training of graduate students in Jewish Studies. During the decade and a half since, the school has appointed eminent scholars in the study of Hebrew Bible, Midrash, Medieval Jewish Thought, and Modern Jewish Thought. Working together, these fields and disciplines have created the most comprehensive, distinguished, and interdisciplinary program in the history of Judaism available at any American university. The History of Judaism area offers three different concentrations: Ancient Judaism, Medieval Judaism, and Modern Judaism.

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For more information, visit divinity.uchicago.edu
Recent Graduates
Samuel Brody, PhD 2013
“This Pathless Hour: Messianism, Anarchism, Zionism, and Martin Buber’s Theopolitics Reconsidered”
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Kansas

Jeffrey Israel, PhD 2011
“Jewish Humor and the Political Ethics of De-Stigmatization”
Assistant Professor of Religion, Williams College

Heather Miller Rubens, PhD 2011
“Also Other: Lucien Wolf, Roman Catholics and the Making of Anglo-Jewish Identity”
Roman Catholic Scholar, Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies

Dov Weiss, PhD 2011
“Confrontations with God in Late Rabbinic Literature”
Assistant Professor of Religion, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Sarah Imhoff, PhD 2010
“Making Jewish Gender: Religion, Race, Sexuality, and American Jews, 1910-1924”
Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies, Indiana University

Recent Courses
This is merely a sample of coursework available at the Divinity School. Our faculty teach over 100 courses each year in the academic study of religion. Please visit divinity.uchicago.edu/courses for current and past course offerings.

- Jewish Liturgical Poetry (Fishbane)
- The Study of Modern Jewish Thought: Theory and Method (Mendes-Flohr)
- Franz Rosenzweig’s Star of Redemption, (Mendes-Flohr)
- Job and Theology: Between Biblical Hermeneutics and Philosophical Theology (Fishbane)
- Philosophy, Talmudic Culture, and Religious Experience: Soloveitchik (Davidson)
- Spinoza and Mendelssohn (Mendes-Flohr)
- The Bible in Arabic (Robinson)
- Maimonides on the Problem of Evil (Robinson)
- Poetics of Midrash (Fishbane)
- The Jewish Interpretation of the Bible in the Middle Ages (Robinson)
- The Citation in Jewish Religious Culture (Fishbane)
- Maimonides as Mystic (Robinson)
- Jewish Writings of Hannah Aret (Mendes-Flohr)
- Levinas and Talmud (Fishbane)
- Studies in Rabbinic Midrash: Pesikta de-Rav Kahana (Fishbane)
- Martin Buber’s Philosophy of Religion (Mendes-Flohr)
- Philosophy and Theology in Judaism (Davidson)
- Jewish History and Society III: Messianism in Modernity (Hammerschlag)
- Challenge of Suffering from Job to Primo Levi (Davidson)
- Interactions Between Jewish Philosophy and Literature During the Middle Ages (Robinson)
- The Other and the ‘Exotic’ in Postwar Jewish Writing (Hammerschlag)
- Jewish Responses to Continental Philosophers: Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, and Heidegger (Mendes-Flohr)
- Readings in Arabic Religious Texts (Robinson)
- Jewish and Christian Responses to Biblical Criticism (Stackert and Mendes-Flohr)
- Bialik on Language and Tradition (Fishbane)
- Introduction to Mishnah: Tractate Pesachim (Fishbane)
- Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages (Robinson)
- Sefer Yetzirah, The Book of Creation (Robinson)

Graduate Workshops
The Council on Advanced Studies (CAS) sponsors interdisciplinary graduate research workshops in the humanities, social sciences, and divinity, designed to bring together faculty and graduate students from the University of Chicago and the wider Chicago area to create scholarly dialogue, to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration, and to foster the exchange of ideas. Workshops include Middle East History and Theory, Medieval Studies, Religions in America, Early Christian Studies, Jewish Studies, and Hebrew Bible. In addition, the Divinity Students Association offers a range of workshops and clubs: one for each area and others according to student interest. Current groups include Buddhist Studies, the Women’s Caucus, and The Sacred Flame. To learn more, visit divinity.uchicago.edu/clubs-and-workshops. Divinity School students also participate in a range of programs offered by the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies.

The University of Chicago Library
The University of Chicago Library is one of the largest and richest research collections (both in print and online formats) in the world. Religious Studies has been a core component of the collection since the University’s founding, and its current strengths match the research needs of the areas of study in the Divinity School. The Library has a full-time Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy who holds workshops specifically designed for those studying religion.

To learn more about library resources at the University of Chicago, visit library.uchicago.edu.