

5-5-1980

## Minor in Jewish Studies

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution #46 90 Routing #49 79-80  
1979-1980

Minor in Jewish Studies

TO: PRESIDENT ALBERT W. BROWN

FROM: THE FACULTY SENATE

Meeting on 5/5/80  
(Date)

RE:  I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)  
 II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)  
 III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Minor in Jewish Studies

(see attached)



Signed Robert G. Kemmerling Date Sent 5/6/80  
(For the Senate (m.d.))

Robert G. Kemmerling, President, Faculty Senate

TO: THE FACULTY SENATE

FROM: PRESIDENT ALBERT W. BROWN

RE: I. DECISION AND ACTION TAKEN ON FORMAL RESOLUTION

- a.  Accepted. Effective Date 11/6/80 *with council added (see below)*
- b.  Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on \_\_\_\_\_
- c.  Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

*Administratively  
Anthropology*

*Continued  
differed  
in Hespis code*

*11/25/80  
9-25-80*

- III. a. Received and acknowledged
- b. Comment:

*for review by Douglas + staff  
plus Dube for further  
clarification of issues  
raised*

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents: \_\_\_\_\_

Others as identified:

*XC to: Douglas, Dube location etc.*

Distribution Date: 5/22/80 done 5/27/80

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Albert Brown  
President of the College*

Date Received by the Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

*11/25/80 xc Douglas, Boston, Faculty Senate, letter of  
done 9/26/80 warning + conditions*

*(Please send copy of attachment request  
to Sec. Senate & And President etc.)*

*Douglas  
Dube*

*11/14/80 - xc:*

## MINOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

### I. Survey of the market

Interest in this proposed minor by the approximately 1500 students of ethnic Jewish background has been considerable. The current director of Hillel has indicated that at least eighty students have expressed interest in a Jewish Studies program. Inquiries by high school and transfer students through the Admissions Office indicate appreciable interest in a Jewish Studies minor. Prospective students have stated that if Brockport had a Jewish Studies minor, their choice would tip in favor of attending this College.

The potential of this minor to be utilized in placement for the College has surfaced in correspondence with the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rochester. Mr. Gabriel Cohen, Executive Director, and also, the Executive Director of the Rochester Jewish Community Center, have indicated their support and approval of this type of minor for employment in areas of Social Services and educational occupations available in the Rochester community.

### II. Congruence with institutional mission

#### Philosophy

Institutions of higher education over the past decade have developed areas of interdisciplinary approach to the study of ethnic and minority groups and their cultural institutions. The College at Brockport has created minors in Women's Studies, Latin American Studies, Afro-American Studies, and African Studies. (Brockport also has a minor in the Study of Religion).

These programs have provided a forum for a multi-dimensional perspective not available through single academic departments. The main purpose is to provide the student with an interdisciplinary approach towards these groups, and also to aid in better understanding of human behavior.

Jewish Studies have been developed as a curriculum on other major University campuses (e.g. SUNY-Albany). Numerous faculty members at Brockport have shown increasing interest in developing similar curriculum by the proposal of new classes related to this study (e.g. Philosophy of Judaism, Literature of the Holocaust, Sociology of the Jewish People). Since there is demonstration of both faculty and student interest in such an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the cultures of Jews, a network of proposed and existing classes will be put forth to establish a Jewish studies minor on the Brockport campus. The purpose is to make available to the students another dimension that will aid in furthering the College's philosophy of broadening Liberal Arts education.

Rationale

There exists a "community need" for a Jewish studies program both at the College and the greater Rochester area.

The best example of this community need has been demonstrated already by the Office of Continuing Education through its new program in cooperations with the Rochester Jewish Community Center (located in Brighton). Through offerings of credit and non-credit courses to the community by our faculty (only some of which are Jewish studies courses) the response has been encouraging.

This project has given increased energy, initiative, and encouragement to faculty and the Office of Continuing Education to pursue offering, with the approval of the Rochester Jewish Community Center, a certificate in Jewish Studies. Certainly the development of such a program off-campus can only be aided by the implementation of a minor program on campus. The concentration of both programs can only lead to rich variety of courses and perspectives. (No other public college in the Rochester area has a Jewish studies program.)

Increased interest in international events in the Middle East and direct effects upon our students (both Jewish and non-Jewish) have also added to the need for a broader cross-disciplinary perspective of issues relating to this program. Interest from the student community about such a program of Jewish Studies has been cited by individual students as well as organizations such as the campus Hillel group.

Given the philosophy and rationale of the proposed minor the program well fits the current institutional statement of mission. It is related to the following statements of mission for this campus:

\*\*To offer a selected array of interdisciplinary applied and career-oriented educational programs--some with international emphasis--at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

\*\*To contribute to the social and cultural needs of the greater Rochester area.

\*\*To prudently manage and foster educational practices and policies which create learning environments which maximizes student development.

\*\*To maintain and foster an environment in which students, faculty, staff, and community can accomplish their intellectual, personal, and social goals with minimal interference in a learning mileau of comfort, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Most important this proposed minor is congruent with the mission of academic priorities for the immediate future as evidenced by the goal of:

\*\*Encourage development of cross-disciplinary instructional learning, research, and public service activities. The complex problems of modern society require an increasingly integrated approach to their understanding and solution. The College at Brockport is thus concerned that administrative and curricular structure does not become a restrictive barrier or to allow gaps to form among various fields.

It is also felt that this minor will help provide students with a quality, well-balanced curriculum and related to one of the most important of this institutions goals within its mission statement. The College will provide:

\*\*Knowledge, skills, and understanding that will help them contribute effectively to identify, and to solve contemporary problems critical to the enhancement of freedom, and to human welfare and survival.

### III. Program Description

#### A. Curriculum

Completion of the interdisciplinary Jewish Studies minor in the social sciences and humanities requires the completion of six courses listed below, selected with advisement, and from at least two different disciplines.

1. HBR 111 Beginning Hebrew I
2. HBR 112 Beginning Hebrew II
3. HBR 211 Intermediate Hebrew I
4. HBR 212 Intermediate Hebrew II
5. HBR 303 Conversation and Composition
6. YID 111 Beginning Yiddish I
7. YID 112 Beginning Yiddish II
8. YID 211 Intermediate Yiddish I
9. YID 212 Intermediate Yiddish II
10. FCE 304 Modern Jewish Life
11. ENL 343 (FLT 343) Literature of the Holocaust
12. ENL 468 The Literature of the Old Testament
13. PSH 431 Psychology of Prejudice
14. HST 351 Nazi Germany
15. HST 360 The Bible as History
16. PLS 361 Political Socialization
17. PHL 330 Philosophies of Judaism
18. ANT 301 Bible Cultures
19. ANT 460 Topics in Anthropology -- People and Cultures of the Middle East
20. PLS 383 The Mideast in World Politics
21. Relevant overseas courses (in Israel)

The following courses are awaiting departmental approval. They were conceived for the Jewish Studies minor.

22. SOC 495 Sociology of the Jewish People
23. ENL 473 Studies in Literary Genres: American Jewish Fiction
24. PHE 4XX Sport in Jewish Culture
25. PSH 43X Psychology and Jewish Studies (to replace PSH 431)

Course Descriptions

1. HBR 111 Beginning Hebrew I. Learn: basic conversation, reading, and writing through the use of videotapes which use the "whole world" method; characteristic modes of oral and written expression; basic active vocabulary and grammatical forms. Acquire knowledge in preparation for travel to Israel.
2. HBR 112 Beginning Hebrew II. Learn: to improve basic conversation, reading, and writing; to use videotaped materials; characteristic modes of oral and written expression; basic active vocabulary and grammatical forms. Acquire knowledge in preparation for travel in Israel.
3. HBR 211 Intermediate Hebrew I. Learn: to improve conversation, reading, and writing; to use videotaped materials; characteristic modes of oral and written expression; basic active vocabulary and grammatical forms. Acquire knowledge in preparation for travel in Israel.
4. HBR 212 Intermediate Hebrew II. Learn: to improve conversation, reading, and writing; characteristic modes of oral and written expression; an active vocabulary and grammatical forms. Acquire knowledge in preparation for travel to Israel.
5. HBR 303 Composition and Conversation. Review of fundamental rules of grammar. Intensive practice in oral and written Hebrew to develop facility in speaking and writing. Special emphasis on reading daily Hebrew Press.
6. YID 111 Beginning Yiddish I. Become acquainted with the spoken and written forms of Yiddish; develop a basic vocabulary and correct grammatical forms. Class performance, lab drills, written work, tests and examinations, field trips to Yiddish lectures, prose and poetry readings, films, discussion groups in Rochester.
7. YID 112 Beginning Yiddish II. Improve understanding of the spoken and written forms of Yiddish, basic vocabulary, and grammatical forms.

8. YID 211 Intermediate Yiddish I. Learn: to speak and write forms of Yiddish; to expand vocabulary and knowledge of grammar; foundations for further linguistic development; to begin reading Yiddish literature. Conversation, easy to read Yiddish texts, field trips to Yiddish films, lectures, discussions and concerts in Rochester, lab drills, written work.
9. YID 212 Intermediate Yiddish II. Improve skills in spoken and written language and in vocabulary and grammatical knowledge; establish a foundation for further development; learn contrastive linguistics, culture and Yiddish literature.
10. FCE 304 Modern Jewish Life. Learn about the literature, customs, culture, and current problems of Jewish groups in Israel and the Diaspora; modern Israeli and contemporary Jewish American literature.
11. ENL 343 (FLT 343) Literature of the Holocaust. Develop a knowledge of the literary imagination in a crisis during the Nazi destruction of the Jews and during the aftermath, including the Holocaust as a theme in world literature and literature created by survivors; consider ethical, theological, and psychological perspectives.
12. ENL 468 The Literature of the Old Testament. Extensive examination of the major literary forms of the Old Testament; short story, myths, proverbs, psalms, historical narrative, and apocrypha.
13. PSH 431 Psychology of Prejudice. Theories of prejudice, intergroup behavior, prejudice reduction, and societal implications of discrimination. Psychological characteristics of minority groups. Includes anti-semitism, ethnic identity in Jews, stereotypes of Jews.
14. HST 351 Nazi Germany. Introduction to German history in the period 1900-1945, with primary attention to the Hitlerzeit, 1933-1945. Emphasis will be placed on political, social, economic and military aspects of this period.
15. HST 360 The Bible as History. A study of the origins, development and impact of the western world's most revolutionary book. The historical situations out of which the Old Testament grew as well as the changing fortunes of the ancient people of Israel are examined. (Note: This course will contain only the Old Testament if sufficient student interest.)

16. PLS 361 Political Socialization. Historical and contemporary sources of Jewish political ideology. Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Black political relations. Explanations of high level of Jewish political participation. (Note: Prof. Ullman's section only.)
17. PHL 330 Philosophies of Judaism. The purpose of this course is to provide a sustained philosophic analysis of the basic issues of Judaism and Jewishness in modern thinkers such as Hermann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, and Kaufmann Kohler in relation to the new areas of interest that arose in the 20th century, e.g., theological considerations, ethical theory, theories of Jewish nationalism, the purpose of Zionism, the question of language, the role of religion, and the relationship of Israel to the Diaspora (Galut).
18. ANT 301 Bible Cultures. Examines the socio-cultural foundations of Judeo-Christian traditions including Sumarian, Egyptian, Hebrew, Bablylonian, Greek, and Roman cultures as they pertain to the growth of Judaism. Anthropological methods will be applied for the cultural analysis of Biblical texts.
19. ANT 460 Topics in Anthropology -- People and Cultures of the Middle East. Survey of the mosaic of cultures in the Middle East. Covers geographic area of North Africa, the Levant, and Asia Minor. Emphasis of course on impact of Jewish ethnic populations in the area.
20. PLS 383 The Middle East in World Politics. Focuses on current situation in the Middle East with a view to investigate the salient religious, ethnic, strategic, and energy issues which comprise the present crisis. The role of the USSR and USA will be evaluated in terms of their contributions to the crisis and their ability to influence its outcomes. Major topics to be studied include Iran and Afghanistan, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Mideast oil politics.

Course descriptions of future courses:

21. SOC 496 Sociology of the Jewish Peoples. Examination of sub-cultures of Jewish people (e.g. Sephardim) and their relation to larger society on dimensions like status, social history, and migration patterns. Organization of Jewish groups; prejudice and discrimination toward Jews.
22. ENL 473 Studies in Literary Genres: American Jewish Fiction. The development of the theme of Jewish identity in American fiction beginning with Levinsky. Included are writers of the thirties like Odets and H. Roth and on the novelists who came into prominence in the post WWII period: P. Roth, Mailer, Malamud, Bellow, et al.



23. PHE 4XX Sport in Jewish Culture. Play, games and sports in Jewish culture from ancient to modern times.
24. PSH 43X Psychology and Jewish Studies. Theories of anti-Semitism, attitude and behavior of Jews toward other ethnic groups, psychological factors related to the Holocaust, psychological roots of Jewish identity, psychological characteristics of Jews in U.S. and Israel, psychological interpretation of Old Testament stories.

B. Recruitment, selection and advisement of students.

Publicity will be given this program by the Jewish Community Center (whose publication of college courses of interest to JCC members reaches over 20,000 people in the Rochester area), the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rochester, The Rochester Hillel Rabbi through its college advisement fair for Rochester area High School students, as well as Brockport's admission office, its Hillel, and participating faculty. Advisement will be by Brockport staff active in Jewish Studies coordinated by the Director of Jewish Studies.

IV. Program Governance

The Jewish Studies minor will be administered by the Program Director, appointed by the Provost of the College. The director will be responsible to the Academic Dean of Social Sciences and report through the Chairperson of the Department of Anthropology. Information such as the number of declared minors and their progress can be obtained through existing computer programs and will be supplied to the director once a semester for analysis. Information and reports on development and additional courses for the program will be transmitted to the Dean through the Chairperson of Anthropology from the Director of Jewish Studies.

The director shall supervise all student counseling and evaluation of proposed classes and faculty offering them for the program. Counseling of the students will be accomplished by delegating each minor an appropriate advisor who shall report progress of their student to the director. These counselors will be faculty actively involved in the Jewish Studies program.

In addition to the above responsibilities the director shall be responsible for developing informational materials for distribution to the student community. These materials will also be distributed to the appropriate student organizations both on and off campus.

A year after the program's inception (therefore allowing a period of evaluation) the Program director through consultation with faculty of the program and students pursuing the minor, will make recommendations concerning required courses. Specifically a pattern of selection from a group of courses may be required for the minor.