

Module Handbook M.A. Jewish Civilizations

Standard period of study: 4 semesters

Study credits: 120

Admission requirements:

An above-average Bachelor's degree in a relevant field with a standard period of study of at least three years or 180 ECTS, or an equivalent qualification. The required Bachelor's degree should be completed in the disciplines of cultural or social science, law, humanities or theology. Relevant disciplines include Jewish Studies, history, German Studies, other degrees in literature science, theology, philosophy, Religious Studies, Islamic Studies, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, art history, or the social sciences.

General qualification goals:

- Developing professional skills.
- Developing skills in transdisciplinary dialogue.
- Acquiring problem-solving skills in practice.
- Developing personal and social skills.
- Encouraging readiness to perceive societal responsibility on the basis of acquired skills.

Specific core competencies:

- **Language fluency:** denoting in particular knowledge of Modern Hebrew. Depending on the student's choice, this can also include further languages essential for the study of sources and the reading of literature. Furthermore, students are to acquire language skills in the sense of a linguistic understanding for cultural systems of symbols and meaning.
- **Knowledge of traditions:** describing the ability to orient oneself in the canonical writings (Bible, Mishna, Talmud) and to analyze these both diachronically and synchronically, as well as to contextualize them.

- **Hermeneutic skills:** denoting the ability to analyze and interpret various literary and artistic sources in their respective cultural and transcultural context.
- **Knowledge of history:** to have a historic-analytical understanding of the Jewish civilizations in their various contexts.
- **Theory and methodological competencies:** skills of independent application of super-disciplinary textual and cultural scientific theories and methods relevant to the subject.
- **Subject-specific skills and interdisciplinarity:** the ability to view the own study object from the perspective of various different disciplines and subjects and to combine different approaches in a problem-oriented manner.

Possible qualifications

The M.A. Jewish Civilizations qualifies the holder (depending on the respective admission requirements) for doctoral study (potentially with restrictions in the field of Jewish Studies) such as in career fields close to the field of study (for example universities, extra-university research institutes, in archives, museums and libraries). Further possible career fields are, for example, in the media, in museums and in interreligious dialogue, as well as educational and cultural work, amongst others in Jewish communities.

Name: Basic module I (Basismodul I, BM I)	To be taken at: Paideia, Stockholm
Status: Obligatory module (Pflichtfach, PF)	Credit points: 25
Cycle offered: at least every 2nd semester (annually from mid-August)	Recommended semester(s) / semester duration:

Learning content:

The **Basic module I (BM I)** transmits to the students basic language skills in Modern Hebrew (Ivrit) as well as the necessary basic and orientation knowledge in the canonical writing of Judaism. The module consists of a Hebrew language course, a Talmud lecture course, a Bible lecture course, an excursion to Israel, individual project work, as well as independent study:

- Depending on the level, the **Hebrew Language Course** allows the student to acquire respective language knowledge in modern Hebrew and prepares the student to handle original-language sources.
- The **Bible lecture course (Parashat ha-Shavua)** offers a reflection about hermeneutic methods and questions arising when handling the Hebrew Bible and its interpretations on the basis of the particular weekly portion of the Tora.
- In comparison, the **Talmud course** has a stronger didactic focus. It transmits traditional rabbinical teaching and learning methods of Talmud (particularly the so-called Hevrutah method), thereby providing the students with didactic tools and methods to read, analyze and discuss rabbinic texts in a pair or small groups. Furthermore, the course will discuss the didactic-methodological and pedagogic potentials and practical uses and potentials of the hevrutah method for other teaching and learning contexts.
- The seminar **Jewish Culture** is dedicated to exploring the negotiation processes of Jewish tradition and the meaning of tradition for the present by means of selected questions.
- The **Weekly Lecture Series** with the respective guest lecturer transmits a general overview of the different sub-disciplines of Jewish Studies, making use of selected questions and themes.
- The **Israel Excursion** includes visiting two leading Israeli educational institutions, Yad Vashem and the National Library in Jerusalem, who differ in their respective orientation. The focus of Yad Vashem is particularly on the educational aspects of the Shoah and

anti-Semitism, which are analyzed, problematized and critically discussed in view of various social, cultural and societal contexts. Goals of the National Library Jerusalem seminar include introducing and handling the resources available there (including an introduction to archival work, handling of handwritten documents etc.).

- The **Individual Project Work** refers to a supervised, but independently formulated and developed study project connected to Judaism or Jewish Studies and is applied practically, for example the conceptualization and realisation of exhibition concepts or educational projects. The Individual Project Work can also, after approval, be carried out as group work.
- In contrast, the **Independent Study** has an academic focus and should enable the student to follow own research interests in the context of supervised independent study. Students set their own learning goal independently, dealing with a selected topic of Jewish Studies and report back on the learning outcomes achieved.

Learning goals:

With the successful completion of the module the students have gained the fundamental linguistic, subject-specific and relevant methodological skills to handle Jewish traditions and Judaism's canonical writings.

The different teaching formats (lecture course, project work, independent study, excursion) develop the didactic-methodological and pedagogical competences of students and enable them to reflect on the possibilities to carry further and apply working processes and their results, particularly within different educational contexts.

The different learning contexts (seminar groups, small groups, individual work) are, after all, targeted at promoting the social and personal competences of the students.

The changing of study locations which occurs with the Israel excursion promotes intercultural skills especially.

Teaching and learning formats:

Language course, shared source interpretation, longer and shorter presentations, plenary discussions, smaller group work, e-learning, individual support; independent preparation and follow-up hours (also in written form), supervised practical application, supervised independent study; in the case of independent study, a shorter written essay (6 – 8 pages (incl. footnotes, but without spaces and appendix [including editions, images, Maps etc.] and bibliography), with, on average, 7.670 words and around 2.300 characters per page, assuming an average of 6 characters per word).

Requisite for: Qualifies the student to take the corresponding Intensive Module (IM).

Prerequisites: English language skills.

Name		Sum	Active participation	Preparation and follow-up, independent study, presentations	Examinations, final presentations
Hebrew Language Course		8	4	2	2
Parashat ha-Shavua (weekly Torah portion)		3	1,5	1	0,5
Talmud		3	1,5	1	0,5

Jewish Culture		3	1,5	1	0,5
Weekly Lecture Series		1	1		
Israel Excursion		3	1,5	1,5	
Individual Project Work		2		1,5	0,5
Independent Study		2		1,5	0,5

Name: Basic Module II (Basismodul II, BM II)	To be taken at: Paideia, Stockholm
Status: Required elective module (Wahlpflichtmodul, WPf)	Credit points: 35
Cycle offered: at least each 2nd semester (each year from mid-August)	Recommended semester(s) / length of module: in the 1 st – 2 nd semester / within two semesters
Learning content: The Basic Module II (BM II) transmits the current state of research based on selected questions, problems and discourses of Jewish Studies, allowing students to gain both an	

orientation and knowledge overview of the sub-disciplines of Jewish Studies. It consists of 16 block lectures in total (Hebrew Bible, Jewish Bible Exegesis, Rabbinic Literature I, Rabbinic Literature II; Jewish Law; Jewish History I; Jewish History II; Jewish Philosophy I; Jewish Philosophy II; Kabbalah and Hasidism; Jewish-Christian Relations; Jewish-Muslim Relations; Jewish and Hebrew Literature I; Jewish and Hebrew Literature II; Modern Judaism; Jewish Life; which examine and discuss selected religious, cultural and historical phenomena in debate with current approaches and debates in research.

The respective **Block seminars** apply relevant working techniques and methods from the respective sub-disciplines of Jewish Studies, which can help leading the students to scientific work with original language texts. A special focus is additionally placed on the independent oral and written presentation and discussions of religious, cultural and historical topics and their interpretation.

Learning goals:

With the successful completion of the module, the students will have access to a broad basic and orientation knowledge of the sub-disciplines of Jewish Studies. They will be able to follow the depiction of a larger religious and cultural historical context as the result of respective source analysis and application of the relevant scientific methods and the processing of relevant research approaches from the sub-disciplines of Jewish Studies, in using this as the base on which to develop more complex religious, cultural, literature science as well as historical questions independently. They can combine the realizations presented in the block seminars with knowledge already acquired and use this as the basis of independent reading, reflecting on them critically and developing them further.

Teaching and learning formats:

Lectures, seminar discussions, shared source interpretation, longer and shorter presentations, plenary discussions, smaller group work, e-learning, individual guidance; independent preparation and follow-up (also in written forms), independent study/reading; the respective block seminars are completed by writing a shorter essay (6 – 8 pages (incl.

footnotes, but without spaces, appendix [editions, images, maps etc.] and bibliography), with around 6 characters per word, spanning around 7.670 words total, with 2.300 characters per page.

Requisite for: Qualifies the student to take the corresponding intensive module (IM).

Prerequisites: English language skills.

Name		Sum	Active participation	Preparation and follow-up, independent stud, presentations	Examinations, Final presentations
Hebrew Bible		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish Bible Exegesis		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Rabbinical Literature I		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Rabbinical Literature II		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish Law		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish History I		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1

Jewish History II		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish Philosophy I		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish Philosophy II		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Kabbalah and Hasidism		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish-Christian Relations		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish-Muslim Relations		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish and Hebrew Literature I		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Jewish and Hebrew Literature II		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
Modern Judaism		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1

Jewish Life		2-3*	0,5-1*	0,5-1*	1
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Name: Intensive Module (Intensivmodul, IM)	To be taken at: HfJS, Heidelberg
Status: Required elective module (Wahlpflichtmodul (WPf))	
Cycle offered: at least every 2 nd semester (summer semester)	Recommended semester(s) / length of module: in the 3 rd semester / within one semesters
<p>Learning content:</p> <p>The intensive module (IM) transmits the current state of research on the basis of selected questions, problems and discourses of Jewish Studies and gives students the opportunity to conduct independent, research-based work. It consists of two <i>Oberseminars</i> and one <i>Methodology-Übung</i>. Building on the skills acquired in the Basic Modules (BM) I and II, the classes are meant to deepen the students' knowledge of selected thematic fields from the various sub-disciplines of Jewish Studies. Here, selected religious, cultural and historical phenomena are examined and discussed in debate with current approaches and research debates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to do so, the Oberseminar applies relevant working techniques and methods of the respective sub-disciplines of Jewish Studies to original sources. A special focus here is on the independent extensive oral and written presentation and discussion of religious, cultural and historical content and their interpretations. • The course Methods in Jewish Studies is focused on the reflection and discussion of relevant religious scientific, cultural scientific, and literature science and historical theory and methods, questioning their applicability in the context of the various sub- 	

disciplines of Jewish Studies. It offers students the possibility and space to develop and discuss own research questions on the basis of the approaches and concepts discussed.

Learning goals:

With successful completion of the module, students can develop complex questions independently, apply suitable research strategies independently, identify relevant source material and research knowledge relevant for their subject of research and their thesis statement and can analyse, critically assess and interpret these by using the scientific method of their subject.

They combine the results of this scientific work to a stringent depiction and position themselves within the research. They reflect to what extent their results can complement or be used for the larger research context and neighboring disciplines.

Forms of teaching and learning:

Lectures, seminar discussions, shared source interpretation, longer and shorter presentations, plenary discussions, smaller group work, e-learning, individual guidance; independent preparation and follow-up (also in a written form), independent study/reading; writing of a longer essay, where the *Oberseminar*-essay (incl. Footnotes, but without spaces, appendix [editions, images, maps etc.] and bibliography) spans around 46.000 characters (not exceeding 20 pages, with around 7.760 words total and 2.300 spaces per page, using a 6 character-average per word).

Final module grade: average of both *Oberseminar*-essays.

Requisite for: Qualifies the student for the final module (Abschlussmodul (AM)).

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Basic Module (BM) I + II.

Name		Sum	Active participation	Preparation and follow-up,	Examinations, final presentations
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				independent study, presentations	
Oberseminar with Oberseminar essay		10	1	4	5
Oberseminar with Oberseminar essay		10			
Methods in Jewish Studies		2	0,5	1	0,5

Name: Free Electives	To be taken at: HfJS, Heidelberg
Status: Required elective module (Wahlpflichtmodul (WPf))	Credit points: 8
Cycle offered: at least every 2 nd semester (summer semester)	Recommended semester(s) / length of the module: in the 3 rd semester / within one semester
Learning content:	
The Free Electives allow the students to choose their own specializations: the language	

courses are intended to transmit or deepen the respective language skills. The lectures each deal with a larger topic and present complex coherencies in religion and cultural science as well as history, using the respective scientific methods and by processing the relevant research approaches. Should the student choose a *Übung* instead of a lecture, the focus lies on the usage of the relevant working techniques and methods of the respective sub-disciplines of Jewish Studies. Instead of a lecture or *Übung*, one may, after approval, absolve a form of independent study, supervised teaching units (for example *tutoriums* or *Arbeitskreisleitungen*) or supervised practical work (for example, the scientific preparation of a source collection), to allow the students additional flexibility in their study design.

It is, however, recommended to complete a further *Oberseminar* in the chosen sub-discipline in which the students are planning to write their Master's dissertation.

Learning goals:

Depending on the individual design, a successful completion of the module speaks to the ability of the student to independently set research focuses and to develop complex questions, while keeping in mind and using the respective scientific methods; it also can serve the transmission or expansion of knowledge or the acquirement of additional language competencies.

Teaching and learning forms:

Lectures, seminar discussions, shared source interpretation, shorter and longer presentations, plenary discussions, smaller group work, e-learning, individual supervision; independent preparation and follow-up (including in written forms), independent study/reading.

Requisite for: Qualifies the student for the Final Module (AM).

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Basic modules (BM) I + II.

Name		Sum	Active	Preparation and follow-	Examinations, Final
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			participation	up, independent study, presentations	presentation
Free electives		8			

Name: Final Module (Abschlussmodul, AM)	To be taken at: HfJS, Heidelberg
Status: Obligatory module (Pflichtmodul, PF)	Credit points: 30
Cycle offered: at least every 2 nd semester (summer semester)	Recommended semester(s) / length of the module: in the 3 rd and 4 th semester / within two semesters
<p>Learning content:</p> <p>The Final Module (Abschlussmodul, AM) consists of the final viva, a colloquium, as well as the Master's dissertation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final viva should show that the candidate understands the links between the examination areas and can integrate specific questions into these contexts. It should determine furthermore whether the candidate has a broad basic knowledge as well as more specified knowledge in restricted themes of the examination area. The final viva takes place in the presence of two examiners and can already be taken towards the end of the third semester. The candidate must show extended basic knowledge in Jewish Studies as well as a deep and detailed knowledge in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) in interdisciplinary questions in the context of Jewish Studies, 	

2.) in current cultural scientific theories (gender theories, memory theories, postcolonial theories etc.) in a Jewish Studies context. Here, the candidate should, suggest two themes from the areas mentioned, subject to the examiners' approval. There is no guarantee of the examination being restricted to the subjects proposed by the candidate. The duration of the final viva is 60 minutes. The examination is held in English. Other languages are also allowed, subject to the approval of those involved in the examination.

- To complete the Master's degree, the students should be given the opportunity to present and discuss the research and writing topic of their Master's dissertation in the form of an oral presentation within a **colloquium**. Here, the student's questions, their methodology, theoretical integration, selection and evaluation of material, as well as the research hypothesis are of special interest.
- **The Master's dissertation** should show that the candidate is able to work on a question from the area of Jewish Studies independently using scientific methods and to sufficiently present the results by scientific standards. The Master's dissertation is written in one of the following sub-disciplines: Bible and Jewish Biblical Exegesis, Talmud, Codes and Rabbinic Literature, History of the Jewish People, Hebrew and Jewish Literature, Jewish Philosophy and History of Thought, Jewish Art, Jewish Religious Teachings, Pedagogy and Didactics, Hebrew Philology, or Israel and Middle-Eastern Studies. The thesis can be limited to one subject or encompass multiple. At least one *Oberseminar* must have been completed in the chosen specialization. The length of the Master's dissertation is at maximum 150.000 characters (including footnotes but without spaces, appendix [editions, images, maps etc.] and bibliography; with an average of 6 characters per word, this corresponds to ca. 25.000 words and, with 2.300 characters per page, around 65 pages).

Final module grade: Mündliche Abschlussprüfung und Masterarbeit im Verhältnis 1:3.

Requisite for:

Prerequisites: Successful completion of the Intensive Module (IM) and the Free Electives.

Name		Sum			
Final viva		4			
Colloquium		1			
Master's Dissertation		25			