

J-CORE

Revision of the Yeshiva College Jewish Studies Core Curriculum

Mission: The Yeshiva College Jewish Studies Core Curriculum prepares our graduates to be educated members and leaders of the modern Orthodox Jewish community. It provides intellectual tools for enhancing a maturely informed Jewish life, by introducing appropriate methods of the humanities. Thus, it aims to demonstrate the vitality, validity and value of these systematic methodologies as approaches to Judaism's sacred literature and to the Jewish experience. It imparts familiarity with the Jewish past and an appreciation for the significance of the varieties of historical contexts in which Jewish culture, thought and literature evolved. It emphasizes knowledge of the Hebrew language as the key to immediate encounters with Jewish heritage, and fosters these encounters through study of the Hebrew Bible in its original language.

Student learning goals and outcomes

- 1) Students will be able to apply historical and literary methods of the humanities to Jewish civilizations and cultures as complementary to classical Jewish approaches.
 - a) Students will engage Jewish sources beyond the traditional *yeshiva* curriculum.
 - b) Students will be able to use contemporary methodologies to enhance their understanding of traditional Jewish literature.
 - c) Students will be able to reflect on the distinctiveness and relevance of the Jewish past in relation to the present.
- 2) Students will have basic proficiency in Hebrew language, especially in its classical form in biblical and rabbinic texts.
 - a) Students will be able to read and accurately comprehend Hebrew.
 - b) Students will be able to understand and identify basic elements of Hebrew grammar.
- 3) Students will explore the complex and multiple iterations of Jewish cultures and communities through time.
 - a) Students will be broadly familiar with the sweep of Jewish history, and can situate personalities, sources and events in relative chronological sequence and explain their historical significance
 - b) Students will be able to analyze Jewish sources in light of contextual evidence.
 - c) Students will be able to appraise Jewish civilization's interactions with coeval cultural trends.
- 4) Students will study biblical text in the original language.
 - a) Students will be able to read and comprehend biblical texts.
 - b) Students will understand the relevance of modern perspectives as a component of the study of *Tanakh*.
 - c) Students will understand the relevance of extra-biblical primary sources to the study of *Tanakh*.