



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Swig Program in Jewish Studies
and Social Justice

December 2024 Newsletter



Congratulations to the Graduating JSSJ Minor

We want to wish a hearty congratulations to the graduating JSSJ minor on her significant accomplishments during her career at USF! We have no doubt that our JSSJ graduates are only at the beginning of their journeys as social justice activists, embodying the values of our one-of-a-kind program.

Please join us in congratulating Hannah Stuart. May she go from strength to strength.



Hannah Stuart

"The Jewish Studies and Social Justice minor has been one of the most challenging yet profoundly enriching experiences of my life. From learning Hebrew, to engaging with difficult topics and traveling the world, this program has pushed me out of my comfort zone and into a life of growth and unconditional love for my Jewish identity. This journey has helped me find my unique place within Judaism and has shaped me into a more thoughtful, insightful, and compassionate Jewish woman."



Save the Dates: Spring JSSJ Events

Sunday, March 23: Fourth Annual Al Baum Jr. Memorial Lecture

Thursday, March 27: Event on Israel/Palestine

Tuesday, April 15: Social Justice Passover Seder

Tuesday, April 29: Holocaust and Genocide Event

Spring 2025 JSSJ Classes

| Course Name | Course No. | Days/Times | Instructor | Course Req. |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Forgiving the Unforgivable | JSSJ 132-01 / THRS 132-01 | TR 9:55-11:40 a.m. | Hahn Tapper | D3; CD |
| Hebrew (Second Semester) | HEBR 102-01 | MWF 12-1:40 p.m. | Gvirtzman | Foreign Lang. |
| Holocaust and Genocide | JSSJ 136-01 / THRS 136-01 | M 11:45 a.m.-3:25 p.m. | Herr | D3 |

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|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| International Relations of the Middle East | POLS 354-01 | MWF 9:15-10:20 a.m. | Zunes | |
| Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Thru Lit & Film | JSSJ 238-01 / THRS 238-01 | TR 9:55 a.m.-11:40 a.m. | Kroll-Zeldin | D3; CD |
| Jews, Judaisms, & Jewish Identities | JSSJ 130-01 / THRS 130-01 | W 11:45 a.m.-3:25 p.m. | Bar Gabai | D2 |
| Mideast Peoples and Cultures | ANTH 270-01 | TR 12:45-2:30 p.m. | Kroll-Zeldin | E; CD |
| Paris-Berlin | GERM 350-01 | TR 9:55 a.m.-11:40 a.m. | Ramos | C1 |
| Queering Religion | JSSJ 129-01 / THRS 129-01 | TR 4:35-6:20 p.m. | Angel | D2; CD |
| Refugees: Justice & Ethics | JSSJ 236-01 / THRS 236-01 | F 11:45 a.m.-3:25 p.m. | Herr | D3; CD; CEL |

[Learn more about the requirements for the JSSJ minor »](#)

Questions? Email JSSJ Assistant Director [Oren Kroll-Zeldin](#).



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
JEDI + JSSJ Graduate-Level Certificate Program



Bridge Gaps,
Heal Divides.

JEDI + JSSJ Spring Courses

Meet the Moment — Fighting Antisemitism and Building a Just World

Wednesdays, 4–7 p.m., beginning Jan. 22

Instructor: [Ben Lorber](#)

For many Jews, antisemitism feels omnipresent these days. Yet understanding and confronting it is more challenging than ever. Since Oct. 7, 2023, longstanding fault lines in American political

discourse around the question of antisemitism have only deepened; the Jewish community, too, remains more divided than ever. All too often, establishment leaders wield charges of antisemitism as a cudgel to stifle progressive voices. Social justice movements, for their part, often lack a textured analysis of antisemitism and its relation to other forms of oppression, allowing extremists to drive the conversation.

This course offers an intersectional, justice-driven analysis of antisemitism, tracing its deep history and contemporary manifestations in order to develop fresh strategies for combating its rise. Utilizing critical analysis and social and political frameworks to situate antisemitism alongside racial capitalism, xenophobia, anti-LGBTQ bigotry, and other systems of injustice, we will examine contemporary debates around antisemitism and Israel/Palestine, free speech, rising authoritarianism, and other timely topics. At the same time, we'll draw upon practical insights from on-the-ground social movements dedicated to confronting these issues. Informed by an ethos of humility and care, we will explore each participant's personal stake in these questions, learning how a solidarity approach can carve new pathways toward collective flourishing for Jews and all people.

Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out

Mondays, 4–7 p.m., beginning Jan. 27

Instructor: **Yehudah Webster**

Form antiracist habits and behaviors through Jewish spiritual practice in our course, Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out.

Efforts to dismantle racism are often comprised of education, advocacy, and systemic change. These efforts are not enough — it's crucial that we also do the inner work necessary to change our habits of mind, body, and spirit to wholly dismantle racism. Indeed, it's through strengthening our habits of mind, body, and spirit that we'll be most effective and successful in our advocacy and organizing to dismantle racism systemically. We have ancestral wisdom available to support this change; Mussar is the Jewish spiritual discipline designed to integrate what the head understands with what the heart feels through daily practice. Emerge from this program with a renewed ability and resilience to disrupt racism, a regular spiritual practice, and a set of concrete tools to support your antiracism efforts.

Your generous support of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice will help us engage students in both theoretical and practical approaches of social justice and activism rooted in the Jewish traditions.

GIVE NOW »

CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE



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