

History of Jewish Food: HIST 4395/JWST 3397/WCL 3397 (Listed under Selected Topics in European History/Jewish Studies/ WCL)

Dr. Mark Allan Goldberg
Monday/Wednesday, 2:30-4
Fall 2018



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This course explores the history of Jewish peoples and the Jewish diaspora through the study of food and foodways. A focus on Jewish food practices offers rich avenues into understanding political and economic changes in Jewish life, religious and cultural developments in Jewish communities, gender and women's experiences, Jewish relations with non-Jews, and Jewish social realities throughout the globe. Beginning in the ancient world and moving into contemporary periods, the course examines how Jews have given meaning to food in different times and places and uses food to study Jewish identity, religious practice, community building, cultural mixing, social relations, and anti-Semitism. Finally, this course will delve deeply into recipes and cookbooks as historical documents to understand the worlds in which their Jewish authors and readers lived.

This course counts towards a minor in Jewish Studies and Food and Society, and it may apply to a WCL minor or major (depending on one's concentration).