

# Subject-Specific Study and Examination Regulations for the Master's Program in Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam

of 26.07.2019

The faculty board of the Philosophy Department at the University of Potsdam established on ### 2018 the following regulations based on §§ 19 para. 1, 22 para. 1-2, in connection with § 72 para. 2 no. 1 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Law (BbgHG) of 28 April 2014 (GVBl.I/14, [no. 18]), last revised by Article 2 of the law from 5 June 2019 (GVBl.I/19, [no. 20], p. 3) in connection with the statutes governing the design of examination regulations to guarantee the equality of study programs, examinations and graduation requirements (Higher Education Examination Regulations - HSPV) of 4 March 2015 (GVBl.II/15, [No. 12]) and Art. 21 para. 2 no. 1 of the Basic Regulations of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of 17 December 2009 (AmBek. UP no. 4/2010 p. 60) in the version of the Fifth Statute on Changes to the Basic Regulations of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of 21 February 2018 (AmBek. UP no. 11/2018 p. 634) and § 1 para. 2 of the new version of the General Study and Examination Regulations for University of Potsdam non-teaching-track Bachelor's and Master's programs of 30 January 2013 (BAMA-O) (AmBek UP no. 3/2013, p. 35), last revised 26 July 2019 (AmBek. UP no. 6/2018 p. 370).<sup>1</sup>

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## § 1 Scope

(1) These regulations apply to the Master's program in Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam.

The subject-specific regulations complement the new version of the General Study and Examination Regulations for non-teaching-track Bachelor's and Master's programs at the University of Potsdam (BAMA-O).

(2) In the case of a discrepancy between these regulations and the BAMA-O, the provisions of the BAMA-O shall take precedence.

## § 2 Degree

Following successful completion of the mandatory study credits and fulfillment of the prerequisites for graduation, the University of Potsdam shall award through the Faculty of Humanities the degree of "Master of Arts" ("MA").

## § 3 Objectives of the Master's program

(1) The subject of the Master's program is Jewish Theology, i.e. the study of Judaism, its sources, teachings, legal principles, history and cultural currents, supervised by the permanent study commission for the Jewish clergy and rooted in academic rigor. Its core areas are the History of the Jewish Religion, Biblical Theology, Rabbinical Theology, Systematic Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Religious Law, and Practical Theology.

(2) The Master's program in Jewish Theology adopts both external and internal perspectives on the Jewish religion, combines socio-religious commitment with academic education and is committed to archaeological, philological, historical-critical and hermeneutic research methods and results. It gives students with a BA in Jewish Theology or the equivalent the opportunity to broaden their command of the Hebrew and Aramaic languages and sources, the biblical and rabbinical disciplines, and historical and praxis-oriented subjects. The degree certifies that students are familiar with normative Jewish texts in their various languages and can engage with the sources of Judaism and creatively and productively participate in the religious, scholarly and sociopolitical discourses around Judaism.

(3) Students also develop their skills in social communication and intercultural interaction, and learn to identify problems critically in a team and work together to solve them. They also learn to recognize, avoid or solve conflicts via group consensus and to take responsibility for themselves and society.

(4) The Master's program also strengthens personal skills (self-competence). Graduates are able to realistically judge their own abilities and opportunities,

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<sup>1</sup> Approved by the President of the University of Potsdam on XX XXXX.

can work independently towards a goal, are self-disciplined and resilient, can make swift and accurate decisions, are creative in many areas, are able to quickly familiarize themselves with new content, can learn from experience and have mastered all the basic principles of time management.

(5) The Master's program in Jewish Theology trains students to become experts in various roles of Jewish religious practice and in the transmission of the Jewish religion. The program provides the foundation for an academic careers of study at universities and other institutes of higher learning and trains students in fields that require excellent knowledge of the Jewish religion, including the Jewish languages. This includes, for example, archives and museums with Jewish collections, memorials, Jewish and non-Jewish educational and cultural organizations, institutions that strive to preserve the Jewish heritage both domestically and internationally, and protection and maintenance of monuments. In addition to the academic track, job descriptions and career fields for graduates also include library science, media and publishing. Further, in addition to religious careers, graduates in Jewish Theology can also be successful in other fields as consultants, publishers, journalists, editors, human resources managers, vocational trainers or administrators.

(6) Jewish graduates can also work in Jewish communities, schools and other Jewish institutions. The rabbinical program (liberal and conservative/Masorti) combined with an education from the Abraham Geiger College or Zacharias Frankel College leads to the career of rabbinic profession. It enables graduates to find employment not only in Jewish communities, but also in hospitals, homes for the aged and the military.

#### § 4 Length and components of the Master's program

(1) The consecutive, predominantly research-oriented Master's program in Jewish Theology is offered at the University of Potsdam as a single-major program of study with a regular (full-time) study schedule of 4 semesters and 120 credit points. It can be studied on a general track or rabbinic track (Liberal or Conservative /Masorti).

(2) Students decide upon enrollment whether they want to study with or without a special focus on the Liberal or Conservative (Masorti) Rabbinate. Students may change their study focus.

(3) The program will be conducted in English. Individual courses in German may also be offered as an alternative to the courses in English. The language of instruction in these cases will be announced by the beginning of the seminar at the latest. Completion of

the program is possible without attending any courses in German.

#### § 5 Part-time study

The Master's program in Jewish Theology is also suitable for part-time study at the University of Potsdam. Part-time study requires consultation with the advisor to create an individualized study plan. Proof of consultation must be submitted along with the application for part-time study according to § 3 of the regulations for part-time study at the University of Potsdam (Part-Time Study Regulations). Apart from that, the provisions of the Part-Time Study Regulations apply.

#### § 6 Modules and course of study

(1) The Master's program in Jewish Theology on a general track consists of the following components:

Abbreviation	Name of Module	CP
<b>I. Mandatory Modules (66 CP)</b>		
JTH_MA_001	History of Judaism	15
JTH_MA_002	Biblical Theology	15
JTH_MA_003	Rabbinical Theology	15
JTH_MA_004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion	15
JTH_MA_006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology	6
<b>II. Elective Modules (30 CP)</b>		
<b>Elective Area I</b>		
One elective module of 15 credit points must be completed successfully.		
JTH_MA_005	Jewish Religious Law (Halakha)	15
JTH_MA_010	Philosophy of the Jewish Religion	15
<b>Elective Area II</b>		
One elective module of 15 credit points must be successfully completed.		
JTH_MA_007	Practical Theology	15
JTH_MA_008	Interreligious Studies	15
JTH_MA_009	Hebrew Language	15
JTH_MA_011	Judaism in the US: Past and Present	15
<b>III. Master's Thesis</b>		
	Master's Thesis	24
Total CP from mandatory and elective modules		120

(2) The Master's program in Jewish Theology on the rabbinic track (Liberal) consists of the following components:

Abbreviation	Name of Module	CP
<b>I. Mandatory Modules (81 CP)</b>		
JTH_MA_001	History of Judaism	15
JTH_MA_002	Biblical Theology	15
JTH_MA_003	Rabbinical Theology	15
JTH_MA_004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion	15
JTH_MA_006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology	6
JTH_MA_007	Practical Theology	15
<b>II. Elective Modules (15 CP)</b>		
<b>Elective Area: Liberal Rabbinate</b>		
One elective module of 15 credit points must be completed successfully.		
JTH_MA_005	Jewish Religious Law (Halakha)	15
JTH_MA_010	Philosophy of the Jewish Religion	15
<b>III. Master's Thesis</b>		
	Master's Thesis	24
Total CP from mandatory and elective modules		120

(3) The Master's program in Jewish Theology on the rabbinic track (Conservative/ (Masorti) consists of the following components:

Abbreviation	Name of Module	CP
<b>I. Mandatory Modules (96 CP)</b>		
JTH_MA_001	History of Judaism	15
JTH_MA_002	Biblical Theology	15
JTH_MA_003	Rabbinical Theology	15
JTH_MA_004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion	15
JTH_MA_005	Jewish Religious Law	15
JTH_MA_007	Practical Theology	15
JTH_MA_006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology	6
<b>II. Master's Thesis</b>		
	Master's Thesis	24
Total CP from mandatory and elective modules		120

(4) Further details on the modules listed in para. 1 are regulated by Appendix 1 of this statute.

(5) A sample study plan is given in Appendix 2 of these regulations.

## § 7 Study abroad

For the Master's program, a stay abroad is recommended in the third semester. Otherwise, § 16 para. 8 BAMA-O applies.

## § 8 Master's thesis

(1) As soon as the student has acquired at least 80 credit points, he or she has the right to be immediately assigned a topic for the Master's thesis.

(2) The Master's thesis including its defense shall consist of a total of 24 credit points.

## § 9 Validity, termination and transitional provisions

(1) These regulations takes effect on 1.4.2020.

(2) These regulations apply to all students who enroll at the University of Potsdam in the Master's program in Jewish Theology after these regulations take effect.

(3) The Study and Examination Regulations for the Master's Program in Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam of 31.03.2014 (AmBek no. 1/14, p. 2) expire on 31.3.2024.

(4) After these regulations take effect following para. 1, students who are still studying under the Study and Examination Regulations for the Master's Program in Jewish Theology of 31.03.2014 (AmBek no. 1/14, p. 2) can switch to the new regulations as per para. 1 by submitting an application to the examination board up to one year after the new Subject-Specific Study and Examination Regulations enter into force. Previously acquired credits will be carried over pursuant to the provisions of § 16 BAMA-O. Students who still adhere to the previous regulations after the deadline stated in para. 3 shall be officially transitioned to the new subject-specific regulations following para. 1.

## Appendix 1: Module Catalog

The descriptions of the program modules given in § 6 para. 1 – 3 and in the following tables provide the basis for the Faculty of Humanities (MK PhilFak) module catalog as a complement to the Bachelor's and Master's programs at the University of Potsdam. Additional regulations and departures from these are given in the following tables.

Module No.	Module Title	CP	M/ E	Prerequisites
JTH MA 001	History of Judaism	15	M	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 002	Biblical Theology	15	M	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 003	Rabbinical Theology	15	M	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion	15	M	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 005	Jewish Religious Law (Halakha)	15	M/E *	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology	6	M	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 007	Practical Theology	15	M/E **	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 008	Interreligious Studies	15	E	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 009	Hebrew Language	15	E	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 010	Philosophy of the Jewish Religion	15	E	see MK PhilFak
JTH MA 011	Judaism in the US: Past and Present	15	E	see MK PhilFak

CP = number of credit points, M = mandatory module, E = elective module

\* Elective module for Liberal Rabbinate students and students on the general track.

\*\* Elective module for students on the general track.

## Appendix 2: Sample Study Plans

### Sample study plan beginning in the Winter semester: general track

		Semester			
		1	2	3	4
JTH_MA_001	History of Judaism	15			
JTH_MA_002	Biblical Theology	15			
JTH_MA_003	Rabbinical Theology		15		
JTH_MA_004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion		15		
JTH_MA_006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology				6
	Elective Area I [JTH_MA_005 or JTH_MA_010]			15	
	Elective Area II [JTH_MA_007, JTH_MA_008, JTH_MA_009 or JTH_MA_011]			15	
	Master's Thesis				24
	Total	30	30	30	30

### Sample study plan beginning in the Summer semester: general track

		Semester			
		1	2	3	4
JTH_MA_001	History of Judaism	15			
JTH_MA_002	Biblical Theology	15			
JTH_MA_003	Rabbinical Theology			15	
JTH_MA_004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion			15	
JTH_MA_006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology				6
	Elective Area I [JTH_MA_005 or JTH_MA_010]		15		
	Elective Area II [JTH_MA_007, JTH_MA_008, JTH_MA_009 or JTH_MA_011]		15		
	Master's Thesis				24
	Total	30	30	30	30

**Sample study plan beginning in the Winter semester: rabbinic track (Liberal)**

		Semester			
		1	2	3	4
JTH MA 001	History of Judaism	15			
JTH MA 002	Biblical Theology	15			
JTH MA 003	Rabbinical Theology		15		
JTH MA 004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion		15		
JTH MA 006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology				6
JTH_MA_007	Practical Theology			15	
	Elective Area: Liberal Rabbinate [JTH MA 005 or JTH MA 010]			15	
	Master's Thesis				24
	Total	30	30	30	30

**Sample study plan beginning in the Summer semester: rabbinic track (Liberal)**

		Semester			
		1	2	3	4
JTH MA 001	History of Judaism	15			
JTH MA 002	Biblical Theology	15			
JTH MA 003	Rabbinical Theology			15	
JTH MA 004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion			15	
JTH MA 006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology				6
JTH_MA_007	Practical Theology		15		
	Elective Area: Liberal Rabbinate [JTH MA 005 or JTH MA 010]		15		
	Master's Thesis				24
	Total	30	30	30	30

**Sample study plan beginning in the Winter semester: rabbinic track (Conservative/Masorti)**

		Semester			
		1	2	3	4
JTH_MA_001	History of Judaism	15			
JTH_MA_002	Biblical Theology	15			
JTH_MA_003	Rabbinical Theology		15		
JTH_MA_004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion		15		
JTH_MA_006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology				6
JTH_MA_007	Practical Theology			15	
JTH_MA_005	Jewish Religious Law (Halakha)			15	
	Master's Thesis				24
	Total	30	30	30	30

**Sample study plan beginning in the Summer semester: rabbinic track (Conservative/Masorti)**

		Semester			
		1	2	3	4
JTH_MA_001	History of Judaism	15			
JTH_MA_002	Biblical Theology	15			
JTH_MA_003	Rabbinical Theology			15	
JTH_MA_004	Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion			15	
JTH_MA_006	Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology				6
JTH_MA_007	Practical Theology		15		
JTH_MA_005	Jewish Religious Law (Halakha)		15		
	Master's Thesis				24
	Total	30	30	30	30

## Detailed Module Descriptions

The module descriptions are not part of the above regulations.

<b>JTH_MA_001: History of Judaism</b>		Number of credit points (CP): 15			
Module type (mandatory or elective):	Mandatory module				
Content and aims of the module:	<p><i>Content</i> The module covers the history of Judaism up to the present. Students deepen their understanding of the historical development of the Jewish religion in the broader context of Jewish history. With the help of primary sources and secondary literature, key aspects of Jewish religious thought and practice will be analyzed. One focus is Judaism's answers to the opportunities and challenges of modernity, in the context of larger interaction and engagement with other religions as well as Jewish life in the diaspora. The module look at the history of Judaism from the perspectives of theology, religious history and cultural history, whose concepts and categories will be assessed for their relevance and applicability to Judaism.</p> <p><i>Aims</i> Students will gain foundational knowledge about the history of Judaism up to the present day. They will be able to place sources of the Jewish religion, history and culture in their historical contexts and evaluate them. They will learn how to categorize different forms of Jewish religious expression and relate them to political, religious, social and regional developments in Judaism and beyond. They will familiarize themselves with the current methodological and theoretical state of the research and will be able to independently contextualize, interpret and compare historical sources of Jewish history.</p>				
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):	Essay, 40,000 char. (+/- 4,000) incl. spaces, 5 CP				
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Tutorial	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Advanced seminar	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester offered:		winter and summer			
Prerequisites:		None			
Department:		Jewish Theology			



<b>JTH_MA_002: Biblical Theology</b>		Number of credit points (CP): 15			
Module type (mandatory or elective):	Mandatory module				
Content and aims of the module:	<p><i>Content</i> The module builds on the methodological foundations for biblical exegesis and comparative reception research that students gained in previous studies. The focus is on hermeneutic questions in the analysis of biblical texts, especially questions that engage with the ambiguity and intertextuality of the Tanakh.</p> <p>Besides strengthening and further developing core skills in biblical scholarship, the advanced seminar (AS) concentrates on the discussion of ethical topics in the Bible in reference to contemporary issues. Examples include different versions of justice, gender role construction, body image, and the structural dynamics of hierarchies like the patriarchy and other power relations.</p> <p>The text-centered tutorial (T) is dedicated in particular to internal biblical references and theological connections between the three parts of the Tanakh. This involves overarching themes of theological relevance, such as the relationship between ritual and space, the relevance of time, and the theodicy question.</p> <p><i>Aims</i> Upon completing the module, students will be able to work independently with biblical Hebrew texts. They will expand their intertextual knowledge of biblical scholarship. In addition, they will develop the ability to abstract and reflect historically and critically on biblical themes and motifs on the meta-levels of theology, ethics, society and culture, etc.</p>				
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):	Essay, 40,000 char. (+/- 4,000) incl. spaces, 5 CP				
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements:	Exam eligibility requirements:		
Advanced seminar	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Tutorial	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester(s) offered:		winter and summer			
Prerequisites:		None			
Department:		Jewish Theology			

JTH_MA_003: Rabbinical Theology		Number of credit points (CP): 15			
Type of module (mandatory or elective):	Mandatory module				
Content and aims of the module:	<p><i>Content</i>            In the module, students will expand their knowledge of the whole spectrum of rabbinical literature: both the classical literature of the Talmudic era (Mishnah, Talmudim and Midrashim) and the later literature of the Rishonim and Aharonim (works of the Geonim, legal codices, responsa literature, modern Conservative and Liberal legal interpretations). Individual works will serve as examples illustrating the characteristic elements of this literary genre.            Besides further developing of students' core competencies in rabbinical literature, the advanced seminar (AS) in this module concentrates on important theological and philosophical ideas and concepts of Judaism as reflected in these texts. Examples include revelation/epiphany, the written and oral Torah, the role of the commandments, the election of Israel, the land and people of Israel, and the Messiah.</p> <p>The tutorial is based on a selection of materials relevant to the course – the most comprehensive of the texts examined (halakhic Midrashim, Mishnah and texts from the Talmudim). The aim of the tutorial is to study texts from the sources themselves as well as the secondary literature.</p> <p><i>Aims</i>            Students will use both traditional and scholarly methods to understand rabbinical texts. They will learn to independently formulate a rabbinical legal decision (responsum/Teshuvah) on a halakhic question, based on a detailed analysis of the original sources. Students will develop the following abilities needed to make a ruling: identifying the relevant texts in the Bible, Mishnah and Talmudim, communicating different aspects of the problem, recognizing the argumentation and main positions in the discussion, and deducing the underlying premises. In the later halakhic works, students will learn to recognize lines of discussion and repeating arguments established in the classical rabbinical literature. They will also learn to identify and trace the commentators' main points and shifts in their arguments. They will reflect on, systematically explain and religiously and historically contextualize the theological and philosophical concepts of rabbinical literature. Beyond that, students will learn to assess the ideas and concepts in light of current theological or ethical questions and develop their own positions.</p>				
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):	Essay, 40,000 char. (+/- 4,000) incl. spaces, 5 CP				
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Advanced seminar	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Tutorial	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester offered:	Summer				
Prerequisites:	None				
Department:	Jewish Theology				

JTH_MA_004: Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion		Number of credit points (CP): 15			
Type of module (mandatory or elective):	Mandatory module				
Content and aims of the module:	<p><i>Content</i>  Jewish theology is how the Judaism talks about God. Even an elementary knowledge of biblical and rabbinical theology suffices to recognize that this discussion has always taken a variety of forms. Despite this diversity, Systematic Theology aims to see unity in this multiplicity and therefore requires knowledge of biblical and rabbinical theology. Admittedly, the systems of Jewish theologians from Philon to Moses Mendelssohn, Abraham Geiger to Kaufmann Kohler, Hermann Cohen to Arthur A. Cohen are all very different. However, every systematician still tries to fulfill the imperative of unity and create the <b>one</b> theory about the <b>one</b> God, even when thinkers like Moses Maimonides come to the conclusion that one cannot ever speak about God. Thus, students in the Master's program in Jewish Theology are faced with a double task. First, they must master at least one of the great systems of Jewish theology (antiquity, medieval times, modernity or the present) in the advanced seminar through the work of one of the great Jewish thinkers of the past. Then, in the tutorial, they must produce their own work on one of the great problems in contemporary Jewish theology.</p> <p><i>Aims</i>  On completing the module in Systematic Jewish Theology, students will be able to think through and map out one of the great theological systems of Judaism according to the current state of research. Further, students will have proven their ability to conceptually engage with, formulate arguments about and systematically work out one of the great problems in Jewish theology.</p>				
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):	Essay, 40,000 char. (+/- 4,000) incl. spaces, 5 CP				
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Advanced seminar	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Tutorial	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester offered:		Summer			
Prerequisites:		None			
Department:		Jewish Theology			

JTH_MA_005: Jewish Religious Law (Halakha)		Number of credit points (CP): 15			
Type of module (mandatory or elective):	Mandatory/elective				
Content and aims of the module:	<p><i>Content</i> The focus of this module is on the literature, history and theory of the halakha as well as on developing the ability to formulate new halakhic decisions. Although it is often translated as 'Jewish law,' which is partially correct, the halakha can be understood more broadly than that. It can be understood as a normative structure of practices determining Jewish religious life, present in different ways in the laws, ethics and religion of today's society. The halakha can be found in the legal codices (Mishneh Torah, Shulhan Arukh), in the responsa literature, and in various decrees published by rabbis (takkanot). These are based on the classical texts of rabbinical Judaism, the Mishnah, Midrash and Talmud, which are not primarily interested in the halakha, although they deal with halakhic themes. The theory of the halakha, that is, the philosophy of the halakha as a normative practice as well as the process of formulating these norms, is often related to the history of the halakha, i.e. the study of the halakha in relation to past and present social and cultural realities.</p> <p><i>Aims</i> Students learn to analyze a halakhic text in the context of reception history, categorize the normative decisions, and interpret the norms and values expressed. On this basis, they will be able to formulate a rabbinical decision (pesak) relevant for contemporary times. Particular relevance shall be given to dimensions that have been overlooked in the past, such as gender issues, pluralism and global ethical issues.</p>				
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):	Oral exam, 30 minutes, 5 CP				
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Advanced seminar	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Tutorial	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester offered:	winter				
Prerequisites:	none				
Department:	Jewish Theology				

<b>JTH_MA_006: Final Colloquium in Jewish Theology</b>				Number of credit points (CP): 6	
Type of module (mandatory or elective):		Mandatory module			
Content and aims of the module:		<p><i>Content</i> In preparation for the Master's thesis, the final colloquium helps students narrow down their topics and reflect on what they learned in the MA program, as well as anchor and enhance their core academic skills. In the colloquium, students will practice thinking methodologically and publically present and discuss their research. This teaches them to defend their own position in professional discourse, but also to criticize their stance objectively.</p> <p><i>Aims</i> On completion of the MA program, students possess comprehensive knowledge about Jewish intellectual and religious history. They are also able to independently develop and discuss the concomitant theological, philosophical, cultural-historical and ethical questions. Based on primary and secondary sources, they can present, in writing and orally, substantive engagement at a scholarly level.</p>			
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):		Course exam(s) as described below			
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Colloquium	2	-	-	90-minute presentation with a 10-page write-up (ungraded)	6
Semester offered:		winter and summer			
Prerequisites:		None			
Department:		Jewish Theology			

JTH_MA_007: Practical Theology				Number of credit points (CP): 15	
Type of module (mandatory or elective):		Mandatory/elective			
Content and aims of the module:		<p><i>Content</i></p> <p>The module consists of four parts (liturgy, religious pedagogy, homiletics and pastoral counselling) and establishes the academic foundations of these practical theological disciplines. The module deepens students' knowledge of the <i>liturgy</i> and the order of the service for different denominations, particularly Liberal and Conservative (Masorti) Judaism. Besides arranging the service, the focus is also on lifecycle rituals and their historical development, as well as on molding them according to contemporary and personal needs. In the area of <i>religious pedagogy</i>, the focus is on recently developed lesson plans and educational standards for every level of Jewish religious instruction. The module therefore helps students develop teaching concepts for curricular and extracurricular Jewish religious instruction.</p> <p>In the area of <i>homiletics</i>, the module strengthens aspects of Jewish religious hermeneutical traditions and homiletic concepts. In the area of <i>pastoral counselling</i>, the module expands students' knowledge of the theology and theory of Jewish pastoral care, as well as their communication and conversational skills. With the help of structured communication exercises, pastoral guidance sessions will be methodologically and theologically reflected on and analyzed.</p> <p><i>Aims</i></p> <p>The goal of each module component is the transmission of actionable knowledge and skills. Students gain advanced knowledge of the liturgical differences between the various streams of Judaism, particularly the Liberal and Conservative (Masorti) liturgical forms of expression. This knowledge enables students to develop new rituals and forms of the religious service and to place them in the context of the liturgical traditions. In the area of religious pedagogy, students will familiarize themselves with lesson plans and educational standards for Jewish religious instruction and will thus be able to design their own lesson plans for curricular and extracurricular Jewish religious instruction. In the area of homiletics, students will learn Jewish religious-hermeneutical traditions and homiletic concepts and how to translate religious texts and theological concepts into religious communication that is meaningful and relevant for the daily lives of different social groups. Students will gain foundational knowledge of the theology and theory of Jewish pastoral care, as well as enhance their communication and conversational skills. They will be able to shape pastoral guidance talks in self-reflexive ways and to analyze them methodologically and theologically.</p>			
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):		Oral exam on two of the four disciplines, 30 min., 3 CP			
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Seminar: Homiletics (sermon)	2	certificate of completion	-	-	3
Seminar: Poimenics (spiritual counselling)	2	certificate of completion	-	-	3
Seminar: Liturgy	2	certificate of completion	-	-	3
Seminar: Pedagogy	2	certificate of completion	-	-	3
Semester offered:		Winter			
Prerequisites:		None			
Department:		Jewish Theology			

<b>JTH_MA_008: Interreligious Studies</b>		Number of credit points (CP): 15			
Type of module (mandatory or elective):	Elective module				
Content and aims of the module:	<p><i>Content</i> The focus of this module is on the widespread religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism and their multifaceted discourses, practices, communities and institutions. The focus of the module is flexible: historical, analytical and constructive perspectives are possible. The scholarly discipline of Religious Studies in both its classical and contemporary form provides the shared foundation. The analytical perspective shall be complemented by interdisciplinary theories and methods (e.g. (comparative) philosophy of religion, psychology, literary and cultural studies). Similarly, the constructive perspective could include (comparative) religious ethics, comparative theology and religious dialogue).</p> <p><i>Aims</i> Students gain knowledge of the religions mentioned above by studying primary and secondary sources, classical religious texts, and critical scholarship engaging them. They learn to contextualize and compare religious texts, myths, symbols and rituals with respect to history, sociology, anthropology and culture. This teaches them to critically and reflectively engage with inter-religious discourses in academia and broader society.</p>				
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):	Essay, 40,000 char. (+/- 4,000) incl. spaces, 5 CP				
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Advanced seminar	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Tutorial	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester offered:		Winter			
Prerequisites:		None			
Department:		Jewish Theology			

<b>JTH_MA_009: Hebrew Language</b>				Number of credit points (CP): 15	
Type of module (mandatory or elective):		Elective module			
Content and aims of the module:		<p><i>Content:</i> In this module, students expand their knowledge of the Hebrew of different eras. The module consists of a language course and a reading course, in which students learn to confidently maneuver among the linguistic and stylistic differences of various text genres in the Hebrew language from a variety of historical language levels.</p> <p><i>Aims:</i> Students will familiarize themselves with the linguistic differences of the source texts studied and learn to independently translate Hebrew sources from various epochs with the help of a dictionary. In modern Hebrew, students will be able to work with complex scholarly and literary texts on their own. They will be able to grasp the main points of texts without aid and use a dictionary to understand the details. They will be able to produce adequate translations of source texts and/or Modern Hebrew.</p>			
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):		<p><i>Either a written exam or an annotated translation:</i> Written exam, 180 minutes, 5 CP Annotated translation, approx. 20,000 char., 5 CP</p>			
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Language course	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Reading course	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester offered:		Winter			
Prerequisites:		None			
Department:		Jewish Theology			



<b>JTH_MA_010: Philosophy of the Jewish Religion</b>		Number of credit points (CP): 15			
Type of module (mandatory or elective):	Elective module				
Content and aims of the module:	<p><i>Content</i></p> <p>As they relate to religion, philosophy and theology are a couple fraught with tensions. While philosophy of religion treats religion as an object, theology can also take itself as the subject of consideration; philosophy of religion is decidedly neutral vis-a-vis religion, theology is decisively partisan; theology presents a true depiction of religion, philosophy of religion tests the truth of this true depiction. On the other hand, religion needs both: as dogmatics, theology is religion's ministry of the interior, and as apologetics it is the ministry of the exterior. But this division of labor does not sufficiently describe the entangled relationship of the two. Philosophy continually shakes theology out of its dogmatic slumber, acts as an immanent religious critic, furthers iconoclasm by other means, and cleanses religious culture of dead idols. Besides this destructive function, however, it also has a constructive one: It overwrites traditional religious dualities like God/idols with continually new philosophical categories, like one/many, form/matter, emanation/union, transcendence/immanence, existence/essence, being/becoming, you/it, totality/infinity, etc. Theology is not always on the receiving end of philosophy. The imperative of permanently transcending in thought that about which no higher thoughts are possible sometimes leads to dizzying speculative heights that question all conventional philosophical thought habits and open up thought horizons which would remain undiscovered without the theological challenge. In short, the study of Jewish theology is not possible without Jewish philosophy.</p> <p><i>Aims</i></p> <p>One challenge in studying Jewish philosophy is that students usually are not familiar with general philosophy, which Jewish philosophy requires. How can one understand Moses Maimonides if one is not familiar with Aristotle? One aim of the module is therefore for the Master's students to demonstrate knowledge of an epoch-making Jewish philosopher from one of the four epochs of Jewish philosophy (antiquity, medieval times, modernity, and the present). Whoever chooses a seminar/tutorial about Hermann Cohen or Franz Rosenzweig, for example, must also be familiar with Immanuel Kant or Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel.</p>				
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):	Essay, 40,000 char. (+/- 4,000) incl. spaces, 5 CP				
Type of course	Contact hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Advanced seminar	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Tutorial	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester offered:	Winter				
Prerequisites:	None				
Department:	Jewish Theology				

<b>JTH_MA_011: Judaism in the US: Past and Present</b>				Number of credit points (CP): 15	
Type of module (mandatory or elective):	Elective module				
Content and aims of the module:	<p><i>Content</i> The module teaches key aspects of Judaism in the United States from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, especially forms of religious expression. It analyzes its changing relationship with the US environment and with the Judaism of other cultural spaces. It therefore serves the comparative analysis of important concepts in modern Jewish history: modernization, acculturation, emancipation, ethnic, religious and other forms of identification, tradition/innovation and universalism/particularism.</p> <p><i>Aims</i> Students will learn to describe the essential aspects of Judaism in the US in its historical and contemporary context. They will familiarize themselves with the current state of the research and will be able to relate developments with other expressions of Judaism and classify them in the contexts of US and Jewish history and the present.</p>				
Exam(s) (number, form, scope):	Essay, 40,000 char. (+/- 4,000) incl. spaces, 5 CP				
Type of course	Class hours (in SWS)	Supplementary requirements (number, form, scope)		Course exam(s) (number, form, scope)	Total effort (in CP)
		Completion requirements	Exam eligibility requirements		
Seminar	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Tutorial	2	certificate of completion	-	-	5
Semester offered:		Winter			
Prerequisites:		None			
Department:		Jewish Theology			