



**\*\*New for fall 2016\*\***

### **JS 199: Introduction to Jewish Culture and Societies Wednesdays 1-2:50**

Jewish Studies is a multidisciplinary and transnational field. This class will take us on a journey through centuries of history, cover several different countries, all in an attempt to understand a group of people held together (but not always closely together) by ethnic identity, cultural heritage, and religious tradition. We will study their dispersion throughout much of the world and analyze how they engaged in a range of negotiations with each other and with the societies in which they lived. We will begin in Ancient Israel and end up in the United States today. The course is divided into four thematic units: Jewish Beliefs and Practices, State and Statelessness, Jewish Fictions, and Jewish Communities Around the World.



Each week will feature the visit of a different scholar here at the University of Illinois who will talk to us about the featured topic.

