

Creating Futures

University of Colorado *at Boulder*



Program in Jewish Studies

A Beacon of Learning, Locally and Globally





Asst. Prof. Robby Adler Peckerar, teaching *Intro to Jewish Culture*

“The Jewish Studies Program and CU-Boulder are at the forefront of a new approach to the study of Jewish culture, society, history, and religion. The program has some of the finest scholars in the discipline and, in David Shneer, a visionary and energetic leader who is creating tomorrow’s Jewish Studies today.”

Matti Bunzl

Director, Program for Jewish Culture and Society
University of Illinois

Global Resonance and Ethical Engagement

For thousands of years, Jews and their cultures have informed philosophy, society, history, and politics worldwide. As our society strives to provide students with an educational foundation that helps them think globally, the Program in Jewish Studies uses the experiences of the world’s oldest global people to help answer our most pressing questions.

The University of Colorado at Boulder is launching a \$5 million initiative to further the scholarship capabilities, community engagement, and positive impact of the Program in Jewish Studies. Your gift will ensure that CU takes its place as a beacon of learning for future leaders.

If You Will It, It Is No Dream

Through the tireless efforts of CU-Boulder faculty, administration, and the local community, the Jewish Studies Program was launched in 2007. Recognizing the discipline’s importance to a university committed to the liberal arts, globalization, and community engagement, the university allocated a senior tenure line to the program. In 2008, associate professor David Shneer was hired to direct the program. A “taboo-breaking” scholar (*Tikkun* magazine) focusing on modern Jewish history, society, and culture, Shneer brings an international profile to CU-Boulder’s program.

Under Shneer’s leadership, and with support from the growing number of affiliated Jewish Studies faculty, the program has grown beyond anyone’s wildest dreams.



Prof. Paul Shankman, Anthropology and Jewish Studies, at Colorado’s first-ever Jewish Studies graduation.

Course offerings have more than tripled, and student enrollment has more than doubled. The faculty and students have proposed a major in Jewish Studies, which would make CU-Boulder the only degree-granting Jewish Studies program in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Arts & Sciences Dean Todd Gleeson saw the need for more resources and authorized the hiring of a second full-time faculty member in Jewish Studies. An international search brought Robby Adler Peckerar to campus in fall 2009. The dean also authorized the expansion of the Hebrew program under the leadership of Zilla Goodman, and we now offer three full years of modern Hebrew for the first time in CU-Boulder’s history.



Zilla Goodman, Senior Instructor Hebrew

We rely on community partnerships to continue growing the program and meet student demand. Without your support, growth cannot happen.

A Curriculum That Traces Diverse Threads

While the program features core offerings in Jewish history, thought, Hebrew language, and culture, courses such as *Jews Under Islam* (funded by a donor), *Contemporary Israel Studies* (funded by a foundation), *After the Holocaust*, and *Radical Jews*, as well as our new community-based internship program, demonstrate the program's contemporary, forward-thinking focus.

As part of the university's global initiative, we offer study abroad opportunities from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to London, Berlin, Beijing, and beyond. We recently created our first global seminar, *Venice: Cradle of European Jewish Culture*, that will send CU-Boulder students to the heart of Europe to study intensively for three weeks.

Rabbi Daniel Goldberger was one of the most respected rabbis on the Front Range, a prominent leader of local Jewish organizations and founder of the first Jewish/Catholic interfaith dialogue. He was an early advocate of Jewish Studies at CU-Boulder, and upon his passing in 2007, the Rabbi Daniel and Ida Goldberger Fund was established to fund Jewish Studies and to honor the example of this revered rabbi. The annual **Goldberger Week of Jewish Culture**, named in their honor, has brought internationally renowned thinkers and culture-makers to Boulder, including Pulitzer Prize winner Art Spiegelman and German Yiddish theater star Jaldá Rebling.



Above Right:
Jaldá Rebling.
Below Right:
Assoc. English
Prof. William
Kuskin, Art
Spiegelman, Ida
Goldberger.

Adding to the program's teaching distinction is a focus on *hevruta*—a traditional Jewish way of learning text that is collaborative, peer-to-peer, and deeply engaged. The *hevruta* method is a core pedagogical model in our classes, attracting students who want a deeper, more intimate learning experience on a large university campus.

An Ideal Time To Grow Our Program

Now is the time to enhance the Jewish Studies Program at CU-Boulder. Our world-class faculty is doing its best to meet the increasing demands of students, who want more courses, more engagement, more globalization, and more of us!

Strengthening Jewish Studies will:

- **Better serve in-state students with world-class Jewish learning** that, in the past, they had to travel more than 1,000 miles to obtain
- **Bolster the university's appeal to out-of-state students**, garnering recognition on an international scale and generating tuition revenue that strengthens the university
- **Enhance regional outreach** with CU Art Museum collaboration, internships, and community engagement
- **Contribute to the body of knowledge about Jewish life, history, culture, art, and society** through research by renowned scholars, who have won prestigious fellowships, published key books in their fields, and are frequent speakers at conferences around the world
- **Further broaden appreciation of Judaism's diverse ideas, traditions, and philosophies**, and pave the way for common ground in global conflicts and political realms

How You Can Help

Faculty Development: Our most pressing need is to hire new faculty who will teach Jewish Studies courses. As an ultimate goal, we aim to endow a chair and to name the program.

Globalization: By underwriting student scholarships for study abroad programs, you can help Jewish Studies students learn through firsthand experience and obtain the perspective they need to succeed in a global world.

Barry and Susan Baer
were early donors to
Jewish Studies at CU-Boulder.

Barry and Susan Baer (at right, with 2009 scholarship recipient Carly Coons and family) were early donors to Jewish Studies at CU-Boulder. Each year, this endowed Jewish Studies scholarship supports a promising Jewish Studies student who demonstrates academic success and is engaged in *tikkun olam*, improving the world.



"The Jewish Studies Program was a deciding factor in me attending CU-Boulder. It has helped me explore Jewish culture and Judaism from an academic perspective and, most importantly, provided me with a global point of view."

Carly Coons

International Affairs Major, 2009 Baer Scholarship Recipient

How You Can Help *(continued)*

To learn about the many ways you can make a gift:

Contact

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www.cufund.org

Diversification of Curriculum: You can help underwrite new courses in areas such as Yiddish Studies, Sephardic Studies, American Jewish History and Middle Eastern Jewish Culture.

Undergraduate and Graduate Students: With scholarships and fellowships, we can ensure that the most enthusiastic and promising Jewish Studies scholars can attend CU-Boulder, regardless of background or circumstance.

Our development officers can help you match your areas of interest with the program's strategic priorities, and help you leave a legacy that will generate scholarship and understanding for years to come.

"This is a campus that has been hungering for Jewish Studies for many years. Our students, Jewish and not, are finally having their intellectual curiosities met with new courses, experiences, and ideas. CU's faculty will meet student demand and turn CU-Boulder into a national center for Jewish learning."



David Shneer

Associate Professor of History
Director, Program in Jewish Studies, CU-Boulder

Colorado
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All gifts should be payable to the University of Colorado Foundation for the purpose designated.