

## **Department Of Jewish Studies**

Refer to Requisition #: 105059 on all correspondence and inquiries regarding this position.

### **OUR COMMITMENT**

Sonoma State University offers an exceptional educational experience that fosters intellectual, cognitive, social, and personal growth. As the only member of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges in California, we are uniquely positioned to foster ethical exploration, civic engagement, social responsibility, and global awareness combined with a solid foundation in an academic discipline. We have a strong commitment to graduating students who have the ability to think critically and communicate effectively in an ever-changing world. The unique campus culture fosters our Seawolf Commitment to integrity, respect, excellence, and responsibility and is integrated into all campus life. We nurture inclusive excellence through a celebration of the rich diversity of our local communities and our interconnected global economy. Members of the University community are expected to work effectively with faculty, staff, and students from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We are fully committed to the rights of students, staff and faculty with disabilities in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. SSU is especially interested in candidates who make contributions to equity and inclusion in the pursuit of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

### **THE UNIVERSITY**

Sonoma State University's beautiful 274-acre campus is located in Sonoma County wine country, an hour north of San Francisco. The campus offers the ideal setting for teaching and learning and access to a community of rich cultural, environmental, and recreational opportunities. Founded in 1960, Sonoma State University is one of the 23 campuses of the California State University System. As members of the largest public higher educational system in the nation, we provide accessible, high quality education to more than 9,000 students. Sonoma State University is proud to be a Hispanic Serving Institution committed to achieving the goals of equal opportunity and endeavors to employ faculty and staff reflecting the ethnic and cultural diversity of the region and state.

### **THE DEPARTMENT**

Jewish Studies at Sonoma State University is an interdisciplinary program that provides students with the minor degree in Jewish Studies through the study of language, culture, history, comparative religion, and politics. Jewish Studies courses will foster interfaith dialogue, promote cultural diversity, and increase understanding of how religion has influenced societies around the world.

The purpose of the Jewish Studies Program at Sonoma State University is to foster interfaith understanding, cultural diversity, peace, and positive change in the world through the study of the history, culture, language, and religious practices of Jewish people.

Religion has always been one of the world's most powerful forces. It has served to bring communities together, and it has also served to divide them. It has been the reason why people have come together in the name of

peace, and has been the reason why people have gone to war. It has been at the forefront of some of the world's most triumphant moments, and it has also been responsible for some of its darkest ones.

Education is at the core of the movement to use religion to foster positive change, interfaith understanding, and cultural diversity. As many Jewish communities around the United States are experiencing a revitalized interest in Judaism and creating new forms of cultural expression, they have observed the need to face up to the polarization of people along religious lines while still maintaining a pride and respect for their own traditions.

Students of all kinds have expressed a desire to understand how ethnicity and religion function on both the local and world stages. Approximately 10 percent of Sonoma State University students are Jewish, and many of them want to learn more about their heritage. Non-Jewish students have also flocked to the program, and we have responded to their participation by opening up the curriculum. While it remains focused on Jewish Studies, it also explores religion at large in an effort to understand how faith has affected the lives of all people worldwide, not just Jews. As a result of our efforts, almost half of our students are non-Jews.

The Jewish Studies Program is intended to serve the entire community. It introduces Judaism, Jewish history, and Jewish culture to a wide range of people in order to provide a forum for discussion and activism in response to crucial contemporary issues. It promotes understanding of how faith has affected the lives of all people in an attempt to bring them together.

Please join us in supporting our efforts.

## Objectives

- To provide a forum for people of all backgrounds to discuss the political, social, and economic impact of religion on the world
- To provide Jewish students with the opportunity to learn about their heritage
- To provide people with the tools necessary to promote interfaith understanding and cultural diversity through the study of religion
- To provide Sonoma State University students with the opportunity to receive a minor degree in Jewish Studies

## Jewish Music Series

L'Chaim! To Life!

The Jewish Music Series at Sonoma State is a presentation of the Department of Music and the Jewish Studies Program. Now in its sixth year, the series is widely acclaimed for its breadth, depth, and musical excellence as it poses the eternal question of "What makes music Jewish?"

The concerts—a component of the "Survey of Jewish Music" class—run about 90 minutes in length, are free and open to the public. This semester we will be holding these concerts via Zoom.

## Mission Statement

The purpose of the Jewish Studies Program at Sonoma State University is to foster interfaith understanding, cultural diversity, peace, and positive change in the world through the study of the history, culture, language, and religious practices of Jewish people.

The Jewish Studies minor can be achieved through 20 units of coursework consisting of three core classes and two additional classes. All courses in the Jewish Studies Minor count as GE classes in the following areas: C1, C2, C3, D2, D5.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to see the department's Web page at:

<http://jewishstudies.sonoma.edu>

## **DUTIES OF THE POSITION**

We seek an active scholar in Jewish Studies with particular interest in Arts and Humanities. Teach one to two courses in each semester drawn from the Jewish Studies requirements for the Minor.

The requirements for the minor include and introductory course, courses in history and culture as follows:

JWST 200: Introduction to Jewish Studies

JWST 255: The Evolution of Anti-Semitism: Through History, Literature, Religion, and Art

JWST 355: Modern European Jewish History

MUS 343: Survey of Jewish Music: Jewish Music Series

## **PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

To be recommended for appointment, the candidate must have:

Masters Degree, in Jewish Studies or a related field, strong English skills, who have the ability and desire to teach a wide variety of classes about Jewish Studies.

Prior university teaching experience of at least one year or equivalent.

Actively engaged in creative and/or research related to Jewish Studies.

The ideal candidate will have a familiarity with the Jewish liturgy and sacred texts.

Ph.D. or other doctorate preferred in Jewish Studies or a related field.

## **RANK AND SALARY**

Full-time is 15-unit workload per semester. Actual salary is dependent upon number of units assigned, educational preparation, and availability of funds subject to any CSU system faculty contract salary increases.

- Selection as a candidate in the applicant pool, does not guarantee employment. Temporary Faculty appointments are made on a part-time, temporary basis and contingent upon department needs and funding.
- Temporary Faculty appointments are made on a semester-by-semester basis.
- Relocation expenses will not be provided for temporary faculty appointments.

- Expenses incurred to attend an interview for temporary faculty positions are not reimbursed by the University.

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position, go to [jobs.sonoma.edu](https://jobs.sonoma.edu) and click on the External Applicant link under the Legacy Jobs Site section. If you are not currently employed at Sonoma State University, register a new account. If you are currently employed at Sonoma State University, log in with your SSU username and password. You will be redirected to a list of all available jobs at Sonoma State University. Find and select the faculty position you are applying for to view the description and select *Apply Now*. If you have not applied for a job at Sonoma State University previously you will be asked to *Register Now* in order to proceed. At the initial stage of the application, you will be prompted to upload a resume. Please combine your CV and cover letter into one PDF document and upload it in place of the resume. Once you have submitted the application, a confirmation email will be automatically sent to you. If you encounter difficulties during the application process, please email [facultysearch@sonoma.edu](mailto:facultysearch@sonoma.edu).

### **Please submit:**

#### ***Required***

- Application letter
- Curriculum vitae

#### ***Optional***

- Statement of Research Interests
- Teaching Philosophy
- Student Evaluations
- Contact Information for 3 References

*Official transcripts are required at the time of hire.*

### **Application procedures for temporary faculty already teaching in the department:**

- Temporary Faculty with three-year contracts do not need to reapply.
- Temporary Faculty who have taught for the department within the past two years only need to submit a Lecturer Qualified Course Form and updated CV to remain in the pool. The hiring committee will review the Personnel Action File and then determine whether an additional interview would be beneficial.

Sonoma State University hires only individuals lawfully authorized to work in the United States. All offers of employment are contingent upon presentation of documents demonstrating the appointee's identity and eligibility to work, in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act. **Sonoma State University does not facilitate the process of applying for an H1B Visa for temporary positions.**

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to apply is June 28, 2021.

Questions concerning the *application process* may be directed to: [facultysearch@sonoma.edu](mailto:facultysearch@sonoma.edu)

Questions concerning this *position* may be directed to:

Dr. Brian S. Wilson, Director of the Jewish Studies Program, Professor of Music  
[wilsonb@sonoma.edu](mailto:wilsonb@sonoma.edu)  
707-664-2468

#105059 PLEASE REFER TO THIS NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS POSITION.

## OTHER INFORMATION

The university is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. We consider qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, medical condition, disability, marital status, or protected veteran status.

This position is considered a “mandated reporter” under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act and is required to comply with the requirements set forth in CSU Executive Order 1083 as a condition of employment.

[View Benefits Summary](#)



### SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

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