
Meet Your Departmental Student Advisor!

Emily Alworth
Jewish Studies

k08ea01@kzoo.edu



Hometown: Duluth

Majors: Religion and Spanish

Concentration: Jewish Studies

Study Abroad: Cáceres, Spain

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Cookie Dough

Best Adjective to Describe You: Nerdy

In 10 words or less, why should someone want to be a part of this department?

Dr. Haus is great and the topic is fascinating!

When did you know you wanted to study this area? What pathway led you to this department?

Honestly, I became a Jewish Studies concentrator by accident. I took a few classes from Dr. Haus and loved them. I was halfway to completing the concentration when I decided to earnestly pursue it.

What is the best way to get (and stay) connected to this department?

Watch for events around campus, talk to me, and most importantly, take related classes!

What would you miss the most if you were no longer a part of this department?

I would miss the small classes, the material, and Dr. Haus' nerdy science fiction references.

What are your career aspirations/next steps after K?

After K, I would like to spend a year traveling, money permitting. Eventually, I'd like to find a job that has to do with promoting understanding and tolerance between religions.

What has been the biggest surprise you have encountered at K?

The huge variety in classes, even within the same major has surprised me in a wonderful way.

How does your department connect to your other interests and activities?

Jewish Studies is obviously connected to my religion major. What draws me to both is my interest in understanding how religion shapes identity, the effect it has on minority groups, and ethical issues.

What has been your favorite class at K? Why?

So far, my favorite class has been the junior religion seminar with Dr. Anderson. We studied theories of religion and it was a perfect environment to share ideas.

What is your SIP?

For my SIP, I am interested in examining representations of religion in science fiction movies and television shows. I'm curious to understand why some futuristic stories contain elements of religions, why some don't, and what purpose they serve. I want to investigate common themes such as false gods, prophecy, religious tolerance, and religious doubt. With such a wide range of metaphysical positions feeding into the genre, science fiction achieves considerable variety in its themes and metaphors in a way unique to other genres. I would like to explore why this is.
