## 2000 ANNUAL CENTERS AND INSTITUTES REPORT

### Institute/Center Data

#### Directory Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I/C Name:</th>
<th>Institute for Judaic and Near Eastern Studies</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I/C Code:</td>
<td>80.0060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University:</td>
<td>FIU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C Type:</td>
<td>II</td>
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<tr>
<td>I/C Director:</td>
<td>Steven Heine, Ph.D. Interim Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline(s) (2-Digit CIPs):</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C Address:</td>
<td>Florida International University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University Park, DM-369A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miami, FL 33199</td>
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<tr>
<td>I/C Telephone:</td>
<td>305-348-1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C E-Mail Address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judaic@fiu.edu">judaic@fiu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C SUNCOM:</td>
<td>441-1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C Web Site Address:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fiu.edu/~jewstudi">www.fiu.edu/~jewstudi</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/C FAX:</td>
<td>305-348-6562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliated Universities:</td>
<td>(AFFILIATES)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Mission and Areas of Focus

**Mission Statement:**

The Institute of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies brings the University and the community together in mutual efforts intended to nurture teaching and research in academic areas which stand as the cornerstones of Western Civilization. Contemporary issues and problems provide focal points for study, dialogue exchange, and travel. Specifically, the Institute fosters scholarship, teaching, and general intellectual inquiry into questions raised by the Jewish experience. These questions fit within the scope of many academic disciplines, including literature, languages, linguistics, history, religious studies, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, political science, the fine arts, international relations, education, and gerontology. Through analysis and interpretation of questions growing from the Jewish experiences by distinct academic disciplines, the Jewish contribution to the development of Western Civilization are clarified.

**Key Terms:**

(Areas of Focus)

- Jewish experience
- Jewish contributions
- Judaic Studies seminars
- Jewish community
- analysis & interpretation
- development of Western Civilization
INSTITUTE FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
MISSION, GOALS AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. MISSION AND AREAS OF FOCUS

2. The Institute for Judaic Studies is an interdisciplinary program for studies of Jewish religion, culture, history, and literature that supports a certificate program, a lecture series, study abroad opportunities, student activities, and outreach and community events. The program covers a wide range of historical material from the ancient to the modern period, as well as a range of geographical areas including Judaism in America, Europe, Israel and the Near East, and other regions.

3. ORGANIZATION, EXTERNAL TRENDS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

5. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES. The Institute has reported to the Provost, but a restructuring is taking place so that it will report to the Director of the Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies (TCS).

6. The Institute has a Director and a Faculty Steering Committee.

9. ADVISORY BOARD. The Director is Steven Heine (Religious Studies), and the Faculty Steering Committee consists of Nina Caputo (History), Steve Fain (Education), Mitch Hart (History), Marilyn Hoder-Salmon (English), Fred Kaufman (Music), Nathan Katz (Religious Studies), Erik Larsen (Religious Studies), Abe Lavender (Sociology), Asher Milbauer (English), Meri-Jane Rochelson (English), Howard Rock (History), Oren Stier (Religious Studies), Mark Szuchman (History).

16. EXTERNAL TRENDS. Judaic Studies is being developed in the context of an emphasis on area studies and international studies programs, so that Jewish religion and culture is related to global social, political, and economic trends.

20. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND AREAS OF EMPHASIS. Judaic Studies is being reconfigured as part of a new Institute for Judaic and Near Eastern Studies in order to accentuate the context of globalization and international studies, as well as to help FIU gain a presence in an academic approach to the Middle East.

24. ANNUAL AND LONG RANGE GOALS

25. Sponsor Speakers and Workshop Series I, II, IV, V, VI

26. Objective: To construct a vigorous lecture series
27. Outcome: Half a dozen major events, including cultural and community activities
28. New objective: Continue and expand these activities

29. 2. Outside Funding I, II, III, IV, V
30. Objective: Secure funding to develop program.
31. Outcome: Pursuing programs in Sephardic Studies and Gratz College Education
32. project
33. New objective: Research and apply for additional funding opportunities

34. 3. Curriculum Development I, II, IV, V
35. Objective: Administer and advise certificate program, increase enrollment
36. Outcome: 6 students signed on, first graduate of program in fall 2000
37. New objective: Continue to emphasize student advising of both certificates

38. 4. Study Abroad I, IV, V
39. Objective: Develop new study abroad program
40. Outcome: Program in Israel proposed for summer 2001
41. New objective: Explore new linkages especially in Israel and other countries

42. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

43. The restructuring of Judaic Studies is currently taking place, so that the unit will now be known as the Institute for Judaic and Near Eastern Studies housed under and reporting to the Director of TCS. This process will facilitate the growth of the program in several directions through enhanced opportunities for clerical support, organizational structure, funding, and synergetic interaction with other area studies programs. In the new program, there will be a track within the certificate program dedicated to Judaica and a second track dedicated to contemporary issues in the Near East, with Hebrew and Arabic offered to fulfill the language requirement. At the same time, the program will continue its academic lecture series and expand its study abroad and student-oriented activities, in part through connections with the Hillel organization.