

Position Title: Crown-Ryan Chair in Jewish Studies and
Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program
Hiring Administrator(s): Department of Biblical Literature and Languages (BLL)
Category: Full time, faculty; exempt
Rank: Open Rank
Application Deadline: November 16, 2024

The Catholic-Jewish Studies Program has been an integral part of Catholic Theological Union since its founding. It was officially launched with the hiring of the late Rabbi Dr. Hayim G. Perelmuter towards the end of CTU's first year of operation in Spring 1969. The Crown-Ryan Chair was initiated in 2001 as a joint Catholic-Jewish effort through the generous support of the Renée and Lester Crown and Pat and Shirley Ryan families.

In the past, The Catholic-Jewish Studies Program has included:

- 1) Courses on Judaism, Biblical Studies, and Christian-Jewish relations.
- 2) Three annual lectures primarily funded by the Shapiro Foundation given by noted Jewish scholars on issues that are particularly relevant to a largely Christian audience.
- 3) An Annual Conference combined with one of the Shapiro lectures in celebration of the work of Rabbi Perelmuter. This conference brings some 15-20 scholars from area universities and theological schools (and beyond) for an in-depth private discussion of the public lecture. On occasion, CTU students interested in Catholic-Jewish relations are invited to join in these discussions.
- 4) Occasional special conferences on topics such as the Holy See's document on the Holocaust which have brought the likes of Cardinal Edward Idris Cassidy and Cardinal Walter Kasper to CTU along with leading scholars on Christian-Jewish Relations from around North America. Three of these conferences resulted in published volumes of the conference papers. These conferences were done in collaboration with the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- 5) The CTU Catholic-Jewish Studies Program played a central role in the establishment of the North American Council of Centers for Christian-Jewish Relations (CCJR). The CCJR is an official member organization of the International Council of Christians & Jews (ICCJ) which Fr. Pawlikowski headed as President for six years and for which he continues to hold the title as Permanent Honorary President. The ICCJ's international headquarters are located at the former home of Martin Buber in Heppenheim, Germany.

6) The CTU Director of Catholic-Jewish Studies also serves as an ongoing resource for students and faculty on issues relevant to the Catholic-Jewish relationship.

The Director of the Catholic-Jewish Study Program is encouraged to be creative with program offerings that demonstrate a deep appreciation for the mission and vision of CTU.

Responsibilities of the holder of the Chair/Director include:

- 1) Teach courses at CTU on Jewish and biblical topics as well as on Christian-Jewish Relations.
- 2) Engage in research in the area of Jewish Studies including participation in academic meetings.
- 3) Advise students working on programs in interreligious studies.
- 4) Serve as a resource person for CTU faculty and students in the area of Judaism.
- 5) Organize and participate in conferences at CTU in Catholic-Jewish Studies.
- 6) Collaborate on programming, such as the In Good Faith series, with the directors of the Catholic-Muslim Studies Program and the Bernardin Center.
- 7) Cultivate a network of relations in Catholic and Jewish communities.
- 8) Serve as a resource for activities that the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program may establish with DePaul's Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture or through its membership in the Council of Centers on Christian-Jewish Relations in which CTU holds membership.

Qualifications:

The holder of the Crown-Ryan Chair in Jewish Studies and Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program:

- Holds a Ph.D. in a Jewish theological and classical textual discipline
- Has experience in and passion for Catholic-Jewish relations
- Is an experienced and successful teacher or demonstrates the potential to become one
- Is a scholar with a proven record of publications or demonstrates the potential to become one
- Has excellent organizational and relational skills

The Chair/Director is a full-time member of the CTU faculty and in that respect, reports to the Vice President and Academic Dean. The Chair/Director also works in close collaboration with the Director of the Bernardin Center and in that respect, reports to the President.

Catholic Theological Union is an Equal Opportunity Employer and provides equal employment opportunities to all candidates without regard to race, traits associated with race, color, religion (except where religion is a bona fide occupational qualification for the job), national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, ancestry, physical or mental disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected characteristics. Applications from members from racially and ethnically underrepresented groups are encouraged. Catholic Theological Union is committed to providing reasonable accommodations, as required by law.