

The College of the Humanities  
Religion Program  
**RELI 2110A: Judaism**

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**Lectures:** Tuesday and Thursday 6:05 pm – 8:55 pm

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 5:00 – 6:00 or by appointment

### **Course description**

This 2000 level course explores Judaism as a lived religious tradition. We begin with the premise that Judaism is defined by the teachings, beliefs and practices that form the core of Jewish communal life. From this point of view, Judaism is both historical and evolving; rooted in tradition, responding to changing contexts, looking towards its own future. Practiced by Jews in community all around the world, Judaism is a dynamic and richly diverse tradition that includes a range of teachings and practices. This diversity can be a challenge for students who are at the early stages of studying Judaism. One way into this problem is to begin where Jewish communities begin in defining their own identity: Jews understand themselves as standing in relationship to, and in continuity with, a historical past, practices and traditions. We will examine Jewish practices as they relate to the calendar and life cycle. We will examine the response of Judaism to history, culture conflicts and geographic changes.

### **Course Evaluation:**

The final grade of this course is based on the followings:

10% creating questions on readings and lectures

90% 3 tests (2 will be take-home\*, the last will be an electronically graded multiple-choice test to be given as part of the scheduled final exam period – the date will be announced and scheduled by the University)

\* **Due dates:** May 21st and June 4th. Unless special arrangements were made, late take home tests will be fined by a fraction of a grade (i.e., A to A-) for each day.

### **Required Texts:**

Leo Trepp, *A History of the Jewish Experience* (Springfield: Behrman House, 2001) 2nd Edition

Abraham J. Heschel, *The Shabbat: Its Meaning for Modern Man*. (any addition)

Online resources: see syllabus & CULearn: URLs for online content, links and citation information to look up, print or download full text journal articles.

### **Recommended Reading:**

Milton Steinberg, *As a Driven Leaf* (Springfield: Behrman House, 1996) (This book is a novel about a renegade Talmudic Sage, Elisha Ben Abuyah, caught in a personal struggle between his own faith and the compelling culture of Rome, circa 70CE)

Also see syllabus for additional recommended readings.

**10% - You make up the Questions and Answers.**

**Due Date (lesson#)**

May 19th (1-3), May 26<sup>th</sup> (4-5), June 2<sup>nd</sup> (6-7), June 9th (8-10), June 18<sup>th</sup> (11-13).

**For each lecture:** You are to generate **8** short questions with their correct answer.

(Example: Q: “What is the TaNaKh? A: The TaNaKh is the Hebrew Scriptures. Made up of Torah (The Five Books of Moses – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy); Nevi'im (The books of the Prophets) Joshua, Judges, Samuel I & II, Kings I & II, the Major Prophets (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah) and the 12 Minor Prophets; and the **Khtubim** (the Writings) which include the Psalms, Proverbs, Job, the five scrolls (Song of Songs, Ruth Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther) Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah and Chronicles I & II.

**For the Readings:** You are to generate **10** short questions and their correct answer. You Must reference the location of the answer (Example: Q: Identify Yehuda HaNasi (Judah the Prince) A: Rabbi Judah the Prince (c135-210) edited the oral tradition in written form (known as the Mishnah) at about 200 C.E. (Trepp 333,339)

**If you work in a group you must multiply the number of Q&As by the number of people in the group. (ex. a group of 3 must submit 54 questions and answers per class date)**

**60% - 2 Tests**

May 21 (Will cover classes 1-4) June 4<sup>th</sup> (Will cover classes 5-8)

Take-home short answer. Based on readings and lectures. The questions will be taken from the Q&A above, as well as, those made up by the instructor.

**ALL YOUR SOURCES MUST BE REFERENCED and YOU MUST WORK ALONE**

**30% - “Final Exam” 3rd Test**

(Will cover the last 3rd of the course) Based on readings and lectures. The questions will be taken from the Q&A above, as well as those made up by the instructor.

Electronically graded multiple-choice test to be given as part of the scheduled final exam period – the date will be announced and scheduled by the University

**Course Calendar Day Topic Required Reading *Other Readings of interest NOT Required***

**May 5<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Introduction and Problem of Definition, The Torah (Five Books of Moses), Nevi'im (The Prophets), Ketuvim (the Writings)

**Trepp: Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 22**

**“Yehezkel Kaufmann’s View of the Religion of Israel” J Am Acad. Relig. 1961; XXIX: 52-58**

<http://www.cs.umd.edu/~mvz/bible/doc-hyp.pdf>

**May 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** The Jewish Calendar, Shabbat, Days of Awe

**Trepp: Chapters 25, 26, & 28**

**Handout: From Witty and Witty “The Concept of Work”**

**Heschel, *The Shabbat: Its Meaning for Modern Man* (Please read by May 19th)**

**Recommended audio: (part 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpIhkpsbTk4> and (part 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLu6bOPD-nk>**

**Please note: May 11<sup>th</sup>, Last day for registration and course changes.**

**May 12 (Tuesday)** Second Temple & The Hellenistic period, The Jews and the Romans, The Oral Law

**Trepp: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 21, 23**

<http://www.ccel.org/j/josephus/works/ant-18.htm> (Please read chapter 1)

<http://www.ccel.org/j/josephus/works/war-7.htm> (Please read Chapters 8-9)

Please read I Maccabees I:1-57; Eusebius, History of the Church writes about the final siege of the Jews see: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf201.iii.ix.vi.html?highlight=bar,cochba#highlight>  
<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudPage.html> (for the 25th)

*Recommended Reading: Milton Steinberg As a Driven Leaf (open date)*

**May 14 (Thursday)** The Major and Minor Holidays  
**Trepp: Chapters 27, 29**

**May 19 (Tuesday)** Jewish Prayer, Medieval Jewish Thought  
**Trepp: Chapters 24, 7**

**FIRST TEST DUE MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**May 21 (Thursday)** Middle Ages, Kosher Laws  
**Trepp: Chapters 8, 9 and 30 (pp.448-51)**

**May 22, last day for full fee adjustment when withdrawing from course.**

**May 26 (Tuesday)** From Birth to Death  
**Trepp: Chapter 30**

**May 28 (Thursday)** When Europe left the “Dark Ages”, Jewish Mysticism  
**Trepp: Chapters 10, 11, 32**

**For the last day to submit, to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, Formal Examination Accommodation Forms for June exams. See below.**

**June 2 (Tuesday)** Jewish denominations, Enter America  
**Trepp Chapters 12, 13, 16, 17**

[http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/reform\\_practices.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/reform_practices.html)

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/reformstate.html>

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/Orthodox.html>

**2ND TEST DUE JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**June 4 (Thursday)** Russian Jewry and Zionism

**Trepp Chapters 14, 15, 18**

**Natan Sharansky “The Political Legacy of Theodor Herzl”**

<http://www.azure.org.il/article.php?id=175>

**EJ article “Zionism” or**

*Recommended Reading: Arthur Herzberg: The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader (Please read the Introduction) pp. 15-100*

**June 9 (Tuesday)** The Holocaust and its aftermath  
**Trepp Chapters 19, 20, 31, 33-35**  
**EJ article “Faith after the Holocaust”**

**June 11 (Thursday) and June 16 (Tuesday)** Judaism today, The Ottawa Jewish Community, Review and loose ends

<http://www.ujafedny.org/jewish-community-study-of-new-york-2011/>

Please read executive summary <http://www.ujafedny.org/get/196901/>

<http://jcpa.org/dje/articles2/conversion.htm>

<http://jewishreviewofbooks.com/articles/566/requiem-for-a-movement/>

**Last Day to withdraw (Academic):** June 16

## REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

### COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

### DATES AND DEADLINES

**Last day to withdraw (financial): with a full fee adjustment**

Early Summer: May 22. Full Summer May 22.

Late Summer: July 23.

**Last Day to withdraw (Academic):**

Early Summer June 16. Full/Late Summer: August 14.

### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term.

<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/>

For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** contact the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist

**Religious obligation:** contact the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment.

If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library