

Carleton University
College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 3842A - Summer 2011
Jewish Mysticism

Course Outline: Note, this outline is not final until the first day of class.

Instructor: M-Josee Posen

Office: 2A52 Patterson Office hours: Mon and Wed, 4:30-5:45 PM

Phone: 613 286 4683

Email: Josee_posen@carleton.ca

Lectures: July 4- August 15, 2011; Monday and Wednesday, 6:05-8:55 PM

Location: Southam Hall, Room 409

Course Description :

This course will provide an overview of the main ideas and principles of Jewish Mysticism. The concepts are expressed as symbols, and we will explore their evolution in historical context,

The first part of the course will examine early mysticism from the Second Temple period up to the late middle ages. It will focus on pre-Kabbalistic writings and the development of key concepts such as the sefirot and the tree of life, as well as the divine infinity.

The major part of the course will focus on kabbalah, the form of Jewish mysticism that exists today. Classical and Lurianic kabbalah will be examined, and we will explore kabbalistic ideas such as the unity of being, tzimtzum, tikkun, the feminine aspects of the divine, and the doctrine of the soul. We will also look at their affinities to 20th-21st century thought and consider the relevance of these concepts for contemporary North American spiritual seekers .

Textbooks

David Ariel, Kabbalah: The Mystical Quest in Judaism

Edward Hoffman (ed.), The Kabbalah Reader: A Sourcebook of Visionary Judaism.

A copy of each of these texts will be on reserve in the library.

These textbooks will be supplemented by specific additional readings and/or films made available in class periodically.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Class participation and attendance: 10%

Mid term: 30%; this will be a take home with 2 essay questions of 3-4 pages each, typed and double spaced.

Term paper: 30%; Due Wednesday, August 10; 8-10 pages, plus references, typed and double spaced

Final exam: 30%;

Class Schedule and Readings:

Class 1	July 4	Introduction; the nature of mysticism; principles; overview of Jewish theology and history	Ariel, p.1-14; 43-63
2	July 6	Proto Kabbalah: 2 nd Temple period; hekalot and merkavah mysticism. Middle ages;	Ariel, p.23-36; Hoffman, first 2 pages of introduction
3	July 11	Medieval Kabbalah: Sefer Yetzirah, Bahir; sefirot ; parallel influences	Ariel, p. 36-42; Hoffman, p. 3-10,
4	July 13	Zoharic Kabbalah: The nature of the Divine,the sefirot;	Ariel p.43—63;71-83; 95-111; Hoffman p.27-32
5	July 18	Lurianic Kabbalah: from Iberia to Eastern Europe; Zoharic themes; early Hasidism Take home midterm available.	Ariel, 171-183;Hoffman, p. 74-91.
6	July 20	Renaissance Kabbalah; magical elements and practical kabbalah; review of key symbols and principles	Supplemental to be provided
7	July 25	Mid term due. Hasidic Kabbalah: overview; tzaddik, devekut	Ariel, p. 183-193;Hoffman, p. 95-100,p.117-121
8	July 27	Erotic Kabbalah: Shekhinah,Lilith, sabbath	Ariel, p. 95-111; supplemental to be provided
9	August 3	Dialectical Kabbalah: Chabad; meditation, 20 th century revisions.	Ariel, p. 203-214; Hoffman, p.131-135; 147-153
10	August 8	Meditative Kabbalah: torah; soul; techniques of meditation	Ariel p.203-219;Hoffman p.171-189
11	August 10	21 st Century Kabbalah: the God concept; symbolic interpretation TERM PAPER DUE	Hoffman p.200-204, 213-227;Supplemental to be provided
12	August 15	Review and In –Class quiz	

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.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **EARLY SUMMER** courses is **JUNE 21, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FULL SUMMER and LATE SUMMER** courses is **AUGUST 16, 2011**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me 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. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

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 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library