

Introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam

ArtsOne

Fall 2009

RELI 1710-A: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:05-2:25 pm

Professor A. Geissinger

2A57 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-2:30 pm, or by appointment

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the history, theological ideas and practices of each of the three major monotheistic religions which have their roots in the Middle East—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. No previous knowledge of any of these religious traditions is assumed. The purpose of this course is not confessional—it will not attempt to persuade you to adopt any particular religious perspective.

Course Objectives

- To learn about the basic history, practices and theological ideas of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in a historical, critical and respectful way
- To examine the ways that these faith traditions have interacted with and influenced one another historically

Course Evaluation

Midterm Exam I—15%

Midterm Exam II—15%

Fieldwork Assignment—40%

Final exam—30%

Course Textbook

Theodore M. Ludwig, *The Sacred Paths of the West*, 3rd edition (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2001)

* If you buy this book second-hand, be sure to buy the third edition of the book.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

Thurs, Sept 10—Introduction to the course

Week 2

Tues, Sept 15—Introducing Judaism

Thurs, Sept 17--Judaism: history and sacred story

Reading: Ludwig, Ch. 6

Week 3

Tues, Sept 22—Judaism: worldview

Thurs, Sept 24—Judaism: beliefs

Reading: Ludwig, Ch. 7

Week 4

Tues, Sept 29—Torah and halakha

Thurs, Oct 1—Jewish rituals and worship

Reading: Ludwig, Ch. 8

Week 5

Tues, Oct 6—Judaism: issues

Thurs, Oct 8—Midterm Exam I (in class)

Week 6

Tues, Oct 13—Introducing Christianity

Thurs, Oct 15—Christianity: history and sacred story

Reading: Ludwig, Ch. 9

Week 7

Tues, Oct 20—Christianity: worldview

Thurs, Oct 22—Christianity: beliefs

Reading: Ludwig, Ch. 10

Week 8

Tues, Oct 27—Creeds and salvation

Thurs, Oct 29—Christian rituals and worship

Reading: Ludwig, Ch. 11

Week 9

Tues, Nov 3—Christianity: issues

Thurs, Nov 5—Midterm Exam II (in class)

Week 10

Tues, Nov 10—Introducing Islam

Thurs, Nov 12—Islam: history and sacred story

Readings: Ludwig, Ch. 12

Week 11

Tues, Nov 17—Islam: worldview ****Fieldwork Assignment due today in class**

Thurs, Nov 19—Islam: beliefs

Reading: Ludwig, Ch. 13

Week 12

Tues, Nov 24—Quran and Sharia

Thurs, Nov 26—Muslim rituals and worship

Reading: Ludwig, Ch. 14

Week 13

Tues, Dec 1—Muslim issues

Thurs, Dec 3—Future directions

Reading: Ludwig, Ch.15

Week 14

Tues, Dec 8—Course conclusion and review

COURSE POLICIES

Instructions for the fieldwork assignment

This assignment has two parts: (1) you attend a Jewish, Christian, or Muslim formal religious service, and (2) you write a report about it. An important purpose of this assignment is to sharpen your critical observation skills; therefore, you should choose to attend a service of the religious tradition with which you are the least familiar.

- You must attend a **formal** worship service (i.e. a Jewish Sabbath morning service, a Christian Sunday morning service, or a Muslim Friday Prayers service) which is held in a place that is specifically designated for worship (i.e. a synagogue, church or mosque). Other types of religious services (such as weddings, funerals or short evening services) are unlikely to provide you with the opportunity to make the sorts of observations that are required for this assignment. See the list of suggested sites below.
- Be sure to dress appropriately when attending the service. There is usually no need to wear a suit or formal dress, but do wear modest clothing. In general, dressing modestly means having your arms and legs fully covered. Men attending a Jewish synagogue do not have to bring their own kippa; if the congregation expects that all men will wear one, they will probably provide some near the front entrance. Women attending a Muslim mosque should cover their heads with a large scarf.
- Arrive at the service on time, and find a quiet place to sit and observe. Do what the rest of the congregation does (stand when they stand, etc). Pick up any written materials that might be available, and take advantage of any opportunities to ask questions (such as a coffee hour following the service, if there is one).

- **Do not** take notes during the service. However, you should make your notes as soon as possible after the service, while everything is still fresh in your memory.
- **Your paper must deal with all of the following points.** Organize your paper according to the rubric below, and use the following headings:

<i>Headings</i>	<i>Points to address</i>	<i>% of mark</i>
Identification	Identify the religious tradition, sect/denomination. Give the name and address of the place, the time of the service, and the type of service attended.	5%
Building	Describe the building, inside and out. What features indicate that it is a place of worship? Are any religious symbols visible? Is there any kind of art or decoration, and how does its presence/absence affect the worship experience? Is there a focal point in the worship space? Is the building or focal point oriented in a particular direction? Are different areas within the worship space marked off for particular purposes? (It is not necessary to describe any areas inside the building except for the worship space.)	20%
Congregation	How many people are present? How would you describe the composition of the congregation (age, gender, ethnicity)? Is there gender segregation? Are children present, and if so, are they actively participating? Describe the role of the congregation in the service.	15%
Leadership	What is the name, sex and approximate age of the person(s) leading the service? Are leadership roles indicated by dress or location? If there are different leaders with different functions, what are they?	15%
Service	Describe how the worship service unfolded in detail. How did it begin? Which part of the service seemed to be the most important? Were any symbolic objects used? What language(s) were used, and when? If there was music or chanting, describe it. Describe in detail what the sermon was about. To what extent did the congregation participate in the service?	30%
Impressions	What did the textbook and lectures lead you to expect that the service would be like? Did actually attending the service affirm or challenge these expectations, and how?	5%

5% is given for format (using the headings outlined above, using page numbers, writing 4-5 typed pages, double-spaced, 12-point type, 1-inch margins)

5% is given for the quality of writing. Please proofread your paper carefully. Spelling and grammar counts!

WARNING: You must write this paper entirely on your own, without looking at papers from past years. While you can attend a service with another student if you wish, your papers must be written independently. It is YOUR observations and YOUR experience that the paper is intended to record, not someone else's. See the section on plagiarism below.

If you have never written a paper like this before, you are strongly urged to contact the Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service (4th Floor, Library, 613-520-2600, ext. 1125) as soon as possible.

List of suggested sites

The following is a list of places of worship you may choose to visit. You may select another if you wish. (Do not call any of these places to ask permission; their office staffs are busy enough already.)

Jewish

Congregation Machzikei Hadas
2310 Virginia Drive, Ottawa
521-9700

<http://www.machzikeihadas.com/index.htm>

Details: Men should wear suit jackets; married women cover their hair.
Shabbat Services on Saturdays 8:30 am

Agudath Israel Congregation
1400 Coldrey Avenue, Ottawa
728-3501

For the times of Shabbat Services on Saturdays, check the website:

<http://www.agudathisrael.net/>

Temple Israel
1301 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa
224-1802
Shabbat Services on Saturdays 10:15 am

<http://www.templeisraelottawa.ca/>

Christian

St. Patrick's Basilica
281 Nepean Street, Ottawa
233-1125
Services on Sundays at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:15 pm (choose one)

<http://www.basilica.org/>

Christ Church Cathedral
Sparks & Bronson, Ottawa
236-9149
Sunday Service begins at 10:30 am

<http://ottawa.anglican.ca/cathedral/>

First Baptist Church
140 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa
234-3261
Sunday Service begins at 10:30 am
<http://www.firstbaptistottawa.ca/>

Muslim

Ottawa Mosque
251 Northwestern Avenue, Ottawa
722-8763
Friday Service begins at 12:25 pm
<http://www.omaonline.ca/>
Details: Dress code, modest clothing for men and women, head covering for women.
Women upstairs, men downstairs.

Fieldwork assignment policies

- **Do not submit your paper electronically.** A hard copy of the paper must be submitted in class, on the due date (Tuesday, November 17).
- Late penalties: There will be a penalty of 2% per day (including weekends) from the mark of your paper unless an extension has been arranged before the due date. Retroactive extensions will be granted only according to the rules of the university—personal and family emergencies (documentation must be provided). Extensions will not be granted because of exam or essay conflicts, jobs, busy schedules, etc.
- Late papers can be submitted to me in my office, or put in the drop box at the Religion and Classics Department (a large locked wooden box on the wall outside 2A39 Paterson Hall). Do not put them under my (or anyone else's) door; the cleaning staff may pick them up and throw them out.
- Papers that do not follow the directions outlined above (in content, appearance, number of pages) may be returned ungraded for resubmission. In such a case, late penalties will accrue from the due date, regardless of when the problem was discovered. It is important to read the directions carefully and follow them.
- Be sure to keep a hard copy of your assignment, and do a computer/disk back-up as well. Please submit the original for marking, not a photo-copy.

Exams

The dates for the mid-term exams are given in the course schedule; they will be written in class. Each exam will be made up of 50 short-answer and multiple-choice questions.

The final exam will have two parts: Part I will be 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions on Islam, and Part II will be another 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions relating to Judaism, Christianity, or to all three faiths. The time, date and place of the final exam are set by Carleton University: <http://www.carleton.ca/cu/programs/exam/index.html>

Note that you must pass the final exam in order to pass this course. If you fail the final exam (49.5% or lower), you will receive an F in the course.

The questions on all exams will be drawn from the lecture materials and readings.

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
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 Fall term courses is November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 I receive 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: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library