

Judaism

REL 224-001 | Fall 2019 | 3 Credit Hours

Lecture

Dr. Steve Jacobs

Contact Information

UA Campus Directory:

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Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

No prerequisites required.

Course Description

Course Description and Credit Hours

A study of some of the leading schools and interpreters of Judaism and a review of modern developments including the Holocaust and the State of Israel.

This Core course introduces Judaism and examines its history, philosophy, theology, holiday/festival and life-cycle calendars, as well as contemporary experiences, including the Holocaust/Shoah (1933-1945) and the rebirth of the Third Jewish Commonwealth/State of Israel in 1948.

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- ROSENFELD / WHAT IF'S OF JEWISH HISTORY (**Required**)
- KIRSCH, ADAM / THE PEOPLE AND THE BOOKS:18 CLASSICS OF JEWISH LITERATURE (**Choose One**)
- (EBOOK) KIRSCH, ADAM / THE PEOPLE AND THE BOOKS:18 CLASSICS OF JEWISH LITERATURE (**Choose One**)
- JACOBS / JEWISH EXPERIENCE (**Required**)
- JACOBS (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) JEWISH EXPERIENCE (**RENTAL**)

Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to the multi-dimensional world of the Jews and Judaism through a look at their historical and contemporary experiences, their thought world of texts, philosophy and theology, and their practices of holiday and life-cycle celebrations.
2. To contemporize the Judaic experience by examining those influences which mark the present moment in Jewish history: the influence of both the Holocaust/Shoah and the ongoing Arab/Palestinian-Israeli/Middle East Conflict.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. Students will be able to successfully--with a passing grade of 70 or better--to negotiate the "Jewish Literacy Survey" given at the beginning and end of the course in addition to a take-home/essay-style Final Examination concretely demonstrating their knowledge of the areas of Judaism covered in this course.
- 2. Students will demonstrate their writing proficiency through two (2) additional assignments of 5-7 pages and 7-10 pages the result of (a) a creative response to Rosenfeld's *What Ifs of Jewish History*, (b) a Research Paper, and/or (c) a Creative Project.

Other Course Materials

Possible additional handouts and/or other related materials will be provided by the instructor. Please see Blackboard Course Home Page for additional readings, etc.

Outline of Topics

1. The Nature of Jewish/Judaic Studies
2. Unpacking a Definition
3. Cycles of History
4. Cycles of Texts: Building the Foundations
5. Cycles of Thought: Judaic Philosophy
6. Cycles of Belief: Judaic Theology
7. Cycles of Time: The Jewish Calendar
8. Cycles of Life: The Life-Cycle Calendar
9. Cycles of the Here and Now: The 21st Century and Beyond
10. The Future of Judaism and the Jewish People

Exams and Assignments

1. 25% = Response/Creative Paper to Rosenfeld's What Ifs of Jewish History (5-7 pages; MS Word; 12-point font; double-spaced)
2. 50% = Research Paper (7-10 pages; MS Word; 12-point font; double-spaced)--topic of choice; OR Creative Project (with 2-page narrative summarizing the project--MS Word; 12-point font; double-spaced)

Grading Policy

A + = 99...; A = 94-98; A- = 90-94; B+ = 88-89; B = 84-87; B- = 80-83; C+ = 78-70; C = 74-77; C- = 70-73; D+ = 68-69; D = 64-67; D- = 60-63; F + = 58-59; F = 54-57; F- = 50-53

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

All missed responsibilities will be worked out on an individual basis with the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is *required* unless otherwise noted in the Calendar of Meetings.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/academic-misconduct-policy/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<https://ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy/>).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines (<https://provost.ua.edu/oa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance>).

UAct Statement

The UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/>) provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.