

Jewish-Christian Relations

REL 347-001 | 3 Credit Hours

Seminar

Dr. Steve Jacobs

Contact Information

UA Campus Directory:

- Dr. Steve Jacobs (<https://www.ua.edu/directory/?i=sjacobs#listing>)

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

No prereqs found

Course Description

Course Description and Credit Hours

Critical examination of the 2,000-year-old relationship focusing on areas of commonality and difference.

Historical study of the various points of contact and divergence between Judaism and Christianity, focusing on such topics as anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, the founding of the state of Israel, and diversity among Christian denominations.

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- **KESSLER / INTRO TO JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS (Required)**
- **KESSLER (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) INTRO TO JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS (RENTAL)**
- **CHEETHAM, DAVID / UNDERSTANDING INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS (Required)**
- **CHEETHAM, DAVID (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) UNDERSTANDING INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS (RENTAL)**

TBA

Course Objectives

To introduce students to the complex world of Jewish-Christian relations by examining eight (8) points of tension over the 2,000 years of relationship between Christians and Jews.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. Students will be able to summarize the eight (8) points covered in class through written and oral presentations (3 chapter summaries each), as well as class discussions and additional readings. Both written and oral grading evaluation grids/rubrics are included in the full syllabus.
- 2. **Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.** Written assignments require coherent, logical, and carefully-edited prose, and demonstrate high-level critical thinking skills, such as analysis and synthesis.
- 3. Students will be able to contribute to class discussions of issues of Jewish-Christian relations by submission of a well-crafted Response Paper.
- 4. Students will further contribute to class discussions on issues of Jewish-Christian relations through independent research papers or creative projects of their own choosing and oral presentations of their work. Both written and oral presentation grids/rubrics are included in the full syllabus.
- 5. Students will further demonstrate their knowledge of Jewish-Christian relations and related issues and concerns through class discussions, lecture presentations, additional readings, as well as essay-type questions contained in the Final Exam.
- **NOTE:** Students have the option of submitting any written assignment including the Research Paper in draft form for the instructor's input prior to the assigned due date.

Other Course Materials

Additional course materials--handouts, etc.--will be either provided in hard-copy or posted on the Blackboard Course Page.

Outline of Topics

1. Hebrew Bible vs. Old Testament
2. Jewish Messiah vs. Christian Jesus
3. Land of Israel vs. Holy Land
4. Jewish Movements vs. Christian Denominations
5. Holocaust/Shoah vs. Jewish & Christian Theology
6. Rabbinic Judaism vs. Early Christianity
7. Middle East Conflict/State of Israel vs. Apocalyptic Thought

8. Jewish Outreach vs. Christian Evangelism

Exams and Assignments

3 Chapter summaries , orally led class discussions (handouts optional)

1 Response Paper, 3-5 pages, MS Word, double-spaced

1 Research Paper, 7-10 pages, MS Word double-spaced or Creative Project (cleared with instructor)

1 Final Exam--essay-type questions, typed, MS Word, double-spaced

Grading Policy

10% = Class Participation

30% = Chapter Summaries

30% = Research Paper or Creative Project

30% = Final Exam

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

All make[up work will be worked out on an individual basis in consultation with the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required unless otherwise noted on 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.