

Judaism

REL 224-001 | Spring 2021 | 3 Credit Hours

Lecture

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 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 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 as well as the "American Jewish story".

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- JACOBS / JEWISH EXPERIENCE (Required)
- JACOBS (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) JEWISH EXPERIENCE (RENTAL)
- Kurtzer / The New Jewish Canon* (Required)
- Marmor, Michael / American Jewish Thought Since 1934 : Writings on Identity, Engagement, and Belief (Required)

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 several writing assignments and responses during the course.

Other Course Materials

Possible additional materials posted on the Blackboard Course Home Page will be provided by the instructor.

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: Jewish Philosophy
6. Cycles of Belief: Jewish 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

55% = 11 1-2 page Responses to Kurtzer & Sufrin (4), and Marmur & Ellenson (7) [5 points each]

25% = Research Paper (7-10 pages) OR Creative Project

20= Final Exam (4/5 Essay-Questions)

Grading Policy

90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F

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/aaa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance>).

UAct Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact (<https://www.ua.edu/uact>)) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Statement on COVID-19

All University faculty, staff, and students are expected to maintain a commitment to the health and safety of our campus community. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, specific health and safety standards are in place to minimize exposure and community spread on campus. In the interest of your health and safety and that of all UA students, faculty and staff, the University reserves the right to change the mode of instruction or schedule of instruction at any time, based upon prevailing public health and other guidance. While the method of delivery may change, educational instruction and opportunities will continue. As such, the University will not provide a refund of tuition, in whole or in-part, based on any such changes. Detailed information on changes in format or schedule can be found at studentaccounts.ua.edu (<https://studentaccounts.ua.edu>) and financialaid.ua.edu (<https://financialaid.ua.edu/>).

All students must be familiar with and abide by the requirements outlined in the UA Return Plan | UA System Comprehensive Health and Safety Plan. Students must (1) wear a mask or face covering at all times while participating in face-to-face class; (2) adhere to social distancing standards; and (3) comply with all other health and safety restrictions. If a student refuses to comply with the requirements, the student will be asked to leave the class and reported for a conduct violation. Unless a student has an exemption from the requirement to wear a face covering, (more information can be found at ods.ua.edu/covid-19-disability/ (<http://ods.ua.edu/covid-19-disability/>)), the student will be reported to Student Life for further disciplinary action. More information on these requirements and UA Healthcheck system and screening can be found at healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan (<https://healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan>). You are expected to visit the site and comply with all noted requirements related to in-person class attendance.

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REL 224--TEXTS

Kurtzer, Yehuda, and Claire E. Sufrin, eds. *The New Jewish Canon: Ideas & Debates 1980-2015*. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2020.

- I. Jewish Politics and the Public Square [18]
- II. History, Memory, and Narrative [18]
- III. Religion and Religiosity [15]
- IV. Identities and Communities [19]

Marmor, Michael, and David Ellenson, eds. *American Jewish Thought Since 1934: Writings on Identity, Engagement, & Belief*. Waltham: Brandeis University Press, 2020.

- I. God [1-10]
- II. Revelation and Commandment [11-22]
- III. Spirituality [23-32]
- IV. Hermeneutics and Politics [33-42]
- V. The Holocaust and Israel [43-55]
- VI. Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality [56-66]
- VII. Peoplehood [67-79]