

HS 100: Introduction to Judaism

Instructor: Dana Margolis

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Office Hours: M-W 11am-noon by appt (CRT 817)

Course Hours: M/W 12:30 – 1:45

Room #: Greene Museum

The purpose of this course is to present each student with an understanding of the major aspects of the Jewish religion. As such, it is not a course in Jewish history nor is it a course about the Jewish people, per se. Rather, it presents a thorough overview of the major components of Judaism's beliefs and rituals and the sources for them. It is important for the student to keep in mind that this is an *introductory* course and that each of the included subjects could be developed into a course on its own. Therefore, students are encouraged to pursue additional reading and research on specific subject areas that are of interest to them. Lastly, over nearly 6,000 years of existence, many different styles of Jewish observance have developed. Because even a cursory study of Jewish diversity would require a full semester unto itself, this course will focus on the following general core subject areas:

- Belief
- Jewish Text and the Development of Judaism
- Rituals
- Hebrew Calendar and the Holidays
- Life Cycle.

Course Requirements:

1. Reading Assignments:

Students are expected to complete all the reading assignments as detailed below and all additional reading assigned during the semester prior to the class to which they pertain. Preparation of the material is crucial to understanding the lectures and to being able to participate in class discussions.

2. Quizzes:

There will be 4 quizzes throughout the course of the semester; one at the end of each of the first 3 units and the one for the final 2 units given during the final exam period. These quizzes will be designed to assess the student's mastery of the reading and lectures for each unit. There will be NO make-up quizzes offered without proper evidence of excused absence. However the lowest grade quiz will be dropped and not figured into the semester grade for the course. Quizzes will be taken online via D2L according to the schedule presented in this syllabus. **Each quiz will make up 25% of the final grade for a total of 75%.**

3. Papers

One research paper will be due by the end of the semester but can be completed anytime throughout the course. The paper will require the student to further develop and research one of the core subjects discussed in class: Belief, Jewish Text and the Development of Judaism, Rituals, Calendar and Holidays, or Life Cycle. This paper will be the means for students to delve deeper into an area of interest that may be covered only briefly in class. Paper topics and specific guidelines are posted on D2L. **Papers should be submitted no later than noon on the last day of class via the dropbox on D2L. No late papers will be accepted without proper evidence of excused absence or prior permission from the instructor. The paper will be counted as 15% of the final grade.**

4. Class Participation & Attendance

Students are required to attend all classes and to participate in class discussions. Absences will be considered excused for religious holidays, medical necessity, or military call-up with proper documentation. Class attendance, preparation of reading materials and participation are critical to succeeding in this course. **Therefore, 10% of the final grade will be based on this aspect of the course.**

NOTE: If for any reason you are encountering difficulty or have a situation that may be preventing you from succeeding in the course, please see me as soon as possible.

Summary of Grading:

Quizzes: 25% each for a total of 75%

Paper: 15%

Class Participation: 10%

Reading Materials: (in order of use)

1. Course Reader - Clark Graphics 2915 N. Oakland Ave., 962-4633
2. Maimonides Principle: Foundations of Jewish Faith by Aryeh Kaplan – UWM Bookstore
3. Gateway to Judaism by Rabbi Mordechai Becher – UWM Bookstore

Recommended Reading

4. The Sabbath by Abraham Joshua Heschel
5. Jewish Way in Death & Mourning by Rabbi M. Lamm

Time Commitment & Scheduling:

Because every student is different; some are faster readers than others, some are stronger writers; and people come into the course with different backgrounds it is difficult to predict exactly how much time you will need to invest in this course. However, the following can be used as approximate guidelines to help you plan your time for the semester:

- In-class time: 37.5 hours (2.5 hours a week)
- Reading & Contemplation: 60 hours (4 hours a week)
- 3 Quizzes (studying for & completing): 15 hours
- Term Paper: 25 hours
- Final Quiz: (studying and taking) 8 hours

Jewish Studies Major/Minor

This course is part of the Jewish Studies major and minor. The major offers two tracks: Hebrew Studies and Jewish Cultural Studies (which does not require Hebrew language). With its combination of core courses and electives, the Jewish Studies program allows students to create a course of study that can focus on religion, culture, Israel, Holocaust, media, or immigration. A dynamic and innovative major, Jewish Studies prepares students to work in our multicultural world.

For more information on the Jewish Studies major and minor, please the coordinator, Dr. Rachel N. Baum, rbaum@uwm.edu; 229-5156.

- **JL – Jewish Literacy by Joseph Telushkin
- **JW – Jewish Wisdom by Joseph Telushkin

September 5	Introduction
September 10 - 26 Belief	
September 10	God & Monotheism Reader: God: Faith & Doubt Reader: Is God Necessary for Morality Reader: Monotheism Reader: Concise Book of Mitzvoth

September 12	Maimonides' Principles of Faith Reader: JL - Maimonides/Rambam Reader: 13 Principles Kaplan – Maimonides Principle
September 17 & 19	Jewish Law Reader: JL - Commandment/Mitzvah Reader: Halakha: The Jewish Way Reader: Ethical Writings of Maimonides
September 24 & 26	Israel & Jerusalem Reader: JL - If I Forget Thee... Reader: Israel & Jerusalem Reader: JW - The Land of Israel in
September 27 @ 8am – September 30 @ midnight	Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz #1 (ON D2L)
October 1 – October 29 Jewish Text and the Development of Judaism	
October 1 & 3	Introduction to Jewish Texts Reader: Jewish History Timeline Reader: Roadmap of Jewish Sources Gateway: Appendix II p. 475 - 486
October 8 & 10	Tanach (Hebrew Bible) Reader: JL - Tanakh Gateway: Appendix I p. 465 - 474
October 15 & 17	Mishna/Talmud/Oral Law Reader: JL - Oral Law
October 22	Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers) Reader: Ethics from Sinai Intro Reader: Perek IV Mishna I
October 24	Code of Jewish Law Reader: JL - The Code of Jewish Law
October 29	Kaballah Reader: JL - Kaballah Reader: JL - The Zohar Rishonim/Acharonim/Responsa Reader: JL - Rashi
October 29 @ 2pm – October 31 @ 9am	Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz #2 (ON D2L)
October 31 - November 14 Ritual	
October 31	Prayer Gateway p. 427 – 450 Reader: To Be a Jew: Prayer Reader: Jewish Values: Prayer Reader: Cycle of the Jewish Year: Liturgy

November 5	Study Reader: JL – Torah Study/Talmud Torah Reader: Jewish Values: Study Reader: JW - Study
November 7 & 12	Sabbath Gateway p. 95 – 107 Reader: JL – Sabbath/Shabbat Reader: Jewish Values: Sabbath Reader: Cycle of the Jewish Year: The Sabbath
November 14	Dietary Laws Reader: JL – Kosher/Kashrut Reader: A Diet for the Soul Gateway p. 293 - 300
November 14 @ 2pm – November 18 @ midnight	Quiz Quiz Quiz Quiz #3 (ON D2L)
November 19 – 28 Hebrew Calendar and Holidays	
November 19	Intro to Jewish Calendar Gateway p. 81 - 91 General Concepts on Yom Tov (Holy Days) Reader: Festivals
November 21	No Class Thanksgiving Holiday
November 26 & 28	Specific Holidays Reader: JL – Listing of Jewish Holidays Gateway p. 115 - 246
December 3 - 12 Life Cycle	
December 3	Bris/Naming Ceremony Reader: JL – Circumcision/Brit Milah Gateway p. 43 - 46 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Reader: JL – Bar Mitzvah & Bat Mitzvah Gateway p. 48 - 49
December 5	Wedding & Marriage Gateway p. 15 - 29 Reader: JL - Aufruf
December 10	Divorce Reader: JW – Divorce Reader: JL – Even the Altar Sheds Tears Gateway p. 29 - 30 Conversion Reader: JL – Converts/Ger Reader: JW - Converts
December 12	Death & Mourning Reader: JL – Burial Society/Chevra Kadisha Jewish Way in Death & Mourning (recommended) Wrap – Up and Evaluations

December 12 by noon Submitted via D2L dropbox	Last Day to turn in papers
December 14 @ 8am – December 16 @ midnight	FINAL QUIZ (ON D2L)

For additional information regarding University policy please visit <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>