



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2020**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 369

COURSE NAME: Introduction to Judaism

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Electronic Course Through Desire2Learn

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Asynchronous Delivery

INSTRUCTOR: Laura Jurgens

EMAIL: lkjurgen@ucalgary.ca

PHONE: (403) 220-5612 (Campus Office)

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT POLICY: Please use email as the primary contact method. Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. Please be courteous. Inquiries related to a test must be sent no less than 24 hours before. I am also happy to talk with students, so please make an appointment with me over email, if you wish to chat.

OFFICE HOURS:

By appointment, so that I can schedule meetings based on student's needs and their schedules. Please email to set up appointment.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT: An introduction to the major practices, beliefs, institutions and religious literature of the Jewish religion, as developed from antiquity to modern times.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide students with an opportunity to explore Judaism. This is an introductory course focusing on major practices, beliefs, and religious literature of the Jewish religion, as developed from antiquity to modern times. This course will explore Jewish diversity, scripture, worship, Jewish beliefs about the afterlife, important festivals and celebrations, Jewish ethics, sex, sexuality, and key historical events.

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L). This course will occur asynchronously. This means that there are no "real-time" or "live" lectures. Rather, students will complete the material for each module on their own time (example: complete the readings, watch videos, etc.). Students will have access to audio lectures recorded by the instructor.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Committed students will become familiar with the historical background and chronological development of Judaism. Students will also be knowledgeable of the basic religious practices and tenants, festivals, and religious literature of Judaism. Students will also be exposed to different Jewish ways of living.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Textbook: Stephen Wylen, *Settings of Silver: An Introduction to Judaism* (Mahwah: Paulist Press, 2000). Please note, this textbook is required for this course. It is free and available online as an eBook through the University of Calgary library: https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1vibdgm/TN_pq_ebook_centralEBC4716918

Additional free, online readings (like academic articles or sections of eBooks) are listed on Desire2Learn.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS

There is a Desire2Learn site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca). Students will complete all tests and submit all assignments through Desire2Learn. There is no “live” or synchronous component to this class. In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking an online course, like this one, are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system
- A current and updated web browser
- Broadband (strong) internet connection

CLASS SCHEDULE

<i>September 8 – First Day of Classes</i>		
Schedule	Topic	Readings
Weeks 1 & 2 (September 8 – September 22)	Module One: Jewish Diversity	Stephen Wylen, What is a Jew?, 15-22 Morton Weinfeld, Elements of Jewish Diversity, 16-40
Weeks 3 & 4 (September 22 – October 6)	Module Two: Scripture and Worship	Stephen Wylen, Torah, 22-35 God, 36-45 Israel, 45-60

		<p>Service of God, 63-68</p> <p>Dietary Laws, 72-74</p> <p>Worship, 75-82</p>
<p>Week 5</p> <p>(October 6 – October 13)</p>	<p>Module Three:</p> <p>Death and the Afterlife</p>	<p>Stephen Wylen, Death, 71-72</p> <p>World to Come, 82-91</p>
<p>October 15 – Test #1 (Open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.)</p>		
<p>Weeks 6 & 7</p> <p>(October 13 – October 27)</p> <p>Submit Activity #1 by October 26</p>	<p>Module Four:</p> <p>Festivals and Celebrations</p>	<p>Stephen Wylen, Shabbat, 91-98</p> <p>Holy Days, 99-109</p> <p>Passover, 110-119</p> <p>Other Sacred Days, 120-127</p>
<p>Week 8</p> <p>(October 27 – November 6)</p>	<p>Module Five:</p> <p>Jewish Ethics</p>	<p>Hilary Putnam, Jewish Ethics?, 59-165</p>
<p>November 8 – 14 – Reading Week (Weeks 9 & 10)</p>		
<p>Week 11</p> <p>(November 16 – November 23)</p> <p>Submit Activity #2 by November 16</p>	<p>Module Six:</p> <p>Judaism, Sex, and Sexuality</p>	<p>Melanie Malka Landau, Good Sex, 93-102: PDF Posted on D2L</p>
<p>November 23 – Test #2 (Open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.)</p>		
<p>Weeks 12 & 13</p> <p>(November 23 – December 9)</p>	<p>Module Seven:</p> <p>History</p>	<p>Stephen Wylen, First Century, 130-143</p> <p>Sanhedrin, 144-152</p> <p>Rabbinic Literature, 153-160</p>

		Modern Judaism, 224-238 Anti-Semitism, 238-251; 282-288
December 9 – Test #3 (Open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.)		
December 9 – Last Day of Classes		

EXAMINATIONS

There is no final exam in this course.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Deadline	Assessment	Weight (%)
Thursday, October 15	Test #1	20
By Monday, October 26	Activity #1	25
By Monday, November 16	Activity #2	20
Monday, November 23	Test #2	20
Wednesday, December 9	Test #3	15

Assessment Descriptions:

Tests #1-3 (55%): Tests will be completed through Desire2Learn and will be based on the required readings, the audio lectures, and videos from the modules. Tests will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. (Calgary time) on the date assigned for each test. Students are expected to take the test within that period. Each test will also be individually timed, requiring students to complete the test in one sitting and within a specified time limit. Students are expected to complete these tests independently and students are not allowed to work with others or have others write their tests for them as this would count as academic misconduct.

Activity #1 (25%): Students will watch the documentary titled *Unorthodox* (a link will be made available on Desire2Learn). Students will write a response to the film. Students will first provide a short summary of the documentary and then analyze several discussion questions in their response. Students may submit this activity early. It must be submitted by Monday, October 26th at 11:59 p.m. (Calgary time) to the appropriate Dropbox on Desire2Learn. Submissions received after this date will receive the late penalty. More information will be provided on Desire2Learn.

Activity #2 (20%): Students will watch one specific episode from the documentary series titled *Strictly Kosher* (a link will be made available on Desire2Learn). Students will write a response to the episode. Students will first provide a short summary of the documentary and then analyze several discussion questions in their response. Students may submit this activity early. It must be submitted by Monday, November 16th at 11:59 p.m. (Calgary time) to the appropriate Dropbox on Desire2Learn. Submissions received after this date will receive the late penalty. More information will be provided on Desire2Learn.

Extra Assignments: There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete all tests and assignments within the allotted time. If you do not complete a test within the specified time given, contact your instructor as soon as possible. If a student is unable to complete a test due to technical issues (interruption of Internet service or computer, server malfunction, etc.), the student must notify the instructor within 24 hours via email. It is important for students to ensure that they have access to dependable Internet and power sources. For example, if your battery dies, it will not be considered an acceptable reason for failing to complete the test. For students who experience technical issues, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. In the meantime, document your technical issues with a screenshot to show the instructor. With regards to assignments, they will be deducted 15% each day (24 hours) that it is overdue. For example, if the assignment is due on Monday by midnight, then the late penalty takes effect on Tuesday at 12:01 a.m. Then, 15% is deducted every day (15% on Tuesday, then another 15% on Wednesday at 12:01 a.m. etc.).

GRADING

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate tests and assignments. It is not necessary to pass each test or assignment separately in order to pass the course. In other words, there are no assessments that are graded "pass/fail." The instructor will implement a standard measure of .5% adjustment for rounding up grades. For example, 59.5% will be rounded up to 60%. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests are not rounded up). Please do not send emails asking the instructor to "round-up" your final grade. See the University's undergraduate grading system: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

There is an expectation that all writing is your own. This means that you do not directly copy material from other sources or another person. This also means that you do not paraphrase (re-write) someone else's work in your own words without also citing (providing a citation, like a footnote) to show where you found the information. This is very important as plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your work must be your own and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, or librarian staff.

All writing assignments (including the activities) will be assessed on both form and content. This means that writing skills are important for your writing assignments. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments (Activity #1 and #2) must be submitted to the Dropbox on Desire2Learn. Assignments must be submitted in either a Word or PDF format. Submissions that do not adhere to these file formats may be considered "late" until the proper format is provided. Assignments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (Calgary time) on their due dates.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Wellness and Mental Health Resources: The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre: The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office: The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca. Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Student Union (SU) Information: The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suypaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>

