

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

04/08/25

**RELS 369 L01
Introduction to Judaism
MW 3-4:15 p.m.**

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Hughes
Office: SS 1308
Office Hours: TBA
Phone: 220-7063

Course Summary

This course is an introduction to Judaism, both its history and its beliefs and rituals. The course will see Jewish thought and practice not as a monolithic or fixed religious system, but as the ongoing production of a long and diverse tradition of dialogue between the contemporary and the ancient. The syllabus will be divided roughly into thirds. For the first third we will outline a broad historical narrative of Judaism and the Jewish people. In the second third, we move to a survey of some of central theological categories and ideas that make up the core of Jewish belief. The final section of the course will offer a look at religious practice according to Judaism's traditional sources: liturgy, holy days, rites of passage, and Sabbath. Throughout the course, we will look at the ways that Judaism has variously adapted and responded to historical change, including the great challenges of modernity.

Core Competencies

By encouraging students to begin to appreciate the depths and nuances of Jewish civilization, this course will teach them to think critically and creatively about the many significant ways in which religion has shaped and continues to shape the human experience.

Required Books

Rayner and Goldberg, The Jewish People: Their History and Their Religion
Kukoff and Einstein, Every Person's Guide to Judaism
A decent Bible (Oxford, JPS, or NRSV)
Weekly handouts (which will be found outside my office)

Requirements

Midterm (Oct. 20)	30%
Term-paper (Dec. 6)	35%
Final (take-home)	35%

NB: A) The grade for a missed examination, **unexcused beforehand**, will be F with no makeup [in the event of an emergency, please call me in my office 220-7063, or leave a message in the main office 220-6988]; b) latecomers to examinations will only have the time remaining in which to complete their work; c) sorry, **no** makeup examinations will be scheduled to accommodate travel plans.

There will be no Registrar scheduled final examination in this course.

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:

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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first approved be by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

Safewalk Program :

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Schedule of Classes

Section One: History

Week One (8/9):

Intro to class

Week Two

13/9

Readings:

The Torah: Sacred Myth of Origins

R&G, chs. 1-2; Genesis chs. 12, and 15-22; Exodus 1-6; Deuteronomy 26; 2 Samuel 7

15/9

Readings:

The Temple and Cult to Babylonian Exile

R&G, ch. 3; Deuteronomy 12; Leviticus 19-21; 1 Kings 12

Week Three

20/9

Readings:

Second Temple Period

R&G, chs. 4-5; 1 Maccabees (note, not found in every Bible)

22/9

Readings:

The Birth of Judaism?

R&G, ch. 6

Week Four

27/9

Readings:

Rabbinic Culture and Life after the Temple

R&G, pp. 210-217; K&E 141-147; Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Jeremiah 22: 1-5; Ezekiel 5: 5-8; handouts.

29/9

Readings:

Diasporas: Judaism Under Islam and Christianity

R&G, ch. 7, and pp. 218-227

Week Five

4/10

Readings:

Mysticism and Messianism

R&G, chs. 9-12; handouts

6/10

Readings:

Encounters with Modernity

R&G, chs. 10-12

Week Six

13/10

Readings:

Movements: Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative

K&E, chs. 21-22

Week Seven

18/10

Readings:

The Shoah and After

R&G, chs. 13-14

20/10

Midterm

Section Two: BELIEF

Week Eight

25/10

Readings:

God

Genesis 1-3; Isaiah 66: 1; Psalm 132: 13-14; handouts

27/10 Readings:	Covenant and Law handouts; recommended: Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors"
Week Nine	
1/11 Readings:	Israel R&G, pp. 259-292; Genesis 32; Isaiah 60; handouts
3/11 Readings:	Women handouts
Week Ten	
8/11 Readings:	Evil and Theodicy handouts
<u>Section Three: PRACTICE</u>	
10/11 Readings:	Communities in Practice R&G, pp. 314-334; K&E, pp. 3-4
Week Eleven	
15/11 Readings:	Daily Life: Blessings, Liturgy, Kashruth R&G, pp. 335-339; K&E, ch. 15; Leviticus 10-11; Deuteronomy 6; Handout
17/11 Readings:	The Week: Sabbath K&E, ch. 1; R&G, pp. 335-344; Genesis 1:1-2:1; Exodus 16; 20: 8-11; Deuteronomy 5: 12-15; Numbers 15: 32-36; handouts
Week Twelve	
22/11 Readings:	The High Holy Days: Rosh ha-Shana and Yom Kippur K&E, chs. 2-3; Genesis 18, and 21-22; Leviticus 16
24/11 Readings:	The Year: The Pilgrimage Festivals (Succot, Passover, Shavuot) R&G, pp. 345-363; K&E, chs. 4, 6-7; Exodus 12, 34; Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 26
Week Thirteen	
29/11 Readings:	Other holidays K&E chs. 5, 8-11
1/12 Readings:	Life Cycle K&E, chs. 14, 15, 16-17
Week Fourteen	
6/12	Life Cycle, cntd.
8/12	Review