



Faculty of Arts
Dept. of Religious Studies
Course Outline

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Religious Studies 469.07 L01
Kabbalah and Jewish
Mysticism

Course Outline, Fall 2011
MW: 12:30 - 1:45 pm

Instructor:

Eliezer Segal

Office:

SS 1314

Office Hours:

Monday 1:45 p.m. or by appointment

Telephone:

(403) 220-3279 or
(403) 220-5886 (Department office)

Internet:

email:

eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca

Course Web Site:

<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/JewishMysticism/>

Textbooks:

G. Scholem, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*

E. Wolfson, *Circle in the Square*

Sample primary texts in English will be distributed to the class periodically.

Course Description:

This seminar will explore the major forms of Jewish mysticism and esoteric doctrine, as expressed in writings from the Second Commonwealth until the present day. Emphasis will be placed on the subject of visual imaging of the divine as a feature of Jewish spirituality.

Among the topics to be dealt with in the classroom or in the students' research are the following:

- The mysticism of the Second Temple and Rabbinic eras: "The Work of the Chariot" and "The Work of Creation."
- Pre-Kabbalistic mystical writings: *Heikhalot*, *Shi'ur Qomah*, *Sefer Yeşirah* and *Sefer Ha-Bahir*.
- German pietism (*Hasidut Ashkenaz*).
- Classical Kabbalah: the doctrine of the *Sefirot*, and the *Zohar*.
- Ecstatic Kabbalah, as in the teachings of Abraham Abulafia
- Lurianic Kabbalah and its offshoots (messianic movements, etc.)
- Eastern European Hasidism.
- Modern and contemporary Jewish mysticism.

Course Requirements:

Short paper assignment

The short paper assignment (approximately five pages / 1,500 words) will consist of **either**:

a) a critical summary of a relevant scholarly article

or

b) a commentary on a passage from a primary text.

The article or primary text will be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Major research paper

Students will be required to submit a research paper of approximately 4,000 words (fifteen printed pages). Topics should be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Oral presentation

In addition, each student will be expected to give a twenty-minute oral presentation on one of their paper topics. This presentation should not be a reading of their written work, but should be geared to the classroom situation.

Short paper assignment (due November 14)	20%
Major research paper (due December 9 by e-mail or to the Religious Studies Department drop box, SS 1301)	50%
Oral Presentation (to be scheduled individually)	20%
Class participation	10%

**There will be no registrar scheduled final examination in this course.*

Grading System:

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. Following the final examination, a letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme (standardized within the Department of Religious Studies):

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	50 or less

Plagiarism:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity, as set down in the University Policies.

Academic Accommodation:

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the

commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.
(DRC web address is: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/.](http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/Others/DRC/))

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>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.