



## Department of Religious Studies Course Outline

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Religious Studies  
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*November 26, 2007*

**Religious Studies 469.07 L01**

Course Outline, Winter 2008

**Kabbalah and Jewish  
Mysticism**

Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

**Instructor:**

Eliezer Segal

**Office:**

SS 1314

**Office Hours:**

Tues 12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

or by appointment

**Telephone:**

220-3279

**Internet:**

**Email:**

eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca

**Course Web Site:**

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

**Textbook:**

G. Scholem, *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism*

E. Wolfson, *Through a Speculum That Shines*

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 study of representative primary texts, and on in-class student presentations.

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 Komah*, *Sefer Yetzirah* 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:

Students will be required to submit two research papers of approximately fifteen printed pages each. Topics should be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

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.

Paper #1 (due March 4)	40% or 30% <sup>*</sup>
Paper #2 (due April 17)	40% or 30% <sup>*</sup>
Oral Presentation (to be scheduled individually)	20%
Class participation	10%

<sup>\*</sup> The paper with the highest grade will be counted for 40%

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):

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