



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

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Religious Studies 369 L01

Introduction to Judaism

Instructor:

Office:

Office Hours:

Telephone:

Internet:

Course Outline, Fall 2010

MWF 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

Eliezer Segal

SS 1314

M 10:50 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

or by appointment

403-220-5886 (main office)

Email:

eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca

Course Web Site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/RelS369/>

Textbook:

E. Segal, *Introducing Judaism* (Routledge)

or:

E. Segal, *Judaism: the e-Book* (may be purchased from:
<<http://www.jbeonlinebooks.org/eBooks/judaism/>>)

Course Description:

This course will present a survey of developments in Jewish practice, belief and institutions from the close of the biblical era to the present day.

Students will be introduced to the distinctive features associated with Judaism in various eras, and the major works of Jewish religious literature. Attention will be devoted to the values, beliefs and rituals that developed within the diverse historical and cultural settings in which Judaism took root.

Students will be assumed to have prepared the assigned readings for each class session (see the Preliminary Timetable below). The lectures will not repeat the contents of the textbooks. Rather, they will provide opportunities to discuss the assigned readings, to focus on specific issues, and to supplement the information contained in the textbooks. Every member of the class will have an opportunity to lead a discussion about an issue that arises from one of the class topics.

Note that this is a course on the Jewish *religion*. It will not deal directly with the national or political history of the Jewish people, nor with the attitudes of other religions towards Jews and Judaism.

Course Requirements:

	Item	Date Due	% Weight
1	Mid-term test, based on assigned readings and lectures.	October 25, 2010	30%
2	One-page research outline. Should include: topic, research question and preliminary bibliography.	November 26, 2010 [Feel free to submit it earlier!]	5%
3	Research essay, approximately 2000 words (seven double-spaced pages).	December 10, 2010	25%
4	Discussion question: Each student will come prepared to lead a ten-minute discussion on a question of their choice at one of the class sessions.	[Students will be assigned their dates during the first two weeks of classes]	5%
5	Final Examination	To be scheduled by the Registrar	35%

There will be a Registrar's office scheduled final examination in this course.

Suggestions for paper topics, bibliographies and other guidelines may be found on the course web site.

Grading System:

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. At the conclusion of the course, 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	Less than 50

Plagiarism:

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

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/>.)

Preliminary Timetable

Topic	Chapters in: E. Segal, <i>Introducing Judaism</i> or: <i>Judaism: the eBook</i>	Dates
Introduction to the Course		Sep 13, 2010
The Biblical Legacy	1	Sep 15, 2010
The Second Temple Era 1	2	Sep 17, 2010
The Second Temple Era 2	2	Sep 20, 2010
Judaism of the Talmud and Midrash 1	3	Sep 22, 2010
Film: The Shaping of Traditions		Sep 24, 2010
Judaism of the Talmud and Midrash 2	3	Sep 27, 2010
Medieval Judaism	4	Sep 29, 2010
Film: The Crucible of Europe		Oct 1, 2010
Medieval Jewish philosophy	5	Oct 4, 2010
Kabbalah	6	Oct 6, 2010
The Modern Era 1: Emancipation and Enlightenment	7	Oct 8, 2010
The Modern Era 2: Religious Reform	7	Oct 13, 2010
The Modern Era 3: Positive-Historical Judaism	7	Oct 15, 2010
The Modern Era 4: Orthodoxy	7	Oct 18, 2010
The Modern Era 5: Judaism in the New World	7	Oct 20, 2010
Review	1-7	Oct 22, 2010
Mid-term Test	1-7	Oct 25, 2010
Devotion to One God	8	Oct 27, 2010
God and the World	9	Oct 29, 2010
Israel's Sacred History	10	Nov 1, 2010
Guide to Research		Nov 3, 2010
Life after Death	11	Nov 5, 2010
The Mystic path 1	12	Nov 8, 2010
The Mystic path 2	12	Nov 10, 2010
Wisdom and Scholarship 1	13	Nov 15, 2010
Wisdom and Scholarship 2	13	Nov 17, 2010
Justice and Morality	14	Nov 19, 2010
Jewish Education	15	Nov 22, 2010
Places of Worship	16	Nov 24, 2010
Judaism and Daily Life 1	17	Nov 26, 2010
Judaism and Daily Life 2	17	Nov 29, 2010
Judaism and Daily Life 3	17	Dec 1, 2010
The Sacred Calendar 1	18	Dec 3, 2010
The Sacred Calendar 2	18	Dec 6, 2010
The Sacred Calendar 3	18	Dec 8, 2010
Life Cycle Observances	19	Dec 10, 2010