



Faculty of Humanities
Dept. of Religious Studies
Course Outline

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Religious Studies 369 L01

Introduction to Judaism

Instructor:

Office:

Office Hours:

Telephone:

Internet:

Course Outline, Winter 2010

MWF 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.

Eliezer Segal

SS 1314

M 11:50 a.m. - 12:50pm

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.

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.	Feb 26 2010	30%
2.	Research essay, approximately 2000 words (seven double-spaced pages).	April 16 2010	35%
3.	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 guidelines will be provided at a later date. Students should consult the instructor if they have any doubts about the appropriateness of their topic; and you are encouraged to submit preliminary drafts for comment.

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	50 or less

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/.](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		Jan 11, 2010
The Biblical Legacy	1	Jan 13, 2010
The Second Temple era 1	2	Jan 15, 2010
Film: The Shaping of Traditions		Jan 18, 2010
The Second Temple era 2	2	Jan 20, 2010
Judaism of the Talmud and Midrash 1	3	Jan 22, 2010
Judaism of the Talmud and Midrash 2	3	Jan 25, 2010
Medieval Judaism	4	Jan 27, 2010
Medieval Jewish philosophy	5	Jan 29, 2010
Kabbalah 1	6	Feb 1, 2010
Kabbalah 2	6	Feb 3, 2010
The modern era 1: Emancipation and Enlightenment	7	Feb 5, 2010
The modern era 2: Religious reform	7	Feb 8, 2010
The modern era 3: Positive-Historical Judaism	7	Feb 10, 2010
The modern era 4: Orthodoxy	7	Feb 12, 2010
The modern era 5: Judaism in the New World	7	Feb 22, 2010
Review		Feb 24, 2010
Mid-term Test		Feb 26, 2010
Devotion to one God	8	Mar 1, 2010
God and the world	9	Mar 3, 2010
Israel's sacred history	10	Mar 5, 2010
Guide to Research		Mar 8, 2010
The mystic path 1	12	Mar 10, 2010
The mystic path 2	12	Mar 12, 2010
Wisdom and scholarship 1	13	Mar 15, 2010
Wisdom and scholarship 2	13	Mar 17, 2010
Justice and morality	14	Mar 19, 2010
Jewish education	15	Mar 22, 2010
Places of worship	16	Mar 24, 2010
Judaism and daily life 1	17	Mar 26, 2010
Judaism and daily life 2	17	Mar 29, 2010
Movie (TBA)		Mar 31, 2010
Judaism and daily life 3	17	Apr 7, 2010
The sacred calendar 1	18	Apr 9, 2010
The sacred calendar 2	18	Apr 12, 2010
The sacred calendar 3	18	Apr 14, 2010
Life cycle observances	19	Apr 16, 2010