

CJS 200H1F

Introduction to Jewish Thought

Monday, 1pm - 3pm
Sidney Smith Hall, Room 2105

INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Sol Goldberg (Course Coordinator)

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Sidney Smith Hall, 5016H

Office Hour: Monday 1pm - 2pm

DESCRIPTION

This course will familiarize students with key texts, ideas, and personalities in the Jewish intellectual tradition from the Bible to the present. The course will have four sections: (1) Reason and Revelation; (2) Is Jewish Philosophy possible after Spinoza?; (3) The Jewish Quest for Past and Future; and (4) Exile or Diaspora? The Political Teaching of the Book of Esther. The goal of the course is to introduce students to central questions in Jewish thought and to various approaches they might adopt in their own efforts to answer them.

“BLACKBOARD”

All of the course readings will be available on “blackboard.” Please log-in to portal.utoronto.ca, and follow the instructions in order to find this course. It is essential that you check “blackboard” regularly, as instructions for all assignments and notifications about any last-minute changes will be posted there.

EVALUATION

For each of the four sections of the course, there will be a writing assignment of approximately four pages. Each assignment will be worth 22% of the final grade. The remaining 12% of the final grade will be based on attendance and participation.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Participation is important. It means not only contributing to class discussion but also listening respectfully to the views of others. If you have a problem (e.g., shyness) that will inhibit your ability to participate in class discussion, please inform the course coordinator.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

- October 9
- November 6
- December 4
- December 18

LATE WORK

For each day your work is late without , its score will be docked 5%, and it will not be accepted after 7 late days (weekends included). If you have legitimate and **documented** reasons for not being able to complete your assignment, these penalties will not apply.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of using the ideas or work of another person as if it were one's own. As plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the University, students are strongly cautioned to use all appropriate documentation to credit any sources used in compiling their own work. Sometimes plagiarism is partial and accidental rather than complete and intentional, resulting from inexperience in academic writing. But ignorance is not an excuse for plagiarism. For more information about how not to plagiarize, visit:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

LECTURE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM? BIBLICAL, GREEK, & MODERN ANSWERS-
S. GOLDBERG

9/12 Exodus 24
Plato, The Cave Allegory
Franz Kafka, Before the Law

SECTION I- REASON AND REVELATION - R. GIBBS

9/19 Exodus 19-20 & Deuteronomy 5-6
9/26 Emmanuel Levinas, "Revelation in the Jewish Tradition"

SECTION II- IS JEWISH PHILOSOPHY POSSIBLE AFTER SPINOZA?- S. GOLDBERG

10/3 Baruch Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise* (Preface & Chapter 3)
Solomon Maimon, Autobiography (Chapters 15 & 20)
10/10 THANKSGIVING- NO CLASS
10/17 Hermann Cohen, *Religion of Reason* (Introduction)
10/24 Franz Rosenzweig, "Apologetic Thinking"
Michael Walzer, "Universalism and Jewish Values"

SECTION III- THE JEWISH QUEST FOR PAST AND FUTURE - K. GREEN

10/31 Leo Strauss on Why We Remain Jews
11/7 FALL BREAK - NO CLASS
11/14 Gershom Scholem on the Dialectic of Jewish History
11/21 Emil Fackenheim on the Holocaust and Diabolical Evil

SECTION IV - EXILE OR DIASPORA? THE POLITICAL TEACHING OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER - C.
ORWIN

11/28 Book of Esther

12/5 Book of Esther