

CJS 200H1F 2013
Introduction to Jewish Thought
Monday, 10am – 12pm
Sidney Smith Hall, Room 2105

DESCRIPTION

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to the broad field of Jewish thought. Its goal is to familiarize students with key texts, ideas, and personalities in the Jewish intellectual tradition from the Bible to the present in order to highlight various ways in which the field's central questions are asked and answered. The course is divided into four sections. Although the themes from different sections overlap, each is essentially a mini-course.

SECTIONS

1. Dr. Sol Goldberg (sol.goldberg@utoronto.ca)
 - September 9: Loyalty, piety, and modern Jewish identity
 - September 16: Biblical images of "foreign worship": a jealous God and His unfaithful people
 - September 23: Some reasons to remain (and others not to remain) a Jew
 - Assignment 1 Due: October 1

2. Prof. Naomi Seidman (nseidman@gtu.edu)
 - September 30: The traditional spirituality of Jewish women
 - October 7: Dimensions of Jewish secularization
 - October 21: Sexuality, secularization, and the emergence of modern Jewish literature
 - Assignment 2 Due: October 29

3. Prof. Dan Avnon (danavnon@netvision.net.il)
 - October 28: Judaism's raison d'être: a Buberian reading
 - November 4: Judaism as a ("Jewish and democratic") state
 - November 18: Civic education in Israel
 - Assignment 3 Due: November 26

4. Dr. Zvi Septimus (zvi.septimus@utoronto.ca)
 - November 25: The rise of Rabbinic Judaism
 - December 2: Talmud and the canonization of Jewish thinking
 - December 4 (Wednesday): The thought of Maimonides: ethics and the rationale behind the Biblical commandments
 - Assignment 4 Due: December 10

EVALUATION

Each assignment is worth 25% of the final grade. The assignment for each of the course's four sections will be approximately 1000 words. Hardcopies of the assignments are to be submitted to Emily Springgay (cjs.toronto@utoronto.ca) at the Centre for Jewish Studies (located at JHB 218). The CJS is open until 5pm Monday to Thursday and until 4:00 on Friday.

LATE WORK

Assignments submitted after the due date will be docked 3% per day. If you have legitimate and **documented** reasons for not being able to complete your assignment, these penalties will not apply. Questions about extensions or appropriate documentation for late submissions should be directed to the course's Teaching Assistant, Robbie Kennedy (robbie.kennedy@mail.utoronto.ca).

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>

"BLACKBOARD"

All of the course readings will be available on "blackboard." Please log-in to www.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.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Students with diverse needs are welcome in this course. Please contact the Accessibility Centre for needs assessment, referrals and arrangements. The instructors will be glad to provide whatever assistance is necessary. <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Please switch off cell-phones before class; do not talk to your classmates; use laptops only for taking notes. Distraction of other students is unacceptable.