

RS3320: Introduction to Judaism

The University of Texas at El Paso

Summer I 2022

Online

Instructor: Chavah Schwartz

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Portrait of Adele Bloch-Blauer I – Gustav Klimt (1907)

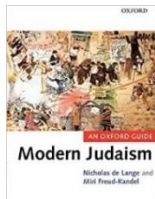
“...everything has a past. Everything - a person, an object, a word, everything. If you don’t know the past, you can’t understand the present and plan properly for the future.”

- Chaim Potok, *Davita's Harp*

Course Description:

What is Judaism? Judaism has been described as a religion, a race, a culture, and a nation. Each of these descriptions offer different representations of Judaism and what it can entail. How we approach these different representations can shape our understanding of Judaism and what it is. An academic approach allows us to deal with questions like, “Is Judaism a *religion*?”, “Is Judaism a *nation*?”, and “Is Judaism a *race*?” This sort of investigation allows us to deal with Judaism as a unique complexity of history, religion, and philosophy. The goal of this course is to introduce students to Judaism by studying the different contributions offered by the academic study of Judaism.

Required Text:



COVER

Nicholas de Lange & Miri Freud-Kandel. *Modern Judaism: An Oxford Guide (First edition)*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

ISBN-13: 9780199262878 | ISBN-10: 019926287X

Grading:

Discussion Boards – 30%

Quizzes– 30%

Midterm – 15%

Final – 25%

Course Policies:

This is a college level course, and the amount of assigned work reflects that fact. *It is up to each student to maintain their responsibilities to this course.* This course is only four weeks long and taught entirely online which means that we will be moving through the material at an accelerated rate. Given

this situation, it is important that students understand the course policies and expectations to ensure an environment where everyone can be successful.

Discussion Board Etiquette – Students are always expected to be courteous and respectful towards one another. Any inappropriate or offensive behavior will not be tolerated. Should this become an issue with any student during the semester, the student will not be allowed to participate in the discussion boards and will not receive credit for those missed. Any offenses that violate university policy will be reported and handled by the appropriate authority.

Late Work & Make-up Policy – Any work submitted late will only be eligible for half-credit. If a link is no longer available, then submission for credit is no longer possible. Given the brevity of this course, retroactive arrangements for missed work will not be offered.

Extra Credit – Please understand there is no obligation to provide extra credit opportunities. Additional arrangements beyond what is detailed here will not be made. There will be one opportunity for extra credit to count toward the midterm exam and a second opportunity for extra credit to count toward the final exam. More information about these assignments will be provided in the modules.

Course Drop – Students are responsible for initiating and completing course drops. Faculty drops for this course will not be offered. For more information: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/students/registration.html>

Email:

In accordance with university policy, all email correspondence will be done *exclusively* through our UTEP email addresses. Emails sent from other accounts will not be opened or viewed. Please allow at least a 24-hour window for response. For more information: <https://www.utep.edu/information-resources/iso/policies/>

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:

“Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the *Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP)*, and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and on the homepage of the Dean of Students at www.utep.edu/dos, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.” For more information: <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=73922>

Graduate Student Requirements:

“Undergraduate courses approved for graduate credit require additional work, the amount and nature of which to be determined by the instructor.” For more information: <http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/the-graduate-school/general-degree-requirements/>

Disability Accommodations:

“UTEP seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals with disabilities, including learning disabilities. This university will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required affording equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with The Center for Accommodations and Support Services within the first two weeks of classes, and inform the faculty member to arrange for appropriate accommodations.”

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS): <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>
Union East Building Room 106
Phone: (915) 747-5148
Email: cass@utep.edu

*Given the brevity of this course, it is important for students to address any necessary accommodations within the first week of class. Retroactive arrangements do not apply.

Blackboard:

Blackboard will be used throughout the semester for modules, announcements, assigned readings, assignment submissions, grades, etc. *Please make sure to plan ahead and anticipate technological issues.* If experiencing issues with Blackboard, do not hesitate to contact the Help Desk for troubleshooting and assistance.

Technology Support Help Desk: <http://helpdesk.utep.edu>
Phone: 915-747-HELP (4357)
Email: helpdesk@utep.edu
Location: 3rd floor of Library, Room 300

Modules – Modules will become available on the Home Page in Blackboard beginning on the scheduled date (page 5). They will provide brief outlines of the assigned readings with an emphasis toward the module’s goals and objectives. These modules are intended to help clarify the purpose of each assigned reading and to help guide students through the ideas presented. Students are ultimately responsible for keeping up with all assigned readings and should not rely solely on the information provided in the modules to complete assignments. All materials provided by the instructor are for the use of students enrolled in this course and are not to be further disseminated.

Class Assignments & Requirements:

Discussion Boards:

Students will be responsible for participating in four discussion boards worth a total 30% of the final grade. Each discussion board will detail the necessary requirements for full credit. The purpose of this assignment is to see that students are keeping up with the assigned readings and can substantially contribute to an academic discussion about the ideas presented. Late submissions will only be eligible for half-credit and will not be accepted beyond the scheduled availability.

Quizzes:

Students will be responsible for completing four quizzes worth a total 30% of the final grade. Each quiz will cover the assigned readings from the module and must be completed by the scheduled deadline (page 5). The purpose of this assignment is to see that students are keeping up with the assigned readings and can answer questions about the ideas presented in the readings. Late submissions will only be eligible for half-credit and will not be accepted beyond the scheduled availability.

Midterm Exam:

Students will be responsible for completing a midterm exam worth 15% of the final grade on **Friday, June 17th, 2022**. The exam will cover the assigned readings from modules 1-2 and consist of multiple-choice questions. The exam will become available in the module on the scheduled date beginning at midnight and will be due by 11:59 p.m. MST. Any exams submitted late will only be eligible for half-credit and will not be accepted beyond the scheduled availability. More details will be provided before the exam date.

Final Exam:

Students will be responsible for completing a final exam worth 25% of the final grade on **Friday, July 1st, 2022**. The final exam will be comprehensive and consist of multiple-choice questions. The exam will become available in the module on the scheduled date beginning at midnight and will be due by 11:59 p.m. MST. Any exams submitted late will only be eligible for half-credit and will not be accepted beyond the scheduled availability. More details will be provided before the exam date.

**Failure to complete any of the requirements will negatively impact the final grade for this course.*

Grading Scale:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 59% and below

SCHEDULE: (Provisional)

	READING(S)	ASSIGNMENT(S)
	*Key: MJ – Modern Judaism: An Oxford Guide BB – Blackboard	*All deadlines are at 11:59 p.m. MST, unless stated otherwise.
WEEK 1: 6/6 – 6/10	<u>Module 1: What is Judaism?</u> General Introduction (MJ) <i>Jewish Studies in North American Colleges & Universities</i> – Baskin (BB) <i>Judaism in the History of Religions</i> – Neusner (BB) <i>Jewish Studies Is Too Jewish</i> – Hughes (BB) <i>Too Jewish Studies (Response to Hughes)</i> – Braiterman (BB)	Discussion Board 1 & Quiz 1 – DUE 6/10
WEEK 2: 6/13 – 6/17	<u>Module 2: Is Judaism a Religion?</u> <i>Modernist Movements</i> – Freud-Kandel (MJ) <i>Traditionalist Strands</i> – Don-Yehiya (MJ) <i>American Jewry</i> – Waxman (MJ) <i>Prayer and Worship</i> – Langer (MJ) <i>The Authority of Texts</i> – de Lange (MJ)	Discussion Board 2 & Quiz 2 – DUE 6/17 MIDTERM EXAM – 6/17
WEEK 3: 6/20 – 6/24	<u>Module 3: Is Judaism a Race?</u> <i>Enlightenment and Emancipation</i> – Dubin (MJ) <i>Persecution</i> – van Pelt (MJ) <i>A National Home</i> – Ottolenghi (MJ) <i>Post-Zionism</i> – Ottolenghi (MJ) <i>Covenant</i> – Ochs (MJ)	Discussion Board 3 & Quiz 3 – DUE 6/24
WEEK 4: 6/27 – 7/1*	<u>Module 4: Is Judaism a Culture?</u> <i>Social Issues: survey</i> – Goldberg (MJ) <i>Jewish Identities</i> – Kopelowitz (MJ) <i>Contemporary Issues in Halakhah</i> – Resnicoff (MJ) <i>Gender Issues: survey</i> – Heschel (MJ) <i>The Changing Role of the Woman</i> – Baskin (MJ)	Discussion Board 4 & Quiz 4 – DUE 7/1 FINAL EXAM – 7/1

*6/30: Last day of classes