

RS3350.002: Women and Judaism

The University of Texas at El Paso

Spring 2022

Online

Instructor: Chavah I. Schwartz

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Golda Meir, *Ten Portraits of Jews of the Twentieth Century* – Andy Warhol (1980)
Retrieved from: <https://thejewishmuseum.org/collection/30854-golda-meir>

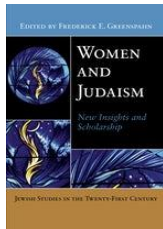
“One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present.”

- Golda Meir, *My Life* (1973)

Course Description:

What is the academic study of Women and Judaism? Women’s lives and experiences in Judaism have historically been overlooked and misunderstood as an area of Jewish learning and understanding. Now an area of contemporary academic study, the field highlights the academic value of capturing women’s lives and experiences in Judaism by investigating different representations of women throughout Judaism – in sacred text, in prayer and ritual, in traditional Jewish law, and in modern Jewish society. For our study this means we will consider how women are represented in both traditional and modern Judaism. The goal of this course is to gain an understanding and appreciation for what the study of Women and Judaism offers as an academic field of study.

Required Text:



COVER

Frederick E. Greenspahn, ed. *Women and Judaism: New Insights and Scholarship (Jewish Studies in the Twenty-first Century, 5th volume)*. NYU Press, 2009.

ISBN-10: 0814732194 | ISBN-13: 978-0814732199

Grading:

Discussion Boards – 25%

Reading Reflections – 25%

Essay – 10%

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.* Since this is an ‘asynchronous’ online course, it is

important that students take the time to understand all course policies and expectations to ensure that this is 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. If this becomes an issue with any student during the semester, the student will not be allowed to participate in discussion boards and will not receive credit for those missed. Any offenses that violate university policy will be documented and reported to the appropriate authority.

Late Work & Make-up Policy – Any work submitted late will only be eligible for half-credit. It is important that students are keeping up with all assignments and deadlines. Once a grade has been finalized, additional or retroactive arrangements will not be made.

Extra Credit – Please understand that there is no obligation to provide extra credit opportunities so 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 toward the final exam. More information about these assignments will be provided on Blackboard.

Course Drop – Students are responsible for initiating and completing any 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 any other accounts will not be opened or viewed. Make sure to include your name and course information in all emails. 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.” For more information about accommodation policies: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/ada-policies/>

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS): <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

Location: Union Building East Room 106

Phone: (915) 747-5148

Email: cass@utep.edu

Blackboard:

This is an online course that will use Blackboard for weekly announcements, readings, grades, assignment submissions, etc. Make sure to take the time to familiarize yourself with Blackboard and the course layout. *Please make sure to plan ahead and anticipate technological issues.* Do not hesitate to contact the Help Desk for troubleshooting and assistance with any issues. Support services this semester available by phone, email, chat, and service request.

UTEP Technology Support: <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

Location: 3rd floor of UTEP Library, Room 300

Phone: 915-747-HELP (4357)

Email: helpdesk@utep.edu

Modules – Modules will become available in Blackboard beginning on the scheduled date (page 5-6). The modules will provide brief outlines of the assigned readings with an emphasis toward the objective and goals of the module. These modules are intended to help clarify the purpose of the assigned readings 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.

Class Assignments & Requirements:

Discussion Boards:

Students will be responsible for participating in five discussion boards worth a total 25% of the final grade. Each discussion board will detail the necessary requirements for full credit and must be

submitted by the scheduled deadline (page 5). The purpose of this assignment is to see that students understand the ideas presented in the assigned readings and can substantially contribute to an academic discussion about those ideas with their peers. 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 five quizzes worth a total 25% 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

Essay:

Students will be responsible for submitting an essay on **Friday, April 29th, 2022** worth 10% of the final grade. The essay prompt and submission link will be available in module 7 and must be completed by the scheduled deadline. 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 on **Friday, March 11th, 2022** which will comprise 15% of the final grade. The midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and cover material from modules 1-3. The exam will become available in the module on the scheduled day beginning at midnight and will be due by 11:59 p.m. MST. Any exams submitted late will only be eligible for half-credit. Exams will not be accepted beyond the scheduled availability.

Final Exam:

Students will be responsible for completing a final exam on **Monday, May 9th, 2022** which will comprise 25% of the final grade. The exam will be comprehensive and consist of multiple-choice questions. The exam will become available in the module on the scheduled day beginning at midnight and will be due by 11:59 p.m. MST. Any exams submitted late will only be eligible for half-credit. Exams will not be accepted beyond the scheduled availability.

**Failure to complete any of the requirements will severely affect the final grade for the course.*

Grading Scale:

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

SCHEDULE: (Provisional)

	ASSIGNED READING(S):	ASSIGNMENT(S):
	*Key: WJ – Women and Judaism: New Insights and Scholarship BB – Blackboard	*All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. MST unless stated otherwise.
Weeks 1-3: 1/18 – 2/4	<u>Module 1: What is the academic study of Women & Judaism?</u> <i>Studies in Judaism</i> – Neusner (BB) <i>Jewish Studies in North America</i> – Baskin (BB) <i>We Are Also Your Sisters</i> – Plaskow (BB) <i>Intro.: Four Approaches to Women and the Jewish Experience</i> – Baskin (WJ)	Discussion Board 1 & Quiz 1 – due 2/4
Weeks 4-5: 2/7 – 2/18	<u>Module 2: Women and Traditional Judaism, Pt. 1</u> Ch.1: <i>Jewish Feminist Approaches to the Bible</i> – Fuchs (WJ) Ch.2: <i>Women and Torah Study in Aggadah</i> – Weisburg (WJ) <i>Rabbinic Judaism and the Creation of Woman</i> – Baskin (BB)	Discussion Board 2 & Quiz 2 – due 2/18
Weeks 6-7: 2/21 – 3/4	<u>Module 3: Women and Traditional Judaism, Pt. 2</u> Ch.3: <i>Women and Jewish Law</i> – Hauptman (WJ) Ch.5: <i>The Mystical Spirituality of Eastern European Women</i> – Weissler (WJ) <i>Jewish Women, Marriage Law, and Emancipation</i> – Dubin (BB)	Discussion Board 3 & Quiz 3 – due 3/4
Weeks 8-9: 3/7 – 3/18	<u>Module 4: MIDTERMS</u>	MIDTERM EXAM – 3/11 Spring Break: 3/14 – 3/18
Weeks 10-11: 3/21 – 4/1	<u>Module 5: Women & Modern Judaism, Pt. 1</u> Ch.6: <i>How Central European Jewish Women Confronted Modernity</i> – Freidenreich (WJ) Ch.7: <i>Women and American Judaism</i> – Nadell (WJ) <i>Gender and the Shaping of Modern Jewish Identities</i> – Hyman (BB)	Discussion Board 4 & Quiz 4 – due 4/1
Weeks 12-13: 4/4 – 4/15	<u>Module 6: Women & Modern Judaism Pt. 2</u> Ch.8: <i>Women’s Transformation of Contemporary Jewish Life</i> – Fishman (WJ) Ch.9: <i>Women in Jewish American Literature</i> – Horowitz (WJ) <i>Epilogue: Women and Judaism</i> – Greenspahn (WJ)	Discussion Board 5 & Quiz 5 – due 4/15
Weeks 14-15: 4/18 – 4/29	<u>Module 7: What is the academic study of Women & Judaism?</u> <u>(revisited)</u>	Essay – due 4/29

Weeks 16-17: 5/2 – 5/13	<u>Module 8: FINALS</u>	FINAL EXAM – 5/9
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*3/14-3/18: Spring Break

3/25: Cesar Chavez Day – no classes

5/6: Dead Day – no classes