

COURSE SYLLABUS
JEWISH LIFE: BIBLE TO MIDDLE AGES
THEO-3730

PLACE: St. Louis University, Madrid Campus, PRH 5

TIME: Spring 2018, TR 11:00-12:15

PREREQUISITE: THEO-1000 and one 2000-level theology course

CURRICULUM: 3 credits, fulfills theology requirement for A&S

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Carolina A. Aznar, e-mail: carolinaana.aznar@slu.edu (please write: "Jewish Life" as subject title). Office telephone: 91 554 58 58, ext. 247

OFFICE HOURS: TR 10:00-11:00; 12:30-13:30 and MW 12:30-13:30 at SIH 312

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a study of the Jewish people during the Biblical period, its response to the rise of Christianity, how it was affected by the destruction of the Second Temple and its use of Rabbinic law and lore. Students will also examine the Jewish life cycle, the holiday cycle, and synagogue worship, paying particular attention to Jewish life in Europe

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester students:

- Will know the development of the Jewish history and its most important highlights, paying special attention to the European region (from class 9)
- Will be familiar with the Tanakh and the Talmud are, how they are structured, and will be able to interpret some texts with historical-critical and literary-critical methods
- Will know the basics of Jewish life, particularly in relation to the life cycle, holidays, and worship
- Will be able to summarize basic theological concepts of Judaism (such as Torah, *mitzvot*, Temple, Jerusalem, Messiah and Israel) in their own words, explain the relationships between two or more theological concepts, and identify the historical and/or contemporary relevance of these concepts
- Demonstrate critical thinking by analyzing themes, concepts, and presuppositions of theological discourse

SKILL ACQUISITIONS

By the end of the semester students:

- Will have the elements to appreciate the religious and wisdom wealth of the Jewish tradition,
- Will have done some research on topics related to Judaism in general and in Europe in particular,
- Will have become aware of the richness and challenges of working together with class members from different cultural backgrounds by discussing topics in class.

Collection of Student Work for University-Wide Assessment

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, the Campus regularly assesses its teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs is

kept on file, such as assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of student work for this course, including written assignments, in-class exercises, and exams may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If students prefer that Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus does not keep their work on file, they need to communicate their decision in writing to the professor.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary texts

- Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures - The New JPS Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text* (Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society: 1985)
- Berlin, A. and M.Z. Brettler. *The Jewish Study Bible* (Oxford, Oxford University Press: 2014).
- Lieber, D.L. and J. Harlow. *Etz Hayim: Torah and Commentary* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society: 2001).
- Scherman, N. *Tanach: The Torah, Prophets, Writings: The Twenty-Four Books of the Bible, Newly Translated and Annotated. The Stone Edition* (Brooklyn, Mesora Publications: 2011)
- Neusner, J. *The Mishnah: A New Translation* (New Haven, Yale University Press: 1988).
- Steinsaltz, A. *The Essential Talmud. 30th Anniversary edition* (New York, Basic Books: 2006).

Books on the Bible and Judaism

- Ben-Sasson, H.H. (ed.) *A History of the Jewish People*. 10th printing (Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press: 1997).
- Brettler, M.Z. *How to Read the Jewish Bible* (Oxford, Oxford University Press: 2005).
- Coogan, M.D. *The Old Testament. A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures* (Oxford, Oxford University Press: 2006).
- Coogan, M.D. (ed.) *The Oxford History of the Biblical World* (Oxford, Oxford University Press: 1998).
- Donim, H.H. *To Pray as a Jew: A Guide to the Prayer Book and the Synagogue Service* (New York, Basic Books: 1980).
- Dossick, W.D. *Living Judaism. The Complete Guide to Jewish Belief, Tradition, and Practice* (New York, HarperOne: 1995).
- Efron, J.M, S. Weitzman and M.B. Lehmann. *The Jews: A History* (London, Routledge: 2013).
- Gerber, J.S. *The Jews of Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience* (New York, Free Press: 1994).
- Kagan, I.M. *The Concise Book of Mitzvoth: The Commandments which Can Be Observed Today* (New York, Feldheim: 1990).
- Kugel, J.L. *The Bible as It Was* (Cambridge, Ma, Harvard University Press: 1997).
- Kugel, J.L. *How to Read the Bible: A Guide To Scripture, Then and Now* (New York, Free Press: 2007).
- Lau, I.M. *Practical Judaism* (Tel Aviv, Modan: 1997).
- Mendes-Flohr, P. and J. Reinharz. *The Jews in the Modern World: A Documentary History* (Oxford, Oxford University Press: 2010, 3rd. edition).
- Schama, S. *The Story of the Jews, Vol. One: Finding the Words 1000 BC-1492 AD* (New York, Ecco: 2017)
- Vanderkam, J.C. *An Introduction to Early Judaism* (Grand Rapids, MI, Eerdmans: 2001).
- Wasserstein, B. *Vanishing Diaspora: The Jews in Europe Since 1945* (Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press: 1997).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The final grade will be based on the following percentages:

Class participation:	10%
Mid-term exam:	30%
Journal:	30%
Final exam:	30%

1. **Class participation** is a part of the final grade. Active participation includes attending class regularly, doing the readings assigned for each class, being able to present and discuss the assigned readings, doing any class-related homework the instructor asks students to do, answering the questions posed by the professor in class, asking and discussing content-related questions when appropriate, and being considerate to one's classmates, which includes not interrupting and/or mocking them, and taking one's fair share of discussion time. As a general guideline, students who participate regularly and actively in a way that shows meaningful engagement with the material may receive a participation grade of A. Students with good attendance but less engaged participation may receive a grade of B. Students who are frequently absent, rarely participate, and/or show inconsiderate behavior, may receive a grade of C, D or F, depending on the case. The instructor takes frequent notes on students' participation, so after three or four weeks into the course, you can ask her how you are doing in this respect at any point.

2. Students will take a **mid-term exam on February 15 and a final exam on May 4**. Study guidelines will be provided for each of them two weeks before the exam is due.

3. Students will write a double-spaced, 16-20 page long **journal** recording and commenting eight current written or taped news related to Jewish life (two of them on Jewish life in Israel, two of them on Jewish life in the US and four of them on Jewish life in a region in Europe) according to the guidelines the instructor will provide in class. **Students will submit articles 1 and 2 of the journal on February 6** (2/8 of the journal grade), **articles 3 and 4 on March 8** (2/8 of the journal grade), **and articles 5-8 on April 19** (4/8 of the journal grade). **On May 3 students will present their finds about the situation of the Jews in Europe orally in a joint class presentation.** The presentation will not be graded, but failing to participate in it will be penalized (see below).

4. All students will **complete the on-line course evaluation** at the end of the semester.

Please, note that all students need to **meet with the instructor on a one-to-one basis** on January 23-February 1. Not doing so will decrease a student's participation grade.

Also, please note that class on T April 3 has been substituted for class on F February 9 and class on R April 5 has been substituted for class on F March 16.

Notice that all written assignments must be submitted double-spaced, page-numbered, typed and printed. They must be submitted in class. **E-mail submission of assignments is not acceptable** and does not count towards the grade (i.e. an e-mailed assignment counts as not submitted) unless the instructor sends the student an e-mail explicitly saying he/she can e-mail his/her assignment. In the assignments, bibliography and attachments will be placed at the end and will not count towards the page account. Cover pages are not needed.

All due assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the class on the due date. Submitting an assignment at the end of the class of the due date will count as submitting it late and therefore will be penalized as such. **If for any reason a student could not submit his/her assignment on time or make it to the final exam, he/she should contact the instructor BEFORE the due date** to discuss what the options are (the only exception to this are justified medical emergencies).

All students in this class have a slU e-mail account (i.e. an e-mail address ending in slU.edu)—both their Banner and SLU-Global accounts are linked to it. Therefore, all e-mail communications between the instructor and the students will be take place by using the slU email system. **It is each student's responsibility to get to know his/her slU e-mail address, to check it works on the first day of class (R Jan. 11), to check it regularly (or to have the mail from this address forwarded to a preferred account which is checked regularly), and to speak with the people at the Registrar's Office (in Padre Arrupe Hall) if there is any problem with it.**

For bibliography for the assignments, please **make sure you check the SLU book catalogue** (at <http://spain.slU.edu/academics/library/index.html>) **as well as the ATLA, JSTOR and WorldCat) databases** (at <http://libraries.slU.edu/databases/databases.php#dbname>). To use the latter, you will need your SLU-Madrid login and password. If you do not know or have them yet, go to the Registrar's Office at Padre Arrupe Hall and ask for them there. Keep in mind that many of the articles and books found in the ATLA and WorldCat (FirstSearch) Database may be retrieved in Madrid at the libraries of the Universidad Complutense, Universidad Autónoma, Universidad Pontificia de Comillas and/or the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. But for saving time, look for bibliographic resources on the internet first.

For the origins of Judaism you can also find useful articles at *Bible Review* and *Biblical Archaeology Review* and *Archaeology Odissey* (<http://www.basarchive.org>). These are not scholarly journals but popular magazines. However, the authors who write in them are scholars and many of the articles are summarized versions of similar, more detailed articles in scholarly journals. So you can use their articles, especially if you do not have access to the scholarly journal where the original version is published.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <https://www.slU.edu/madrid/campus-life/student-services/disability-services>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slU.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information

about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading scale is as follows:

93-100	= A	- Excellent understanding of subject matter and mastery of the skills of the course
90-92	= A-	
87-89	= B+	
83-86	= B	- Good understanding of the subject matter and deployment of the skills of the course
80-82	= B-	
76-79	= C+	
71-75	= C	- Minimally satisfactory understanding of the subject matter and deployment of the skills of the course
68-70	= C-	
60-67	= D	- Less than satisfactory understanding of the subject matter or less than satisfactory deployment of the skills of the course
0 -59	= F	- Basic failure in understanding of the subject matter or basic inability to deploy the skills of the course

The following are general principles concerning grading standards and criteria at SLU:

A range = *Superior, exceptional, outstanding* with evidence of critical, informed, and creative inquiry that deepens their understanding of essential concepts. This means the student demonstrates depth of insight beyond what is normally expected. Carefully nuanced reasoning and writing, free from material, structural and grammatical error are presupposed in this grade.

B range = *Good*, ready command of full range of concepts and shows some critical, informed, and creative inquiry that deepens their understanding of essential concepts. This means the student has produced an assignment that is free from material, structural and grammatical errors.

C range = *Acceptable*, satisfactory ability to describe overall picture and essential concepts. This means the student has completed the assignment in a manner involving no significant errors. Material may not be free from structural and grammatical errors. Nuanced reasoning is not demonstrated.

D range = *Below normal expectation*. Reasoning is neither carefully nuanced nor coherently presented; writing is insufficient in depth of insight and/or use of texts; presentation is not free from material error in structure, spelling and grammar. This means that the student failed to respond adequately to the assignment and its intentions.

F = *Unsatisfactory*. The student failed to respond to the assignment: 1) failed to turn in the assignment; 2) did not respond to the assignment as given; 3) submitted work so thoroughly flawed as to indicate that the student did not make a serious effort, 4) plagiarism or cheating involved.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY AT SLU

Please note that, as a student in this course, you are required to adhere to the university's Academic Integrity Policy. Cheating, falsification, and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Plagiarism is the intentional representation of someone else's thoughts or words as if they were one's own. A violation of this policy will result in an F for the given assignment or exam where the violation is detected. In addition, the violation will be reported to the chair. In consultation with the professor, the chair will write a report, which will then be sent to the Madrid Campus Committee on Academic Honesty.

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office **website**. Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals. The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Laptops, tablets and mobile phones are acceptable for class work. However, the use of these tools for things such as e-mailing, chatting, text messaging and surfing sites not related to the class is not acceptable and will be penalized (see below).

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PENALTIES

- Repeated unjustified absences: one full letter of the participation grade will be decreased for each three unjustified absences (e.g. from B to C). Please, note that only medical emergencies count as justified absences.
- Being late: one third of the participation grade letter will be decreased for each two days in which this situation takes place (e.g. from B- to C+).
- Lacking knowledge of the assigned readings and/or not having done assigned homework: one third of the participation grade letter will be decreased for each day in which any of these two situations takes place (e.g. from B- to C+).
- Unauthorized use of mobile phones, tablets or laptops in class: one third of the participation letter will be decreased each time this happens. Unauthorized use includes e-mailing, chatting, text messaging, and surfing internet sites not related to the class.
- Not visiting with the professor in her office on Jan. 23-February 1: one third of the assignment letter will be decreased.
- Submitting an assignment late: one third of the assignment letter will be decreased for each day of delay in submitting it. After one week no late submissions will be accepted and the assignment will be graded as 0 (=F).

- Submitting an assignment in the middle of or at the end of the class when it is due: one third of the assignment letter will be decreased.
- Not presenting the results of the student's journal on the European Jews: one full letter of the journal grade will be decreased.
- Missing the class on Jewish worship given by a guest speaker (Date TBA): one full letter of the participation grade will be decreased.
- Students who missed the introduction on the first day of class (Jan. 11) must stay after class on Jan. 22 for fifteen minutes. Not doing so will be penalized: one third of the student's participation grade will be decreased.

Please, note: **If for any reason a student could not submit his/her assignment on time or make it to the final exam, he/she should contact the instructor BEFORE the due date** to discuss the situation (the only exception to this are justified medical emergencies).

TITLE IX STATEMENT

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>

COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. What is Judaism? Who is a Jew?

II. HISTORY OF JUDAISM

2. Sources to study the history of the Jewish people
3. The Patriarchs. The Exodus
4. The emergence of the Israelites in Canaan
5. The United Monarchy
6. The Divided Monarchy - The 9th and 8th centuries BCE
7. The Divided Monarchy - From the 7th century BCE to the Exile in Babylon
8. The Persian, Hellenistic and Herodian Periods
9. The First Century AD – The Response to the Rise of Christianity
10. The Second and Third Centuries AD
11. The Fourth-Sixth Centuries AD
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12. Midterm exam
13. Overview: From the Seventh to the Seventeenth Century AD
14. Overview: From the Eighteenth Century to the birth of the state of Israel
15. Overview: From 1948 to 2018, Judaism in the world today

III. THE JEWISH LIFESTYLE

16. Jewish literature I
17. Jewish literature II
18. The Jewish life cycle I
19. The Jewish life cycle II
20. The Jewish life cycle III
21. Jewish days and holidays I
22. Jewish days and holidays II
23. Jewish days and holidays III
24. Jewish worship I
25. Jewish worship II (movable depending on the speaker's availability)
26. Jewish living I
27. Jewish living II
28. Jewish beliefs
29. Class presentations: The Jews in Europe today
-
30. Final exam

COURSE GENERAL SCHEDULE*

- Week 1: - R Jan. 11
- Week 2: - T Jan. 16
- R Jan. 18
- S Jan. 21: Last day to Add/Drop (without "W"). Last day to choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No pass (P/NP) status
- Week 3: - **T-R Jan. 23-Feb. 1: Every student must speak with the instructor during office hours**
- T Jan. 23
- R Jan. 25
- Week 4: - T Jan. 30
- R Feb. 1
- Week 5: - **T Feb. 6: First journal submission**
- R Feb. 8
- **F Feb. 9: Class (instead of class on April 3)**
- Week 6: - T Feb. 13
- W Feb. 14: Registration for Summer 2018 sessions begins
- **R Feb. 15: Midterm exam**
- Week 7: - T Feb. 20
- R Feb. 22: No class (Winter Break)
- Week 8: - T Feb. 27
- R March 1
- Week 9: - T March 6
- **R March 8: Second journal submission**
- F March 9: Last day to drop with "W"
- Week 10: - T March 13
- R March 15
- **F March 16: Class (instead of class on April 5)**
- Week 11: - T March 20
- R March 22
- Week 12: - T March 27: No class (Semana Santa)
- R March 29: No class (Jueves Santo Holiday)
- Week 13: - T April 3: No class (substituted for class on F February 9)
- W April 4: Registration for Fall Semester begins
- R April 5: No class (substituted for class on F March 16)
- Week 14: - T April 10
- R April 12

- Week 15: - T April 17
 - **R April 19: Final journal submission**
- Week 16: - T April 24
 - R April 26
- Week 17: - T May 1: No class (Día del Trabajador holiday)
 - **R May 3: Class presentations on the Jews in Europe today**
 - **F May 4: Final exam (12:00-15:00)**

*** PLEASE, NOTE: The dates in this general schedule are tentative. They depend on class progress and circumstances and will be matched to the topics in the course topic list according to the instructor's indications.**