

141.11

Intro to Judaic Studies (Tentative)

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Overview:

A study of the literature of the Jewish people from its roots in the Hebrew Bible to Modern times, with special emphasis given to its influence on early Christian thought.

Objectives:

At the end of this course students will:

- Be able to identify the timeline of events leading to Rabbinic Judaism.
- Be able to articulate 4 models currently used to define Judaism.
- Be familiar with the range of Second Temple and Post Second Temple Jewish Texts
- Relate the teachings of Jesus with the social and historical background of 1st century Judaism
- Appreciate the Jewish contributions to the development of early Christianity

Required Texts:

- Dickson, Athol. *The Gospel According to Moses: What my Jewish friends taught me about Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2003.
- Young, Brad H. *Meet The Rabbis: Rabbinic thought and the Teachings of Jesus*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2007.

Requirements:

1. **Online Journal (150 points)**

From the following online sources, students will submit informal reflections on some aspect of the assigned reading that intrigued, puzzled or otherwise caught their attention. Reflections should briefly summarize the editorial and expand on any possible implications.

Students are required to choose two readings from each of the sources for a total of 8 reflections. Each reflection should be approximately 350 words in length.

Submissions will begin on September 18th and will proceed according to the schedule in the outline. Students cannot submit more than one submission a week and must post their reading to ??????? no later than midnight CST each Friday on the day that it is due. There are no extensions for late submissions. Late submissions will receive a 0 grade for that week's reading.

Milestones:

Dates of Assignments

TBD

The websites for review are:

- http://www.myjewishlearning.com/texts/Weekly_Torah_Commentary.htm (choose any book of the Bible and one of the articles associated with it)
- <http://www.thejewishweek.com> (follow links Jewish Life, Sabbath Week)
- <http://www.jpost.com> (follow link to Jewish world and then choose one of the articles under Judaism)
- <http://www.chicagojewishnews.com> (Under weekly Stories see Torah)

Grading for the reflections will be based on a 4 grade system: C (60 points) for below average, B (70 points) for average, A (85 points) for above average and A+ (100 points) for Response(s) of the week. An “Response of the week” will be exceptionally well written and stand above the rest of the group. No more than 2 submissions a week will receive this honor. An above average submission will be well written, it will clearly reflect comprehension of the article and it will interact with the author. An average submission will be well written and reflect comprehension of the article. A below average submission will be poorly written and show few signs of comprehension or fall short of required length.

2. Online Discussion (25 points)

Over the course of the semester students will be assigned 3 additional readings in the form of Rabbinical sermons. Again using the online list serve students will comment on the sermon and with each other.

Grading is based both on participation and content. Each discussion is based on 15 points. Each posting earns points based on the following criteria.

(5 points) A posting with original content that reflects appropriation of the class readings or additional appropriate material.

(3 points) A posting that builds on the response of someone else with a thought to offering some additional original material.

(2 points) A posting that builds on the response of someone else by offering a new question for further discussion.

(1 point) A posting that seeks to encourage a fellow classmate or simply stands in agreement with someone else’s thread of discussion. A student cannot accumulate more than 4 points in this regard in any given discussion.

Note: The key to scoring well on this assignment is keeping responses short but frequent.

3. Sabbath service 25 points)

Students will attend a synagogue service on the date of their choosing. They will write a one page reflection on their participation noting the day and time of the service. PS. Remember it is not proper to bring a pen or any other writing device with you.

4. Book Report. (50 points)

Review and write a book report on the *Gospel According to Moses* by Athol Dickson.

Book Report Guidelines:

Scoring:

Format and organization (5 pts):

- * The report should be between 800 and 1000 words

* Font must be 12 point or smaller

* Report must begin with the title and name of the author

Grammar and Spelling (10 pts):

Content (35 pts):

Adequate description of the book content (15 pts.)

* Students must demonstrate that they have read the book by summarizing the contents of the book. This should not be an uninspired reiteration of the book. If using the author's words, make sure they are in quotes followed by the page # in parenthesis, but keep quotations to a minimum.

Personal Perspective (20 pts.)

* Student perception is an important part of this book. I am interested in knowing what students found helpful: namely if students disagreed with parts of the book; if students have further questions raised by the book; or if students were surprised by the information presented.

5. Mid-term Quiz: 50 points

Students will be given an objective style quiz based on the text-book: Basics and class notes.

6. Final exam. 50 points

Students will be given an objective style quiz based on the text-book: Basics and class notes. Evaluation:

- Blog 20%
- Tests 45% (3x15)
- Attendance 10%
- Research 25%

Grade Summary

A+	90-100	A	85-89	A-	80-84
B+	77-79	B	73-76	B-	70-72
C+	67-69	C	63-66	C-	60-62
D+	57-59	D	53-56	D-	50-52
F	less than 50				

Outline:

- Defining Judaism
 - Formative Judaism
 - Rabbinic Judaism
 - Medieval Judaism
 - Modern Judaism
 - Orthodox
 - Conservative
 - Reformed
 - Zionism

- The Writings
 - Written Torah
 - Oral Torah
 - Talmud
 - Mishnah
 - Midrash
 - Kabbalah
 - Philosophers

- Theology
 - Meaning and Symbols
 - Meaning and Rites of Passage
 - Meaning and Practice

- Teachings
 - Monotheism
 - Law
 - Redemption
 - Messiah Theme
 - Land

- Issues
 - Middle East Conflict
 - Holocaust

Policies

Full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence College can be found online in the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/) and the College Academic Calendar (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrar_office/calendar/).

1. Late Assignment Policy

A late Research paper will receive a maximum grade of C+. There is no minimum grade.

As a group failure to present a discussion observation on their assigned date will result in a full letter grade reduction for *everyone in the group*

2. Plagiarism

Issues of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in the Academic Conduct section of the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/), the Providence College document entitled “Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing,” in the Providence College Academic

Formation Guide available in the Bookstore. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the policies and with the consequences attached to their violation.