SYLLABUS

Learning Objectives:
Judaism is a civilization. The objectives of this course are to familiarize students with the history, religion, traditions and culture of the Jewish people.

Course Outcomes:
This class embraces Judaism from its inception until today. After completing this course, students will have knowledge of the history, festivals, life-cycle events, and major building blocks of Judaism.

Course Requirements:
Texts required are Irving Greenberg, _The Jewish Way_; Ruby Daniel, _Ruby of Cochin_; and Gerda Weissmann Klein, _All But My Life_. There are also selections to read on Blackboard.

On book reserve in Hodges Library: David Goldberg/John D. Rayner, _The Jewish People_.

Students are required to
a) View and analyze one video, either _Fiddler on the Roof_ or _The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg_. A two-page review is to be turned in by 9/29.
b) Observe one of the religious services offered in the Jewish community (Heska Amuna or Temple Beth El) and write a one-page impression paper. Due 11/17.
c) Attend one public lecture sponsored by the Judaic Studies Program and write a two-page report. This year’s lecture will take place on November 10 at 7PM. The speaker will be Professor Deborah Dash Moore from the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan. Report due 11/21.

This is a writing-emphasis course. You are graded on your writing. Please write with care and proofread your reports before turning them in.

Grading will be based on the following criteria:
1. Attendance and class participation 20%. Three unexcused absences are allowed, any illnesses must be documented with a written doctor’s excuse. Additional unexcused absences will subtract 2 points each from the attendance grade. Participation is defined as contributing to the class discussion on the assigned readings.
2. The service reflection paper, video review, and lecture report will be combined for 20% of the final grade. Late submissions will subtract one half point from the assignment grade (a B will become a B-).
3. There will be two in-class short essay exams worth 20% each, for a total of 40% of the student’s final grade.
4. A two-hour final exam, worth 20% of the final grade, is scheduled for Friday, December 5, 8-10AM, in the classroom.

Make-up policy: If a student has three exams in one day, he/she may choose to move one of the exams to a different day. This need as well as any other irregularities must be discussed with the professor in advance of the scheduled exam date.

For a table of grades and conversion from numerical to letter grades, see Blackboard.

Please check your email regularly for any messages sent via Blackboard.

For study aids, academic integrity, and disability information, please see the campus syllabus on the Blackboard site.

Discrimination is not permitted:
The University of Tennessee prohibits discrimination against employees and students “on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, parental status), national origin, age, disability, or protected veteran status.”

Week I: 8/20 Introduction to course, materials, and requirements.

   Homework assignment #1: Go to the grocery store and find items that are kosher. How do you know? Hint: Look for U in O or K with D or K with P. See how many different kinds you can find and in which store.

   Assignment #2: Access http://www.heebz.com, a website of famous Jews. Pick one person and be prepared to make a brief presentation in the August 22 class.

   8/22 Discussion of what is kosher and who is Jewish.

Week II: 8/25 Jewish calendar (handout).

   8/27 Jewish history 1850-586 BCE (handout).


Week III: 9/1 Labor Day. No class.


   9/5 Jewish history. Talmudic period. Visiting Speaker, Rabbi Alon Ferency, Heska Amuna Synagogue.

Week IV: 9/8 On Blackboard: Xu Xin, ix-xvi, 1-17, and 134-140.

   9/10 On Blackboard: Xu Xin, 18-84.
9/12  On Blackboard: Xu Xin, 85-133.


9/17  Review for Test I.

9/19  Test I (Ashley).


**Out-off-class, watch either Fiddler on the Roof or Hank Greenberg.**

Review is due 9/29.

9/24  High Holy Days and Rosh Hashanah.

Greenberg, 182-89, and 189-205.

Tonight is Erev Rosh Hashanah.

9/26  Rosh Hashanah II. No class.

Week VII:  9/29  In-class video, Rosh Hashanah in Israel.

Ruby of Cochin, 164-65.

**Two-page video review is due today.**

10/1  Kol Nidre. Greenberg, 205-215.


Tonight is Kol Nidre.

Week VIII:  10/6  Sukkot. Greenberg, 94-118.

Read Ecclesiastes.


Read Song of Songs.

10/10  In-class video (Ashley).

Today is Sukkot II.


Read the Book of Ruth.

10/15  Minor Festivals. Tisha b’Av and Purim.

Greenberg, 283-303, and 224-57. Also Ruby 161-64 and 147-54.

Read Lamentations and the Book of Esther.

10/17  FALL BREAK. No class.

Week X:  10/20  Life-cycle events. On Blackboard, read Goldberg-Rayner, 366-82.

10/22  Lifecycle events cont’d. Ruby of Cochin, 174-91.
10/24  Review for Test II.

Week XI:  10/27  Test II.

10/29  Jews of Cochin. On Blackboard, read in Segal, 14-36.
10/31  Ruby of Cochin, 3-26.

Week XII:  11/3  Ruby of Cochin, 23-60.
11/5  Ruby of Cochin, 61-88.
11/7  Zionism 1896-1947, lecture. Synagogue reflection paper is due today.

Week XIII:  11/10  Ruby of Cochin, 89-120. Tonight, 7PM in the McClung Museum Auditorium, is the required lecture by Professor Deborah Dash Moore, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan. Report is due 11/21.
11/12  Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.
11/14  Gerda Weissmann Klein, 3-81.

Week XIV:  11/17  Klein, 82-116.
11/19  Klein, 118-53.
11/21  Klein, 154-210. Lecture report is due today.

Week XV:  11/24  Klein, 213-46.
11/26  Catch up day.
11/28  Thanksgiving break. No class.

Week XVI:  12/1  Last class. Review for final.

Final: Friday, December 5, 8-10AM, in the classroom.

Enjoy your break!