Theo 272: Introduction to Judaism
Summer Global Faculty-Led: JERUSALEM
Course SLN: 5346
Course Times: TU 4:15-6:45PM
Course Location: Mundelein 307

Instructors: Dr. Bret Lewis & Dr. Joel Gereboff
Email: blevis1@luc.edu
Office Location: Crown Center 444

Knowledge Area(s) satisfied:
Theological and Religious Studies
Knowledge TIER II Core

Skill(s) Developed:
Critical Thinking Skills and Dispositions

Values Requirement(s) satisfied:
Understanding Spirituality or Faith in Action in the World

Required Texts:
-Scheindlin, Raymond, *A Short History of the Jewish People*
-Satlow, Michael, *Creating Judaism: History, Tradition, Practice*
-Materials posted on the course’s Sakai site. Access: https://sakai.luc.edu/portal/

Course Description:
This course aims to introduce major doctrines, practices, and historical developments of Judaism. Students will have the opportunity to study the Jewish tradition, past and present, while onsite in Jerusalem. Acknowledging this highly diverse tradition, any course claiming to offer an introduction to "Judaism" might be also seen as an introduction to "Judaisms." This course will take an interdisciplinary approach to the tradition by engaging resources from, but not limited to, anthropology, sociology, history, political science, and philosophy. Academic and cultural activities outside of the classroom will enhance the learning.

Course Goals and Objectives:
Students should come to appreciate the complex nature of Judaism and of the category “religion” in general. In the spirit of traditional humanities curriculum, we will ask, how the study of Judaism may impact our views and ideas of what it means to be human and where meaning and significance of life might therein be found. Our focus will be on the development of intellectual virtues such as narrative imagination, appreciation of human interconnectedness, and the ability to analyze and evaluate argument. By taking this course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge, with attention to historical development, of the central texts, beliefs, ethical understandings, and practices of the Jewish Tradition.
Course Requirements and Grading:

The class assignments and point distributions are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum Posts (10 x 10 pts each)</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term &amp; Reflection</td>
<td>150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Final Exam</td>
<td>150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>425 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grade Percentage distribution based on the points listings above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 65%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = consistently outstanding achievement in the course  
B = work of good to very good quality, but not consistently outstanding  
C = acceptable level of competence and basic understanding of material  
D = minimally adequate; student may not be ready for further related coursework  
E = unsatisfactory and unworthy of credit

Grade Postings:

Under the course Sakai portal, click on the “gradebook” button on the left side of the screen and you will see a corresponding column for each graded assignment. This will allow you access to your current semester grade at any point.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me and Services for Students with Disabilities (Sullivan Center Suite 260; 773-508-3700) as soon as possible to arrange appropriate accommodations.

Forum Posts

On assigned weeks (see schedule of classes), students are encouraged to post 1) one question based on that week’s materials i.e. something that was confusing or unclear and that can conceivably lead to a quality conversation 2) respond to a classmate’s question with a response that either answers the questions or in some ways adds to the conversation i.e. building on the existing question by adding additional context, information, or related question. Each forum is worth ten points (five for each post). The instructor reserves the right
to grade lower if work does not show serious reflection with the course materials.

IMPORTANT: In order to receive credit 1) each post must reference a page number or film time mark and 2) must be submitted before the deadline.

Mid-Term and Final Exams:

Students will be assessed their knowledge of course material through a mid-term and a final exam. The exams will likely include a variety of formats including but not limited to multiple choice, short answer, matching, and essay.

Late Work Policy:

Assignments are due on the dates indicated. The forum posts, mid-term or final exam will not be accepted late without prior approval except in cases of sudden illness or family emergency. If a serious health or family reason will prevent you from taking the exam on time, please contact me beforehand.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

Attendance is required and students are expected to actively participate in the class. This course is designed to be interactive and you are encouraged to share your own thoughts, questions, and insights. Your overall participation is worth 25 points of your semester grade (or roughly 5% of your semester grade). Each student begins with the full 25 points in the grade book. Beginning with your 1st unexcused absence, 25 points will be subtracted from your participation grade. So it is an “all or nothing grade.” Excused absences require third-party documentation i.e. from a coach, doctor, advisor, etc.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. Make sure you understand Loyola’s Academic Integrity policy (http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml) and refer to the Undergraduate Programs Handbook. Claiming to not understand what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse and you will fail the class. Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions against plagiarism. Any form of plagiarism will result in an ‘F’ for the assignment and, depending on instructor discretion, for the semester.
Reading and Exam Schedule:

Day 1:
Satlow, Introduction, 1-21

Day 2:
Satlow, Promised Lands, 22-68
Scheindlin, Israelite Origin and Kingdom, 1-24

Day 3:
Satlow, Creating Judaism, 69-95
Satlow, Between Athens and Jerusalem, 96-114

Day 4:
Scheindlin, Judea and the Origins of the Diaspora, 25-50
Scheindlin, Roman Palestine and Sassanid Babylonia, 51-70

Day 5:
Satlow, The Rabbis, 115-139
Satlow, Rabbinic Concepts, 140-163

Day 6:
Satlow, Mitzvot, 164-186

Day 7:
Mid-Term Exam

Day 8:
Satlow, The Rise of Reason, 187-208
Satlow, From Moses to Moses, 209-228

Day 9:
Scheindlin, The Jews in the Islamic World, 71-96
Scheindlin, The Jews of Medieval Christian Europe, 97-122
Scheindlin, The Jews in the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East, 123-148

Day 10:
Satlow, Seeing God, 229-249
Satlow, East and West, 250-287

Day 11:
Scheindlin, The Jews of Western Europe, 149-172
Scheindlin, The Jews of Eastern Europe and the United States, 173-198

Day 12:
Scheindlin, The Holocaust 199-216
Scheindlin, Zionism and the Origins of the State of Israel, 217-234

Day 13:
Scheindlin, The Jewish People after 1948, 235-260

Day 14:
Review for Final

Day 15:
Submit Final Exam