

Course Outline: Torah and Tradition

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

Course Code

AP/HUMA 3831 3.0 Torah and Tradition: Jewish Religious Expressions from Antiquity to the Present

This course offers an exploration of Jewish beliefs, institutions, and bodies of literature, emphasizing continuities and changes in religious expression within and across different places, circumstances, and times. Themes covered include God, the Jewish people, Torah and its interpretation, the land of Israel; the commandments (*mitzvot*) and their legal (*halakhic*) expressions; the Sabbath; daily and calendrical cycles of holiness; rites of passage, and ethical teachings. Attention will be paid to the varieties of Jewish religious denominations in modern times.

Course Delivery

ONCA (Online except for the final exam which is in person)

There are no class meetings of the course. All work, except for the final exam, is done online by the individual student. All materials for the course, except for the textbooks, will be found on the Eclass site for the course. There is no “real time element” to this course, except for the final exam. The deadlines for assignments also have fixed dates.

This syllabus will contain a detailed timetable for listening to and watching the 18 PowerPoint-based lectures of the course. (In some weeks students are requested to listen to two lectures, while in others only one.) In each week of the course there are also assigned readings that students are expected to do. The readings are connected to the lecture(s) of that week.

The grading in the course will be based on written assignments which have fixed deadlines that must be kept. Students will submit their drafts and essays through the website and the instructor will provide feedback and grade them on the website. Students will also be asked from time to time to post comments on the “Discussion Forum” of the course, based on a question or questions that the instructor will circulate. The questions will be related to the lecture and/or the readings of the week.

The final exam will take place in April, between the 7th and the 24th, at a time and date to be set by the Registrar's Office. **The exam will be at the Keele and Steeles campus of York. It is the responsibility of each student to be available to take the exam in Toronto on those dates.**

Course Materials

Course Learning Material	Cost	Availability
Fishman, Sylvia Barack, <i>The Way into Varieties of Jewishness</i> (Woodstock, Vermont: Jewish Lights, 2007).	\$26.01 at Amazon	Used copies permitted
Segal, Eliezer, <i>Introducing Judaism</i> (New York: Routledge, 2009).	\$59.95 at Amazon	Used copies permitted
<i>Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures</i> (the New Jewish Publication Society Translation).	\$31.22 at Amazon	Also available for free online at the website https://www.sefaria.org/texts/Tanakh Many translations are available there. The one that is the official translation used by our course is labelled "JPS, 1985."
	Total \$	117.18

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Discussion Forum	15%	Online	Short assignments throughout the semester
First essay (approximately 1200 words)	25%	Submitted online. Students are required to submit an early draft and then, after receiving comments, a final draft.	Final draft due in mid February
Second essay (approximately 1200 words)	25%	Submitted online. Students are required to submit an early draft and then, after receiving comments, a final draft.	Final draft due in mid March

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Final exam	35%	The exam will be in person at the Keele and Steeles campus of York.	The final exam will take place in April, between the 7th and the 24th, at a time and date to be set by the Registrar's Office. It is the responsibility of each student to be available to take the exam in Toronto in person on those dates.
	100%		