

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

Transfer course A.A. degree applicable course

(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: JS 100 Introduction to Judaism

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: None

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

SCOPE OF COURSE:

The philosophy, religion, and ethnic culture of the Jewish people from the Patriarchs and Prophets through the modern branches of Judaism. Topics covered include Torah, Talmud, various commentaries and movements affecting Judaism; ceremonies, artifacts, and language.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

1. Recognize factors that enabled the survival of Judaism in its homeland and in dispersion over three millennia.
2. Interpret the special features of the Jewish way of life.
3. Compare the historical outlook, the ethical traditions and the legal systems developed by the major Western monotheistic religions, with emphasis on the similarities and the differences between Judaism and Christianity.
4. Analyze present concerns facing Jews in the light of historical developments.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

- I. THE ORIGINS OF JUDAISM

- A. The history of the Jews from the patriarchs and matriarchs to the conquest of Canaan.
 - B. The birth of a legal system founded on religious concepts.
 - C. A brief description of the first religious observances.
- II. LIFE IN THE HOMELAND
- A. The periods of the judges and of the monarchy.
 - B. Forms of worship in ancient Israel.
 - C. The birth and the influence of prophecy on Jewish religion and ethics.
- III. DEFEAT AND SURVIVAL IN EXILE
- A. A historical survey of the period.
 - B. Major changes in the outlook on the divine, on human life and on worship.
 - C. The consolidation of the Old Testament literature.
- IV. THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD
- A. A historical survey of the period with emphasis on contemporary spiritual leaders and on literacy activity.
 - B. The birth of the "oral law".
 - C. Relationship between Palestinian and diaspora Jewry.
 - D. Religio-political movements (Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes) and the origins of Christianity.
- V. INTRODUCTION TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES
- A. Liturgy: sacrifices vis-a-vis prayer; public and private worship; external forms and inner structure.
 - B. The Jewish calendar and its most significant days.
 - C. The life cycle of a Jew.
 - D. Dietary laws and other significant traditions.
- VI. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SECOND TEMPLE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES
- A. The loss of leadership by the Palestinian community.
 - B. The centrality of Babylonian Jewry and the importance of the Babylonian Talmud.
 - C. The growth of European communities.
- VII. LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES
- A. The birth of Islam, its attitude to Judaism; the Golden Age in Spain.
 - B. Expulsions from Western European countries and revival in Eastern Europe.
 - C. The major factors that led to the growth of messianic, mystical and hasidic movements.
- VIII. ENLIGHTENMENT AND OPPRESSION IN THE 18TH-19TH CENTURIES
- A. A historical survey of the period.
 - B. Judaism responds to Enlightenment in the West.
 - C. Continued oppression and its influence on Judaism in the East.
 - D. The origins of current streams of Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform).
- IX. MAJOR EVENTS IN THE 20TH CENTURY
- A. Historical, political and religious reasons that led to the establishment of the State of Israel.
 - B. The growth of the American Jewish Community and its effect on Jewish life today.

- C. The unique tragedy of the Holocaust.
- D. The outlook on the future.

REQUIRED READING:

Leo Trepp. A History of the Jewish Experience. New York: Behrman House, 1973.

Selected historical documents and literacy readings.

SUGGESTED READING:

Ben-Sasson, H.H., ed. A History of the Jewish People. Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. Press, 1976

Gerber, Jane S. The Jews in Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience. New York: Macmillan, 1992

Glatzer, Nahum N., ed. The Judaic Tradition. Jewish Writings from Antiquity to the Modern Age. Northvale, N. J.: Aronson, 1987

DeLange, Nicholas. Judaism. New York: Oxford U., 1986

Sachar, Howard M. A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Times. 2nd ed. New York: Knopf, 1996

Silver, Abba Hillel. Where Judaism Differed. Northvale, J.J.: Aronson, 1987

Telushkin, Rabbi Joseph. Jewish Literacy. The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People, and Its History. New York: William Morrow, 1991

REQUIRED WRITING:

A mid-term and an end of term examination are required. In addition, the student is required to write a research paper on a topic of his/her choice, approved by the instructor. The paper shall be typed (min. 4 pages), with end notes and a bibliography attached.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

Spend nine hours per week on reading textbook, material distributed in class and supplementary reading provided at the opening session, and preparation of the term paper. Share information with class.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory

lecture-laboratory combination
 directed study

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes No

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

telecourse
 mediated instruction
 computer assisted instruction

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Midterm Examination - 30%
Research Paper – 30%
Final Examination - 30%
Participation in classroom work – 10%

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes No Number of times course may be taken for credit:

1 .

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Yehuda Shabatay