

## Cultural Legacies of the Jews

### **Jewish Studies 101**

Lecture: Wednesdays, 10 AM, 2319 Tolman  
Discussion Section: Mondays, 10 AM, 2319 Tolman

Presented by the Program in Jewish Studies, University of California-Berkeley  
Head Instructor: Professor Ronald Hendel  
Head GSI: Eli Rosenblatt  
Email - rosenblatt.e@gmail.com

GSI Office Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

This course will provide an introduction to the richness and diversity of Jewish literature, history and culture, from its biblical origins to contemporary expressions of Jewish identity. Judaism since the biblical age has resisted easy categorization, oscillating between religion and ethnicity. This course provides an introduction to Jewish culture through multiple lenses. We read the Bible as history and literature, probing matters of language and message. Then, we'll explore Talmudic culture, medieval commentaries, rationalist philosophy and the contours of Jewish culture under Christian and Islamic empires. We then encounter internal movements that challenged, and eventually displaced, normative Jewish practice, including Kabbalah, Messianism and Hasidism. Next, we'll encounter modernity through the Jewish Enlightenment, Zionism, Jewish Socialism, Yiddish and Hebrew literature. Finally, we will explore Jewish responses to the Holocaust and the course of Jewish culture in 20<sup>th</sup> century in Israel and the Diaspora. Throughout, we will explore the intricate dialogue between texts and daily life in Jewish culture and discern evolving conceptions of chosenness, exile, sin, redemption, gender, nationality, race and class.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will become familiar with the broad scope of Jewish cultures, history and literature, using the knowledge acquired to gain a nuanced perspective on the myriad methods available to study Jews.
2. Students will acquire the tools to formulate a well-conceptualized research topic and mobilize relevant methodologies for its study.

#### **Required Texts:**

1. The Jews: A History by John Efron, Steven Weitzman, Matthias Lehmann and Joshua Holo – provided in course reader
2. Additional articles and literary texts will be distributed throughout the semester.

#### **Class Requirements:**

Students are required to attend every lecture and discussion section. Students are required to participate vigorously during each lecture and discussion section. In addition to weekly reading assigned at the end of the lecture, students are to complete one analytical essay, which will be drafted, edited and completed over the course of the semester. Paper topics will be discussed in class. The paper should be between 10 and 13 pages, double-spaced, with a font size no larger than 12.

**Grades:**

Participation - 30% First Paper Draft - 20%, Final Paper – 50%

**Email Policy:** Emails to will be answered by the GSI within 48 hours of reception. All questions about course content and ideas should be asked in section.

**Office Hours:** Students are encourages to schedule office hours with the GSI. Please schedule a time to attend introductory office hours within the first 3 weeks of class.

**Absences, Tardiness and Late Assignments:** Each lecture and section begins at 10 am sharp. Students who are more than five minutes late will be penalized. If you unable to attend a lecture due to illness or another excused absence, you must complete a 1.5 page reflection on the material that you missed. Unexcused absences will affect your final grade. Late assignments will receive a half grade deduction each day they remain unsubmitted.

**Academic Integrity:** Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from your instructor.

In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis.

As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment, be sure to seek clarification from your instructor or GSI beforehand.

Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. So be proud of your academic accomplishments and help to protect and promote academic integrity at Berkeley. The consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty—including a formal discipline file, possible loss of future internship, scholarship, or employment opportunities, and denial of admission to graduate school—are simply not worth it.

**Disability Accommodation:** Students who have Letters of Accommodations from the Disabled Students' Program, please see the GSI during office hours. Students who need academic accommodations should request them from the Disabled Students Program: 230 César Chávez Student Center, 642-0518 (voice) and 642-6376 (TTY).

## **Course Syllabus**

### **Lecture 1 – January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Lecturer: Professor Ronald Hendel, Chair of The Program in Jewish Studies

Topic: The Hebrew Bible: Culture, Memory and History and the Formation of Israel's Identity

### **Section 1 – January 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **Lecture 2 – January 27<sup>th</sup>**

Professor Robert Alter, Class of 1937 Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature

Topics: The Literary Art of the Biblical Narrative

### **Section 2 – February 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **Lecture 3 – February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Lecturer: Professor Erich Gruen, Professor of History and Classics

Topic: Diaspora and the Assimilated Jew in the Greco-Roman World

### **Section 3 – February 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Lecture 4 – February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Lecturer: Professor Daniel Boyarin, Professor of Rabbinic Culture

Topic: The Text of the Talmud

### **Section 4 – February 15<sup>th</sup>**

NO SECTION: Administrative Holiday

### **Lecture 5 - February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Lecturer: Professor Holger Zellentin, Professor of Rabbinics – Graduate Theological Union

Topic: The Babylonian Talmud in Historical Perspective

### **Section 5 – February 22<sup>nd</sup> -**

### **Lecture 6 – February 24<sup>th</sup>**

Presenter – Paul Hamburg, Librarian of the Judaica Collection, UC Berkeley

Topic: Material Culture: Examples from the Berkeley Judaica Collection

### **Section 6 – March 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **Lecture 7 – March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Lecturer – Professor Deena Aranoff, Professor of Medieval Studies, Graduate Theological Union

Topic: Jewish Cultures and Ideas in Medieval Europe

### **Section 7 – March 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Lecture 8 – March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Lecturer – Professor Emily Gottreich, Professor of History and Middle Eastern Studies

Topic: Jews and Muslims

### **Section 8 – March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture 9 – March 17<sup>th</sup>**

Lecturer: Professor Naomi Seidman, Professor of Jewish Culture, Graduate Theological Union  
Topic: Jews and Modernity: Gender, Literature, Enlightenment

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> - Spring Break**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> – No Class, Passover**

**Section 9 - April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture 10 – April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Lecturer – Professor Chana Kronfeld, Professor of Hebrew Literature and Near Eastern Studies  
Topic: Modern Hebrew Literature and Hebrew Culture

**Section 10 – April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture 11 – April 14<sup>th</sup>**

Lecturer: Yael Chaver, Lecturer in Yiddish Language  
Topic: Modern Yiddish Literature and Culture

**Section 11 – April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Lecture 12 – April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Lecturer: Rutie Adler, Chair of Hebrew Language Program  
Topic: Introduction to the Hebrew Language

**Section 13 – April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Lecturer: Eli Rosenblatt, GSI  
Topic: The Holocaust and Post-War Jewish Cultures

**Lecture 14 – April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Topic: Concluding Discussion

**Final Papers are due Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.**