

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Springfield, Missouri
March 17-21 and 24-28, 2003
MHTM 638 JEWISH CULTURAL HISTORY
(3 credit hours)

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Spring 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course traces the last 2000 years of Jewish cultural development during which Diaspora Jewry were continually influenced by the non-Jewish societies with whom they coexisted. The ever-evolving social and cultural mechanisms mandated by the Jewish religio-cultural sense of mission to survive as a distinct people group are observed. Rabbinic codes, jurisprudence, and corresponding folklore are demonstrated to have Jewish cultural survival as their prime inspiration and chief accomplishment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the basic events, leading influential personalities, and historic cultural trends over the past 2000 years of Jewish history.
2. Expound upon the contributions made to the development of Jewish culture by the leading genres of rabbinical and Jewish philosophical literature.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of the basic terminology employed in Jewish culture, religion and folklore.
4. Recognize and identify practical applications of contextualization throughout Jewish cultural history in a variety of methodological areas including Jewish worship, chosen manners of living and rabbinical leadership.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

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

Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen*. New York, NY: Fawcett Books, 1995 (reprint).

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Schacter, Jacob J., ed. *Judaism Encounter with Other Cultures: Rejection or Integration?* Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1997.

Patai, Raphael. *The Jewish Mind*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1977.

BASIC COURSE OUTLINE

- Day 1: Introduction of the course and an overview of Jewish History
The Second Temple Period: Politics, Hellenism, Rabbinism
- Day 2: Exile, Mishnah and Talmud; Social Polity and Religious Codes
- Day 3: Middle Ages: Jews in Christendom and the House of Islam
Compensatory Religious and Social Development: Polity, Codes
Black Death, the Rambam, Nachmanides, Caro, etc.
- Day 4: Jewish Mysticism: Kabbalah, Zohar, Safed, Luria
Jewish Messianism: Theological, Mystical, Historical
Developments in reaction to Shabbatai Zvi, Jacob Frank, etc.
- Day 5: Cultural Transition from the Middle Ages to the Modern Era
- Day 6: The Impact of Emancipation and European Nationalism
Facing Modern Anti-Semitism and the Shoah
- Day 7: The Impact of Zionism Upon Diaspora Organization
Jewish Social and Cultural Values: Pluralism and other trends
- Day 8: Twentieth Century Judaism and Jewishness
The revival of Hebrew, modern mysticism and Messianism, music and
art, Jewish philosophy and literature
- Day 9: Twentieth Century Judaism and Jewishness (Part Two): God, Zionism
and Israel, Siddur and Machzor, modernism and the Holy Days
- Day 10: Course Summary and *Erev Shabbat* Service.

METHODOLOGY

1. Class academic discussion and interaction
2. Written reactions to course readings.
3. Utilization of transparencies, charts, videos, etc.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular attendance is course policy. Absences may impact the student's course grade.
2. 800 to 1000 word "quality reactions" to two required texts (Ben-sasson's *A History of the Jewish People* and Potok's *The Chosen*) are due by April 30. It is the student's responsibility to either airmail or e-mail the reactions so as to be received on time for semester grading purposes. Please post to Dr. Ray Gannon, PO Box 32069, Jerusalem 91000, Israel. Or email to AllIsrael2020@aol.com
3. A research paper of 12-14 pages on an approved topic of student interest is due on April 20. The research topic needs to be submitted for professor approval by class time by Thursday, March 20. A one page outline of the proposed theme and a short bibliography of 15 to 20 relevant sources is to be supplied in support

of the topic's investigation. In the event the topic is not approved or the preliminary bibliography is inadequate, notification will be provided the student no later than Friday. In this case a second topic will need to be submitted for approval by Monday, March 24.

4. The proper format to be used for all book reactions, papers, etc., will follow the Kate L. Turabian Sixth Edition format of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Thesis, and Dissertations*. A copy of the manual is readily available in the AGTS Bookstore. Poorly presented papers will be returned for correction and immediate retyping and are to be resubmitted within 24 hours of notification. Word processors can be very useful in this rare event.
5. Examination: A 90 minute take-home examination will be distributed during the last class period, March 28. The examination should be posted or emailed so as to be received by April 30.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Two Book Reactions	10% each
Term Paper	50%
Quality Class Discussion	10%
Final Exam	20%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- Alon, Gedaliah. *The Jews and their Land in the Talmudic Age*. Jerusalem, Israel: Magnes Press, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1980.
- Avi-Yonah, M. *The Jews under Roman and Byzantine Rule: A Political History of Palestine from the Bar Kokhba War to the Arab Conquest*. Jerusalem, Israel: Magnes Press, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1984.
- Carmichael, Joel. *The Satanizing of the Jews: Origin and Development of Mystical Anti-Semitism*. New York, NY: Fromm International Publishing Corporation, 1992.
- Conzelmann, Hans. *Gentiles-Jews-Christians: Polemics and Apologetics in the Greco-Roman Era*. Translated by M. Eugene Boring. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1992.
- Falk, Gerhard. *American Judaism in Transition: The Secularization of a Religious Community*. New York, NY: University Press of America, 1995.
- Feldman, Louis H. *Jew and Gentile in the Ancient World: Attitudes and Interactions from Alexander to Justinian*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993.
- Gilman, Sander L. *Jewish Self-Hatred*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.

- Goldberg, Michael. *Why Should Jews Survive? Looking Past the Holocaust Toward a Jewish Future*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Goldscheider, Calvin, and Zuckerman, Alan S. *The Transformation of the Jews*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1984.
- Gribetz, Judah, Greenstein, Edward L., and Stein, Regina. *The Timetables of Jewish History: A Chronology of the Most Important People and Events in Jewish History*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1994.
- Hargrove, Barbara. *The Sociology of Religion*. Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, 1979.
- Hecht, N. S., et al, eds. *An Introduction to the History and Sources of Jewish Law*. Oxford, England: Clarendon Press, 1996.
- Johnson, Paul. *A History of the Jews*. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1987.
- Kasinow, Harold, and Sherwin, Byron L., eds. *No Religion is an Island: Abraham Joshua Heschel and Interreligious Dialogue*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.
- Mansoor, Menahem. *Jewish History and Thought: An Introduction*. Hoboken, NJ: Ktav Publishing House, 1991.
- Millgram, Abraham Ezra, ed. *Great Jewish Ideas*. New York, NY: B'nai B'rith Department of Adult Jewish Education, 1964.
- _____. *Jewish Worship*. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1971.
- Neuhaus, Richard John, ed. *Jews in Unsecular America*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1987.
- Neusner, Jacob. *Introduction to Rabbinic Literature*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1994.
- Perelmuter, Hayim Goren. *Siblings: Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity at Their Beginnings*. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1989.
- Rokeah, David. *Jews, Pagans and Christians in Conflict*. Jerusalem, Israel: Magnes Press, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1982.
- Rosen, Moishe and Ceil. *Witnessing to Jews: Practical Ways to Relate the Love of Jesus*. San Francisco, CA: Purple Pomegranate Productions, 1998.
- Sanders, E. P. *Jewish Law from Jesus to the Mishnah*. Philadelphia, PA: Trinity Press International, 1990.

_____. *Judaism: Practice and Belief 63 BCE-66 CE*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1994.

Saperstein, Marc. *Jewish Preaching 1200-1800: An Anthology*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1989.

Shanks, Hershel, ed. *Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism: A Parallel History of Their Origins and Early Development*. Washington, D.C.: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1992.

Sigal, Gerald. *The Jew and the Christian Missionary: A Jewish Response to Missionary Christianity*. New York, NY: Ktav Publishing House, 1981.

Strack, H. L., and Stemberger, G. *Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash*. Edinburgh, Scotland: T and T Clark, 1991.

Wilson, Stephen G. *Related Strangers: Jews and Christians 70-170 C.E.* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1995.

Wright, Fred. *Words from the Scroll of Fire*. Jerusalem, Israel: Four Corners Publishing, 1994.

SPECIFIC DATA

Revised by Raymond L. Gannon, November 5, 2002.