

SYLLABUS

RLST 3100: JUDAISM

Professor Ira Chernus

Fall 2010

Grad Assistant: Danielle Lancellotti

MWF 11:00 - 11:50, Hellems 199

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

The course will provide a basic introduction to the historical development of Judaism from its beginnings to the present day. We will focus on the religious experiences, worldviews, beliefs, behaviors, and symbols of the Jewish tradition, and on the historical forces--cultural, political, social, and economic--that have shaped Judaism. The course does not aim to reinforce or to change the student's feelings about Judaism, Jewish identity, or the Jewish people. It does aim to provide, as objectively as possible, a detailed understanding of the history of Judaism.

READINGS

The following books will form the required reading for the course:

Raymond SCHEINDLIN, *A Short History of the Jewish People*

Jacob NEUSNER, *A Short History of Judaism*

William DOORLY, *The Religion of Israel: A Short History*

Barry W. HOLTZ, *Back to the Sources*

Lloyd P. GARTNER, *History of The Jews in Modern Times*

The BIBLE (in a modern translation; e.g., New Revised Standard Version, New English Bible, New Jewish Version, New American Bible, New International Version; **avoid** King James Version and Authorized Version)

This syllabus and other information pertinent to the course can be found online at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/ReligiousStudies/chernus/3100/index.html>

SCHEDULE OF READING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are week by week. Please have the reading done by the Friday class for each week.

All assignments are by page number except in the Bible, where assignments are by book and chapter number.

I. BIBLICAL JUDAISM BEFORE THE EXILE (10th - 7th cent. BCE)

August 27: *Origins of Ancient Israel:*

SCHEINDLIN viii-14; NEUSNER 1-10; DOORLY 1-11, 18-65; BIBLE: Exodus 15; Judges 4, 5; I Samuel 5,6

September 3: *The Monarchy and the Early Prophets:*

SCHEINDLIN end of 14-23; NEUSNER 17-21; DOORLY 66-143; HOLTZ 105-124; BIBLE: Psalms 2 ,6, 42 ,43, 93 99; Proverbs 16, 22; I Kings 17, 18; Amos 5, 8; Hosea 1-4; Isaiah 1, 2, 6, 10

September 10: *Deuteronomy and Deuteronomistic History:*
NEUSNER 21 - 35; DOORLY 144 - 160, 12-17; HOLTZ 83 - 101;
BIBLE: Deuteronomy 6, 9, 11, 12, 14; Jeremiah 20, 30

II. FROM THE EXILE TO HELLENISM (6th - 1st cent. BCE)

September 17: *Exile and Return:*
SCHEINDLIN 25 - 33; DOORLY 163-196; HOLTZ 37-71; BIBLE: Genesis 12, 15, 22; Exodus 14, 19, 20;
Job 1-3, 8, 9, 23, 38-42; Ezekiel 36, 37; Isaiah 40, 45, 49; Haggai 1

September 24: *Persian and Hellenistic Eras:*
SCHEINDLIN 33 - 49; NEUSNER 35 - 47; BIBLE: Nehemiah 8; Ezra 9, 10; Ecclesiastes 1-3; Daniel 6, 7,
12

III. RABBINIC JUDAISM (1st - 6th cent.)

October 1: *Introduction to Rabbinic Judaism and the Law:*
SCHEINDLIN 51 - 69; NEUSNER 51 - 83, 216 - 224; HOLTZ 129 - 175

October 8: *Prayer and Redemption in Rabbinic Judaism:*
NEUSNER 84 - 139; HOLTZ 177 - 211

IV. MEDIEVAL JUDAISM (7th - 18th cent.)

October 15: *The Middle Ages, Jews and Muslims:*
SCHEINDLIN 71 - 95; NEUSNER 140 - 145, 155 - 160; HOLTZ 213 - 226, 261 - 299

October 22: *The Middle Ages, Jews and Christians:*
SCHEINDLIN 97 - 136; NEUSNER 146 - 155, 161 - 164; HOLTZ 305 - 347; GARTNER 1-35

V. THE RISE OF MODERN JUDAISM (18th & 19th cent.)

October 29: *Hasidism and Origins of Modern Judaism:*
SCHEINDLIN 149 - 171, 182 - 183; NEUSNER 164 - 182; GARTNER 61 - 133; HOLTZ 361 - 399

November 5: *Reform Judaism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Conservative Judaism:*
NEUSNER 182 - 192; GARTNER 134 - 161

November 12: *Origins of Zionism and Its Many Forms:*
SCHEINDLIN 137 - 147, 173 - 187, 217 - 224; GARTNER 162 - 201, 213 - 258; NEUSNER 192 - 201

VI. 20TH CENTURY JUDAISM

November 19: *Judaism in the Early 20th Century and the Holocaust:*
GARTNER 201 - 212, 258 - 266, 276 - 333, 347 - 376; SCHEINDLIN 187 - 215

December 3: *Zionism and Israel:*
NEUSNER 202 - 215; SCHEINDLIN 225 - 248; GARTNER 267 - 276, 333 - 346, 376 - 404, 421 - 436

December 10: *Judaism in the U.S. and into the 21st Century:*
SCHEINDLIN 249 - 263; GARTNER 404 - 420

EVALUATION

Your grade in this course will be based on two take-home essay exams. The first exam will cover material studied through October 8. It will be due in class on Wednesday, October 13. The second exam will cover material studied from October 11 through the end of the term. It will be due on Tuesday, Dec. 14. There will be NO in-class exams and NO in-class final exam.

Course requirements include occasional participation on an online discussion board. Each student will also be required to submit a question about the material, via email, at least once during the semester. Details about both of these requirements will be given during the first week of class.

OFFICE HOURS

Ira Chernus: Monday and Wednesday, 12:30 - 1:30, or by appointment

Office: HUMN 284; phone: 492-6169; email: chernus@colorado.edu

Danielle Lancellotti: Monday 12:30 – 1:30, Wednesday 9:50 – 10:50, or by appointment

Office: HUMN 260; email: Danielle.Lancellotti@colorado.edu

We encourage you to talk with any us about anything related to the course, including suggestions for improving the course. The more each of us puts into this class, the more we'll get out of it. If you need any special accommodations to enhance your learning in this course, we will be glad to discuss that with you.

KEY DATES IN THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

c. 1000 BCE: Monarchy begins: David becomes king, succeeded by his son Solomon

922: Dual Monarchy begins: northern kingdom of Israel secedes; David's descendants rule over southern kingdom of Judah

722: Israel destroyed by Assyrians; population dispersed

586: Judah and Jerusalem temple destroyed by Babylonians; population exiled

539: exiles allowed to return to Judah; Judah province of Persian empire

515: Jerusalem temple rebuilt

333: Judah conquered by Greeks under Alexander the Great

167 – 152: Maccabean war leads to independent state of Judah

64: Romans establish de facto control over Judah

66 – 70 CE (AD): Jews rebel against Rome; Jerusalem temple and last vestiges of Jewish independence destroyed; all land of Israel becomes Roman province of Palastina

THE BOOKS OF THE HEBREW BIBLE (TANAKH; OLD TESTAMENT)

5 BOOKS OF MOSES (Torah; Pentateuch)

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

(the 4 books above possibly based on 3 earlier documents, interwoven: J, E, P)

Deuteronomy

DEUTERONOMIC HISTORY

Joshua

Judges

I & II Samuel

I & II Kings

PROPHETS (Nevi'im)

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

12 minor prophets (including Amos, Hosea, Haggai, Joel, Jonah)

WRITINGS (K'tuvim)

Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel

Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles