

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Jewish Studies

Course Number and Section

JEWISH

1000F 550

Instructor Name(s): Hernan Tesler-Mabe

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

While the Jewish people can trace their history over millennia, the academic study of Judaism and Jewish life only extends back to the early 19th century. In this course students will explore the interdisciplinary Jewish Studies field and better understand Jewish history, religion, culture, and ideas.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- (1) Understand the basic contours of Jewish Studies, including its genesis and evolution;
- (2) Better understand Jewish history, culture, and religion, and how they constitute Jewish Studies;
- (3) More clearly appreciate the manner in which the contours of Jewish life have been studied and constructed self-consciously and instrumentally;
- (4) Be able to analyse critical Jewish texts and ideas;
- (5) Develop analytical skills, verbal skills, and written skills, and will deepen their ability to communicate their ideas to their peers in the classroom.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Batnitzky, Leora, et al., eds. The Princeton Companion to Jewish Studies. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2025.

The textbook is available for download via Western University library.

Our textbook will be supplemented with readings and viewings available via the Western University library and/or online.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Attendance and Participation		10

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Textual analysis		10
Mid Terms		30
Term Paper		20
Final Examination		30

Friday, August 7, 2026

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In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.