

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Judaism and the Holocaust**

Course Number and Section

JEWISH

3450F 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. David A. R. Clark

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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:

This course centres on Jewish religious responses to the Holocaust written from within the Holocaust; this approach will enable students to explore how Jews wrestled with religious questions in the midst of Nazi German persecution, violence, and genocide. Each religious response will be located historically, paired with relevant primary sources; in this way, students will consider religious writings in their immediate contexts within the history of the Holocaust. The religious responses selected for this course address multiple topics and themes, including biblical interpretation, Jewish religious practices, the meaning of suffering, divine power or weakness, and the presence/absence of God. Students will come away from this course with a nuanced and critical appreciation of the creativity, honesty, and resilience of Jewish religious voices within the Holocaust.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- describe, analyze, and discuss Jewish religious responses written within the Holocaust;
- articulate correlations and distinctions between religious responses to the Holocaust;
- analyze primary sources from the Holocaust, including letters, diaries, and sermons;
- discuss interconnections between religious responses and historical contexts; and
- demonstrate effective skills for academic writing, discussion, and analysis.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Students must purchase two required textbooks; second-hand copies are welcome.

- Etty Hillesum, *An Interrupted Life and Letters from Westerbork* (~\$31)
 - Noa Mishkin, *As a Burning Flame: The Dream of Regina Jonas* (~\$37 or \$14 for e-book)
- Other required readings will be available via Brightspace (westernu.brightspace.com) or via Course Readings (courserreadings.lib.uwo.ca/ares).

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance and Participation		35
Final Project		35
Final Exam		30

Thursday, August 13, 2026

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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.