

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Jewish History to 1492**

Course Number and Section:

JEWISH

2821F 550

Instructor Name(s): Peter Sabo

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

Course Description:

This course provides a critical survey of Jewish history until 1492. We start with the very origins of Jewish history in the kingdoms of ancient Israel and Judah. We end with the expulsion of Jews from Spain, commonly seen as the time that inaugurates the Modern period of Jewish history. Throughout the course we will examine the social, religious, intellectual, and political dynamics and diversity of Jewish experience. We will also explore how Jewish life was influenced by the cultures with which it interacted. This includes the Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman empires in ancient times as well as Jewish life in the realms of Islam and Christianity.

Learning Outcomes:

1. To become familiar with four general time periods of Jewish history: 1) Ancient Israel and Judah (until 586 BCE), 2) The Second Temple Period (until 70 CE), 3) The Talmudic Period (until ~640 CE), 4) The Middle Ages (until 1492 CE).
2. To become familiar with the history of the origins of Jewish history—and how this relates to issues of Jewish identity.
3. To become familiar with how Jewish life adapted to, and was influenced by, cultures and empires with which it interacted until 1492.
4. To become familiar with general issues of ancient history, focusing particularly on issues of archeology and ancient historiography.
5. To become familiar with the discipline of Jewish Studies, especially aspects of it that relate to the time periods covered in this course.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There are no required purchases of books needed for this course. Having said that, there will be assigned readings every week. All the readings will be uploaded to OWL and you can access them there.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Preparation and Participation		10
Homework and Quizzes		10
Writing Assignment		20
Midterm		25
Final Exam		35

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

Thursday, August 29, 2024