



Short Syllabus

Course Title	Credits
Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought	4
Lecturer	
Dr. Roy Amir	
Contact details	
roydamir@gmail.com . Office hours: Thursdays, by appointment.	
Semester	
Spring 2023	
Short Description	
<p>The course is an introduction to Modern Jewish Thought, from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. We will acquaint ourselves with this modern Jewish tradition of thought, discussing seminal philosophers and religious thinkers such as Spinoza, Moses Mendelssohn, Nachman Krochmal, Hermann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, Abraham Kook, and Joseph Soloveitchik. The participants will form a historical acquaintance with modern philosophical discussion and interpretation of Judaism, as well as a conceptual understanding of its defining philosophical concepts and its relation to central trends in modern philosophy.</p> <p>Our perspective will be twofold. On the one hand, we will discuss the different thinkers as belonging to a continuous enterprise of Jewish Thought, engaging in conversation with Jewish tradition as a whole. Our main interest, however, will be to clarify the philosophical ideas constituting these interpretations and the way they influence – or are influenced by – the interpretation of Judaism. Keeping to this point of view, we will therefore present the modern Jewish tradition as an instance of the general problematics of Modernity, constructing our discussion around central modern philosophical trends and around themes such as the authority of reason, its relation to faith (and revelation), secularization and the relation of state and religion.</p> <p>The course is textually orientated. For each of the course’s modules, the participants will be requested to prepare the relevant text(s), which will then be discussed in class. Short reading assignments will accompany this preparation.</p>	
Final grade components	
Weekly reading assignments: 10% Mid-term paper: 20% Take-home exam: 60% Participation: 10%	
Attendance	
Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.*	
Academic Conduct	



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Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.*

Final assignment

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.*

Additional requirements

You may include a request to keep phones turned-off while in class, or to turn off all electronic apparatuses.

* See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details