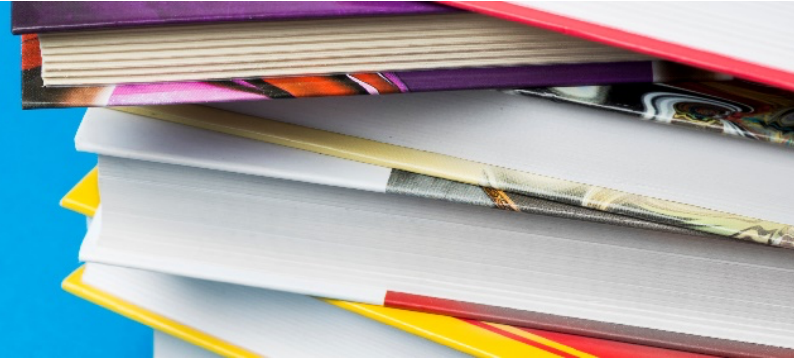




Short Syllabus



Course Title

Introduction to Classical Jewish Philosophy

Lecturer

Dr. Adrian Sackson

Contact details

asackson@gmail.com, adrians@tauex.tau.ac.il

Semester

Spring 2023

Short Description

In this text-based class, students will be introduced to works of some of the most important and influential Jewish thinkers who lived and wrote during the 'golden age' of Jewish philosophy in the Middle Ages. These thinkers engaged critically and creatively with ideas from a wide variety of worlds: traditional rabbinic and biblical sources; ancient Greek philosophy and science; Muslim and Christian theologies. The course will introduce students to some of the big questions and disagreements that animated the intellectual lives of these philosophers: Did God create the world—and does God intervene in it? What is the 'good life'? What role, if any, is religion to play in the attainment of knowledge about the universe? Our exploration will focus particularly on two famous, influential, and very different Jewish thinkers—arguably the 'Plato and Aristotle' of the Jewish philosophical tradition: Judah Halevi, author of the *Kuzari*; and Moses Maimonides, author of the *Guide of the Perplexed*.

Final grade components

Summary Paper [2 pages] (30%):

The task will be given out in the first week of class. Students will summarize an academic article relating to *one* of the thinkers being studied. The submission date depends upon whether one chooses to write about Halevi or Maimonides.

Comparative/Research Paper [5-6 pages] (60%):

The task will be given out in the first week of class. The due date is set by the program.

Participation (10%):

Attendance is mandatory. Participation will be assessed on the basis of the student's *serious engagement* with the class on a weekly basis.

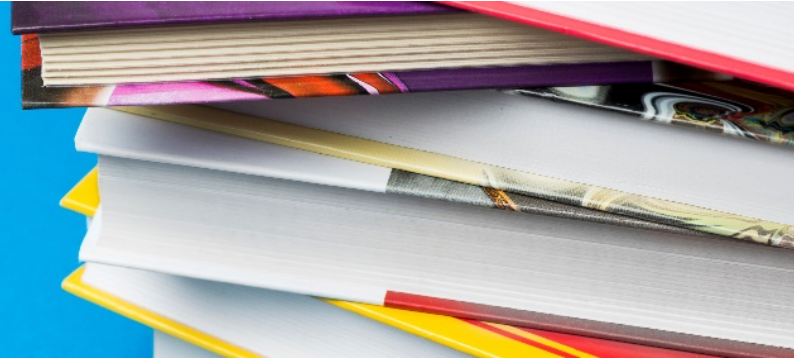
Attendance

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.*



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Academic Conduct

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.*

* See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details