



Full Syllabus



Course Title	Credits
Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought	4
Lecturer	
Dr. Roy Amir	
Contact Details	
roydamir@tauex.tau.ac.il	
Semester	
Spring 2025	
Short Description	
<p>The course is an introduction to Modern Jewish Philosophy, spanning from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. It provides a basic historical and conceptual understanding of significant trends and challenges in modern Jewish philosophical thinking. We will discuss the views of seminal philosophers and religious thinkers, including Baruch Spinoza, Moses Mendelssohn, Nachman Krochmal, Samson Raphael Hirsch, Hermann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, and Joseph Soloveitchik.</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. All reading materials will be published on Moodle.</p>	
Final grade components	
<p>Weekly reading assignments: 10%*</p> <p>Mid-term paper (published: 4.5; Due: 19.5): 20%</p> <p>Final take-home exam: 70% (two dates: TBA**)</p> <p>* Students are required to achieve 10 "pass" marks for reading assignments during the semester.</p> <p>** Students may submit one or both dates of the take-homa exam. Note that if you submit both, the second counts for your final grade.</p>	
Course schedule	
Class no. / Date	Subject and Requirements (assignments, reading materials, tasks, etc.)
1-2	Introduction: Jewish Thought and/in Modernity
3-6	<u>Baruch Spinoza</u> : Revelation, the Bible and the Jews Reading: Spinoza, <i>Theological-Political Treatise</i>
7-10	<u>Moses Mendelssohn</u> : Judaism, State and Emancipation. Reading: Mendelssohn, <i>Jerusalem or On Religious Power and Judaism</i>
11	<u>Judaism in the 19th Century: After Mendelssohn</u> Reading: Samsun Rafael Hirsch, <i>Religion Allied to Progress</i>



Full Syllabus



12	<u>Jewish philosophy after Kant and Hegel</u> Reading: Selection from Krochmal, Soloveitchik and Leibowitz
13-18	<u>Hermann Cohen</u> : The Task of Rational Judaism Reading: Cohen, <i>Religion of Reason Out of the Sources of Judaism</i>
19-24	<u>Franz Rosenzweig</u> : Judaism as a “New Thinking” Reading: Rosenzweig, <i>The Star of Redemption</i>
24-25	Current and future perspectives Reading: TBA

This schedule is **tentative** and may change as the course progresses

Required course reading

See above

Optional course reading

- Frank, Daniel H. and Lehman, Oliver (eds.), *History of Jewish philosophy*. Routledge: London & New-York (1997).
- Katz, Steven T. *Jewish Philosophers*. Keter: Jerusalem (1975).
- Kajon, Irene. *Contemporary Jewish Philosophy*. Routledge: London & New-York (2006)
- Schweid, Eliezer. *A History of Modern Jewish Religious Philosophy*, Vol. I-IV. Brill: Boston (2011-2023)

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.

Submitting a written assignment generated by AI in part or in whole without specific permission of the instructor is a form of plagiarism.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. The Program understands that there are occasions on which it is not possible for students to attend classes and/or unplanned events such as illness and outside commitments can prevent students from reaching campus. For this reason, *if absolutely necessary*, we allow students to miss up to four (4) sessions of each 4-credit course per semester and up to two (2) sessions for each 2-credit course. *These 2 or 4 allowable absences do not need to be authorized by the Liberal Arts office*, but students should inform their instructors as soon as they know they will need to be absent. Note that this allowance *includes* short-term illness, *even with presentation of a doctor’s note*. Students who exceed these absences will face a grade penalty, and in extreme cases may not be able to complete the course/submit the final assignment or exam*. Note that individual instructors *are not authorized* to allow any additional absences.



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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. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.* 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.

Comments

The use of AI tools is not allowed, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

*See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details