

TITLE Introduction to Judaism

Sponsor(s) Sianna Ashton e-mail: ashonda@rowan
David Cloway e-mail: cloway@rowan
e-mail:

DEPARTMENT Philosophy + Religion
College CLAS

If LAS-check: History/Humanities Social/Behavioral Sciences
 Math/Science

UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATE

Minor changes to existing General Education course
 Request new or existing course receive the following description:
 Writing Intensive Literature
 Multicultural-Global Lab Science
 Changes to General Education requirements of a degree or program
 New or Existing course to be placed in the General Education Bank:
 Fine/Performing Arts LAS: Humanities
 LAS: Social Behavior LAS: Math/Science
 Communication Studies

Signatures Required: representing approval before submission to Office of the Senate

Department Chair: David Cloway Date: 1/30/06
Department CURRICULUM Chair: David Cloway Date: 1/30/06
Academic DEAN: Joy Hill Date: 2-14-06

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: 4/10/06 Open Hearing Date: NA
SOH Approved: NA
Not Approved: NA

Signature: College Curriculum Chair NA

Signature: SENATE CURRICULUM CHAIR [Signature]
Date: 1/9/06

Comments: _____

Signature: Executive Vice President/Provost: [Signature]
Date: 7/26/06
Approved:
Not Approved:

Signature: REGISTRAR [Signature]
Date: 8/3/06 Course Description Received & Approved
Hegis Taxonomy & Course # REL 10.301

Notification Forward: SCC CHAIR Academic Dean
 IR Department Chair
 CAP VP/Student Affairs

7/26/06
8/3/06
db

Dr. Dianne Ashton
Philosophy & Religion

ROWAN UNIVERSITY
Glassboro, New Jersey

Department of Philosophy & Religion

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

I. Details

- a. Course Title: Introduction to Judaism
HEGIS #: REL10 310
- b. Sponsors:
Dianne Ashton, Professor, Philosophy & Religion Department and David Clowney,
Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion
- c. Credit hours: 3
- d. Course Level: Junior (300 level)
- e. Prerequisites: at least one class in the Humanities, Comp I and II
- f. Implementation:
 - 1. Time of implementation: Fall Semester 2008
 - 2. Scale of implementation: One section every two years, depending on demand.

II. Curricular Effect

- a. Offerings:
This course will represent an extension of the curriculum and will not be replacing any other courses.
- b. Adequacy:
No additional staff or resources will be required for implementation of this course. Regarding space, one classroom with seating for thirty students will be needed for one semester every two years.
- c. Recommended Library Resources: See attached form
- d. Short - term evaluations: N/A

III. Rationale

As our department prepares to implement a major in Philosophy and Religion we are developing courses to cover areas of study required for systematic work. Judaism is the

historic foundation to both Christianity and Islam and a distinctive living tradition in its own right. A course in Judaism will be included in the list of courses from which students will select their work in our major.

The course will also be available to Rowan students who do not major in Philosophy and Religion, and can be useful to students of western history (ancient to modern), literature, and those studying contemporary political movements.

The course can also serve students' General Education. The University of Tennessee recently published student evaluations of their Introduction to Judaism course, asking them "What kinds of things have you learned in this class on Judaism that you can apply to your own life?" Responses included a new knowledge of Judaism's influence and of the historic origins of Christianity, a chance to study religion and personal philosophies from a new perspective, a greater understanding of contemporary political tensions in the middle east, and to "help me to be open-minded." [Newsletter of the Fern & Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, vol 12, fall 2005, Univ. Of Tennessee.]

IV. Essence of the Course

a. Objectives of the course in relation to student outcomes: A student who has completed this Introduction to Judaism should have minimally acquired the following:

1. An understanding of the key concepts of Judaism.
2. Some familiarity with the construct of the Hebrew Bible both historically and in its various genres.
3. An understanding of the main differences between ancient Israelite religion and Judaism.
4. Knowledge of the main historical outlines of the Jewish experience in Europe and comparison of that with the condition of Jewish life in Arabic countries, and their effect on religious life.
6. Knowledge of the changes in Judaism since emancipation [circa nineteenth century].
7. Engagement with some contemporary Jewish spiritual expression.

b. Topical Outline/ Content:

1. Historical, literary and religious assessment of key biblical texts: Genesis, Exodus, Samuel 1 & 2, Ezekiel.
2. The structure and religious approach of rabbinic Judaism: spirituality of the Talmud

3. Conditions of Jewish life in Christian Europe and the Arabic world
4. The shape of Jewish worship - structure of the prayer book, festivals of the year, life cycle events
5. Judaism since emancipation
6. Women in Judaism
7. Jewish religious life in the United States

c. Evaluation of students and grading procedure: Student performance will be assessed in various ways: written examinations, papers, homework assignments, oral reports, class presentations, class participation, individual or group projects, and possibly other devices as well. The particular mix of devices evaluating student performance will be at the discretion of the instructors.

d. Course Evaluation: This course will be reevaluated by the Philosophy and Religion Department at least every other year (beginning with the first year of its implementation). The review will take into account student evaluations of the course, reactions to the course from the various departments affected and the views of the instructor responsible for teaching the course. The purpose of this review will be to ensure that the Introduction to Judaism continues to meet the objectives of the Philosophy and Religion Major and of the general education, the goals of the university as well as the objectives stipulated for the course itself.

e. Results of consultation: Included with major proposal.

Catalog Description

hegis # REL10 3103 s.h.

Introduction to Judaism

(Prerequisites: any course in the humanities, COM01 111, COM01 112)

This course introduces the student to the primary beliefs, texts, and spiritual approaches of the Jewish religious tradition. Covering approximately 3,000 years, this tradition has undergone many changes as the conditions of Jewish life changed. Students will study primary texts such as biblical accounts and commentaries along with contemporary personal reflections.

This form **MUST BE COMPLETED FOR NEW COURSE or PROGRAM PROPOSALS, and EXTENSIVE CHANGES TO A COURSE or PROGRAM.**

The purpose of this form is to provide a channel of communication between the Campbell Librarians and faculty when submitting new course or program proposals, or making extensive changes to existing courses or programs. The information will be used to assess the resources available in the library, and to identify resources the library should acquire to support the new courses/programs, or extensive changes to same. The information will also provide the rationale for institutional support for library acquisitions. This form should be completed in a coordinated effort between the course sponsor(s) and the academic department liaison librarian.

Note: Sponsor(s) complete parts A & B
If assistance is required to complete, please notify the librarian liaison.
Forward this form to the librarian who will complete parts C, D & E

When form is completed, attach to the original curriculum proposal before submitting to the Senate office.

A. College: Liberal Arts & Sciences

Department: Philosophy and Religion

Proposed by: Dr. Dianne Ashton

Date: _____

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Judaism

Anticipated Date for Course/Program Offering: _____

B. List specific resources that should be acquired to support this course.

B. Resources are sufficient to support this course, and additional resources are not required to support this course.

C. Describe the resources available in the library to support this course/program, including reference, monographic, electronic databases, audio-visual materials, etc. A summary statement is sufficient.

See attached.

D. List key periodicals available in the library to support this course/program.

See attached.

E. Librarian comments & recommendations:

See attached.

LIBRARIAN LIAISON: Cynthia Mullens

Signature: Cynthia Mullens

- B. Resources are sufficient to support this course, and additional resources are not required to support this course.
- C. Library Resources to Support course
1. Reference Books
 - a. Encyclopedia of Judaism Ref. BM50.E63 1999
 - b. Encyclopaedia Judaica. Ref. DS102.8 E513
 - c. New Encyclopedia of Judaism Ref. BM50.E63 2002
 2. Searching the online catalog yields a large number of books pertaining to the topical outline.
 3. Electronic/Paper databases
 - a. Philosopher's Index, Paper
 - b. Academic Search Premier, Electronic
 - c. Humanities, FT, Electronic
 - d. Humanities and Social Science Retro, Electronic
 - e. Project Muse
 - f. J-Stor
- D. List key periodicals that support this course.
- a. American Jewish History
 - b. Harvard Theological Review
 - c. History of Religions
 - d. Journal of Religion
 - e. Modern Judaism: a journal of Jewish ideas and experience
 - f. Religion and American culture
- E. Continue to monitor Books In Print and publisher's catalogs for new books with Judaism as the subject, and order those with good reviews.

March 8, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to support the Department of Religion and Philosophy's new course, **Introduction to Judaism**, sponsored by Dr. Dianne Ashton. As the Department of Religion and Philosophy is currently preparing to offer a new major in religion, it stands to reason that basic courses on each of the world's major religions should be incorporated into the curriculum. This course will no doubt also appeal to students who have taken Introduction to Religion and Introduction to the Bible, courses that enroll both majors and general education students. I offer a class in Jewish history, either American Jewish History or Women and Judaism, in the history department every other year. Judging from the enthusiastic response and full enrollments these courses always attract, I feel confident that there is interest on this campus in a course on Judaism. It would be a great boon to history students to have the option of taking **Introduction to Judaism** either before an upper-level history course as a background course or after an upper-level history course as a way to develop an intellectual interest.

The objectives of **Introduction to Judaism** are clearly laid out in this course proposal. Students will gain knowledge of Jewish history, practice, and thought in a well-organized overview format. They will read a wide variety of materials that reflect the cultural richness of Judaism. No additional faculty resources are required.

I believe **Introduction to Judaism** will be a welcome addition to the curriculum of Rowan University. Dr. Ashton's proposal has my full support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa R. Klapper
Assistant Professor of History