

RELI 4070/6070

**Judaism**

Spring Semester, 2009 . Professor Richard Elliott Friedman

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:45, Visual Arts 116

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:15-3:15, Peabody Hall 211

The interaction of Jewish history and Western civilization, with emphasis upon the development of Jewish religion in the biblical, rabbinic, and modern periods.

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| 1  | 1/8  | <b>Distinctions</b>  |
| 2  | 1/13 | <b>Priests, Judges, Kings</b><br>Judges 4-5; 9; 17-18; 1 Samuel 8-13; 15-24; 27; 29; 31; Deuteronomy 17:14-20<br><i>Who Wrote the Bible?</i> , pp. 33-38                   |
| 3  | 1/15 | <b>Davidic Dynasty</b><br>2 Samuel<br><i>Who Wrote the Bible?</i> , pp. 38-45  |
| 4  | 1/20 | <b>Two Kingdoms: Israel and Judah</b><br>1 Kings 1-2; 3-14; 16:23-32; 2 Kings 3; 10-11; 17-25<br><i>Who Wrote the Bible?</i> , pp. 46-49, 89-99                            |
| 5  | 1/22 | <b>Destruction, Exile, Return</b><br>Ezra 1; 3; 7; Nehemiah 1-2; 8-9<br><i>Who Wrote the Bible?</i> , pp. 150-160  |
| 6  | 1/27 | <b>The Religion of Israel: The Story They Wrote</b><br>Genesis 1-12; 15; 17-18; 22; 28; Exodus 1-15; 19-20; 34;<br>Numbers 11-14; 16-17; 20; 25; Deuteronomy 6-7; 9; 29-30 |
| 7  | 1/29 | <b>The Religion of Israel: The Laws</b><br>Exodus 21-23; Leviticus 19; 24-25; Deuteronomy 17; 19-25  |
| 8  | 2/3  | <b>The Religion of Israel: The Prophets</b><br>Amos 1-2; Hosea 1-6; Micah 1-4; Isaiah 1-2; 5-6; Jeremiah 1; 7; 42-43; Isaiah 40  |
| 9  | 2/5  | <b>The Religion of Israel: The Poetry</b>  |
| 10 | 2/10 | <b>The Religion of Israel: God</b><br>Psalms 29; 82; Leviticus 17; Deuteronomy 12<br><i>Who Wrote the Bible?</i> , Chapters 2-3  |

- 11 2/12 **The Torah**  
*Who Wrote the Bible?*, Chapters 5-7; 9-14
- 12 2/17 **First Midterm Examination**
- 13 2/19 **Rabbinic Judaism: Mishna**  
*From Text to Tradition*, pp. 1-16, 60-119
- 14 2/24 **Rabbinic Judaism: Gemara**  
*From Text to Tradition*, pp. 120-176
- 15 2/26 **Rabbinic Judaism: Midrash**  
*From Text to Tradition*, pp. 177-219
- 16 3/3 **Rabbinic Judaism: Siddur**  
*From Text to Tradition*, pp. 220-269
- 17 3/5 **Rabbinic Judaism: Commentary**
- 18 3/17 **Jewish Culture: Language, Life Cycle, Holidays, Food**  
Leviticus 11; 23; Zechariah 7-8; Esther
- 19 3/19 **Jewish Culture: Art, Music, Humor**
- 20 3/24 **Second Midterm Examination**
- 21 3/26 **Jewish Experience: Antisemitism**  
*The Jew in the Modern World*, VII
- 22 3/31 **Jewish Experience: Europe**  
*The Jew in the Modern World*, VIII
- 23 4/2 **Jewish Experience: America**  
*The Jew in the Modern World*, IX
- 24 4/7 **Jewish Experience: Holocaust**  
*The Jew in the Modern World*, XI
- 4/9 [No class]  
*The Essential Kabbalah*
- 25 4/14 **Kabbalah**  
*The Essential Kabbalah*
- 26 4/16 **Movements: Reform**  
*The Jew in the Modern World*, IV

- 27 4/21 **Movements: Orthodox**  
*The Jew in the Modern World, IV*
- 28 4/23 **Movements: Conservative**  
*The Jew in the Modern World, IV*
- 29 4/28 **Return**  
*The Jew in the Modern World, X*
- 5/7 **Final Examination**  
**8:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Books:**

**Bible. *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures, The New JPS Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text* (Jewish Publication Society)**

**Richard Elliott Friedman, *Who Wrote the Bible?*, 2nd edition (San Francisco: HarperCollins)**

**Lawrence H. Schiffman, *From Text to Tradition* (Ktav)**

**Daniel Matt, *The Essential Kabbalah* (San Francisco: HarperCollins)**

**Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History* 2nd edition (Oxford)**

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**For information on archaeological excavations in Israel, see: <http://digs.bib-arch.org>**

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**Undergraduate prerequisite: Junior or senior standing or permission of department.**

**Grading Policy: A Midterm Examination counts approximately one third. A Final Examination counts approximately two thirds. Participation (quantity and quality) also count in the final grade evaluation.**

**All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.**

**The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.**