

BBJD5301 - INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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Christmas Break– Travel Program to Israel

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This year's core value is Spiritual Vitality. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and application of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. This course primarily addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Course Goals:

1. To review the principal concepts of Old Testament religion and show the later developments into Judaism.
2. To explore the historical background of the festival and fasting concepts in the culture of the Ancient Near East
3. To trace the history of Judaism through the periods of the Zugot, Tannaim, Mishnah, Amoraim, Responsa, and later periods.
4. To probe the relationship between the tenets of Jewish religion and faith and their relationship to daily life and world view.

Course Description

A survey is undertaken of the history of Judaism from its beginnings in Old Testament Israelite religion through the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. Developments and conflicts which have shaped the vital principles of Judaism will be explored. Subject areas such as Torah, sacrifice, messianism, prophetism, and election will be examined in order to understand better the Jewish background of the New Testament. Particular emphasis is given to helping students better understand how to communicate the Gospel with persons of the Jewish faith.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will investigate the historical framework of Israelite religion through which to examine the origin and development of Judaism.
2. The student will read and interpret the major biblical passages and discern principles which form the basis of Jewish lifestyle.
3. The student will discover the vitality of Jewish thought and the contribution of Judaism to Christianity in the areas of worship, exposition of Scripture, and interaction with the world.
4. The student will examine Jewish thought, ethics, and world view, in order to communicate more effectively with those of the Jewish faith.
5. The student will explore the historical background of the festival and fasting concepts in the culture of the Ancient Near East to determine nature and purpose.
6. The student will investigate the particular cultural, historical, and cultic background of each of the Jewish Holy Days.

7. The student will trace the biblical precepts, prescriptions, and practices for each of the periodic holy days through the history of the nation.
8. The student will examine the transformations and reinterpretations of Jewish holy days in the teaching of Jesus and in the commemoration of the Early Church.
9. The student will investigate the modern observances of Jewish holy days by Jews throughout the world today.
The student will explore ways in which Christian faith and practice can be enriched by incorporating aspects of Jewish observance into church worship and enhance the observance of our own holy days.
10. The student will explore ways in which Christian faith and practice can be enriched by incorporating aspects of Jewish observance into church worship and enhance the observance of our own holy days.

Textbooks

Seltzer, Robert M. Editor. *Judaism: A People and its History*. New York: MacMillan Publishing Company, 1989

Breslauer, Daniel. *Understanding Judaism through History*. University of Kansas, Thomson-Wadsworth, 2003

Course Requirements:

Book Review (30%): The student will do one book review of both the textbooks that have been assigned above. The report should be 5-7 pages in length, double spaced. It is not necessary to follow Turabian format, but the paper should be written in 12 point Times New Roman font. The report should include the bibliographical information about the book, the author's background, a brief summary of the contents, the author's purpose in writing the book, its contribution to the study of Judaism, and any major contributions that the reader discovers that had previously been unknown to the reader.

Travel Journal (20%). The student will keep a detailed travel journal throughout the trip, paying particular attention to issues of Jewish history, religion, and culture. The student may choose the format for the journal, but at the end of the trip, a copy of the journal will be turned in to the professor for grading. A digital format is preferred, but the professor will take it in any form, it just must be legible and understandable. If it is not digital, the professor will return the journal after grading.

Research Paper (50%): The student will write a 7-10 page paper, double-spaced, following at least the 7th addition or later of Turabian formatting of the paper. The paper will be on a subject germane to Judaism and will be the student's choice with the professor's approval.

Additional Items:

1. There will be no pre-trip or post-trip meetings required for the course. The professor and the student will meet on the first day in Israel to review the itinerary and discuss the sites and information regarding the course.
2. All work will be due by March 15th, 2015.

Selected Bibliography:

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- Buber, Martin. *Hasidism*. Trans. Dr. Greta Hort, et al. New York: Philosophical Library, 1948.
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- Davidson, A.B. *The Theology of the Old Testament*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1961.
- Davies, W.D., Finkelstein, Louis. *The Cambridge History of Judaism*. Vol 1: Introduction; The Persian Period. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984. ***
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- Edersheim, Alfred. *The Temple*. London: James Clark & Co., 1959.
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- Eichrodt, Walter. *Theology of the Old Testament*. 2 Vols. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1961.
- Finkelstein, Louis. *The Pharisees*. 2 Vols. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1938. *** (Either volume)
- _____. *The Jews: Their History, Culture, and Religion*. 2 Vols. New York: Harper and Bros. Publishing, 1949.
- Foerster, Werner. *From the Exile to Christ*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964.
- Foster, Raymond S. *The Restoration of Israel*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1970.
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- Ginzberg, Louis. *The Legends of the Jews*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1955.
- Harrelson, Walter. *From Fertility Cult to Worship*. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1969.**
- Horsley, Richard with John Hanson. *Bandits, Prophets, and Messiahs: Popular Movements at the Time of Jesus*. 1985, 1988. ****
- Jacob, Edmund. *Theology of the Old Testament*. Translated by Arthur W. Heathcote & Philip J. Allcock. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1955.
- James, E.O. *Myth and Ritual in the Ancient Near East*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1958. ****
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- Moule, C.E.D. *Worship in the New Testament*. Ecumenical Studies in Worship, 7. Ed. J.G. Davies and A. Raymond George. London: Lutterworth Press, 1961.
- Mussner, Franz. *Tractate on the Jews: The Significance of Judaism for Christian Faith*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984.
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- _____. *Messiah in Context: Israel's History and Destiny in Formative Judaism*. Foundations of Judaism, Part 2. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984. ****
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- Oesterley, W.O.E. *The Jewish Background of the Christian Liturgy*. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1965.

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