 **Date:** June 2014

Course Name and Number:

Jewish Identity, Leadership and Leaders throughout the Ages

Dr. Adam S. Ferziger

04-669-80

04-670-80

**Type of course:** Lecture

**Year of Studies:**2014-2015 **Semester:** Fall & Spring  **Hours/credits:** 2

**Course Description:**

This course explores selected issues of Jewish identity in their historical contexts. Using biographical, religious and literary sources we will look at central dilemmas that confronted Jews and their leaders in the medieval, early modern, modern and contemporary periods. As the course progresses we will focus on the tension between continuity and innovation that became an ever more central issue in modern times. We will examine the various strategies adopted and the debates that ensued.

**The Process of the Course:**

**(Teaching Methods, use of technology, Guest Speakers)**

**Detailed Lesson plan:**

* Christianity and Judaism
* Islam and Judaism
* Forced Conversion
* *Kiddush Hashem –* Martyrdom
* New Christians (*Anusim*, "*Marranos*")
* Messianism
* Mysticism - *Kabbalah*
* Secularization
* Religious – Secular Relations
* Zionism and Anti-Zionism
* Chabad Hasidism
* Post-Holocaust Identity
* Assimilation
* American Jewish Identity
* Israeli Jewish Identity
* Jewish Denominations (Orthodox, Reform, Conservative)
* Post-Denominationalism
* Intermarriage
* New Age Judaism
* Gender and Feminism

**Course requirements**

1. Attendance and Participation: Up to 20% of the final grade.

2. Research Paper and Final Exam: 80%

#### Bibliography:

Baron, Salo W.: “Problems of Jewish Identity From An Historical Perspective: A Survey,” *PAAJR* (1978-9),33-67.

Ben Rafael, Eliezer: *Jewish Identities: Responsa to Ben Gurion from the Sages of Israel* (Be’er Sheva, Israel, 2001) [in Hebrew].

Ben-Yehuda, Nachman: *Deviance and Moral Boundaries*, (Chicago & London 1985).

Berger, Peter L.: *The Heretical Imperative* (New York 1979).

Charme, Stuart Z.: “Varieties of Authenticity in Contemporary Identity,” in: *Jewish Social Studies*6 (2000), 133-155.

Dash Moore, Deborah: *At Home in America* (New York, 1981).

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Ferziger, Adam S. *Exclusion and Hierarchy* (Philadelphia, 2005), 27-40, 90-112.

---- "Church/Sect Theory and American Orthodoxy Reconsidered," in Stuart Cohen and Bernard Susser (eds.), *Ambivalent Jew* (New York: Jewish Theological Seminary, 2007), 107-124.

---- "Between Catholic Israel and the *K'rov Yisrael*: The Role of the Non-Jew in the Conservative Synagogue (1982-2007) [typescript].

---- "The Community Kollel in America: An Emerging Model for Confronting Assimilation," *Rappaport Center for Assimilation Research: Research and Position Papers* (Ramat-Gan: Rappaport Center for Assimilation Research, 2006).

---- "From Lubavitch to Lakewood: The Chabadization of American Orthodoxy [typescript]

Friedman, Samuel G.: *Jew vs. Jew* (New York, 2000).

Kaplan, Lawrence, “*Daas Torah*: A Modern Conception of Rabbinic Authority,” in Moshe Sokol (ed.), *Rabbinic Authority and Personal Autonomy* (Northvale, N. J., 1992), 1-60.

Kellner, Menachem: *Must a Jew Believe Anything?* (London and Portland, Oregon, 1999).

Lichtenstein, Aharon: “Brother Daniel and the Jewish Fraternity,” *Judaism* 12 (1963), 260-280.

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Rakeffet-Rothkoff, Aaron, “Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik: The Early Years,” *Tradition* 30, 4 (Summer 1996), 193-209.

Rothenberg, Naftali and Schweid, Eliezer (eds.), *Jewish Identity in Modern Israel* (Jerusalem and New York, 2002).

Schachter, Jacob J. *Rabbi Jacob Emden: Life and Works* (Dissertation, Harvard University 1988), chapter V.

Scholem, Gershom, “Redemption through Sin,” in his *The Messianic Idea in Judaism* (New York, 1971).

Silberstein, Laurence L.: “Others Within and Others Without: Rethinking Jewish Identity and Culture,” in Laurence L. Silberstein & Robert L. Cohn (eds*.), The Other in Jewish Thought and History: Constructions of Jewish Cultures and Identity* (New York, 1994), 1-34.

Thompson, John B.: “Tradition and Self in a Mediated World,” in Paul Morris & Paul Heelas (eds.) *Detraditionalization* (Oxford, 1996), 89-108.

Webber, Jonathan: “Modern Jewish Identities,” in: Jonathan Littman (ed.), *Jewish Identities in New Europe* (London, 1994), 74-85.

Weissman, Deborah R. “Bais Ya’akov as an Innovation in Jewish Women’s Education,” *Studies in Jewish Education* 7 (1995), 278-299.

Woocher, Jonathan Steven: *Civil Judaism in the United States* (Jerusalem, 1978).

Wurtzburger, Walter S. “The Centrality of Creativity in the Thought of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik,” *Tradition* 30, 4 (Summer 1996), 219-228.

Yaron, Zvi, *The Philosophy of Rav Kook* (Jerusalem, 1991), 59-69, 233-244.