



Course Name and Number:

Jewish Identity, Leadership and Leaders through the Ages

04-669-80

04-670-80

Type of course: Lecture

Year of Studies: 2019-20 **Semester:** Fall & Spring **Hours/credits** 3

The courses objectives: (Overall Objectives/ Specific Objectives)

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with key historic religious figures and their focal roles in articulating new forms of Jewish identity during their lifetimes.

Course Description:

This course explores selected religious leadership figures who lived during medieval, early modern, modern, and contemporary times who played key roles in articulating new perceptions of Jewish identity in their lifetimes and influenced the ensuing trajectory of Judaism within the environments and communities with which they were connected. Using biographical, religious and literary sources we will look at central dilemmas that confronted Jews in these 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:

Number of Lesson	Topic of the Lesson	Required Reading
1.	Introduction	
2.	Meir of Rothenberg and Ashkenazi Martyrdom	Shalom Spiegel, <i>The Last Trial</i>
3.	Shmuel ha-Nagid and Sephardic Duality	Gerson Cohen, "Messianic Postures in Ashkenaz and Sepharad"

4.	Maimonides: Philosopher, Codifier, and Leader	Abraham Halkin and David Hartman. <i>Crisis and Leadership: Epistles of Maimonides</i>
5.	Isaac Luria: Exile and Mysticism	Rachel Elior, "Exile and Redemption in Jewish Mystical Thought"
6.	Shabbetai Sevi the Mystical Messiah	Gerschom Scholem, <i>Sabbetai Sevi</i>
7.		
8.	Israel "Ba'al Shem Tov" and the Rise of Hasidism	Moshe Rosman, <i>Founder of Hasidism</i>
9.		
10.	Elijah the "Gaon of Vilna" and the Rise of Mitnagedism	Eliyahu Stern, <i>The Genius</i>
11.		
12.	Moses Mendelssohn and the Jewish Enlightenment	Shmuel Feiner, <i>Moses Mendelssohn</i>
13.	Abraham Geiger and Jewish Reform	Adam Ferziger, "Abraham Geiger and the Denominational Approach to Jewish Life"
14.	Hatam Sofer and Hungarian Orthodoxy	Michael Silber, "The Emergence of Ultra-Orthodoxy"
15.	SR Hirsch and <i>Torah im Derekh Erez</i>	Adam Ferziger, <i>Exclusion and Hierarchy</i>
16.	Sarah Schenirer and Female Jewish Leadership	Naomi Seidman, <i>Sarah Schenirer and the Bais Yaakov Movement</i>
17.	A.I. Kook and Redemptive Zionism	Avi Ravitzky, <i>Messianism, Zionism and Jewish Religious Radicalism</i>
18.	Ben-Zion Meir Hai Ouziel and the Halakhic Tradition of Eastern Jewry	Zvi Zohar, "Sephardic Rabbinic Responses to Modernity: Some Central Characteristics"
19.	Mordecai Kaplan and Judaism as a Civilization	Mel Scult, <i>The Radical American Judaism of MM Kaplan</i>
20.	Abraham Joshua Heschel and Spiritual Ethics	Shai Held, <i>Abraham Joshua Heschel</i>
21.	Joseph Soloveitchik and Orthodox Existentialism	Seth Farber, <i>An American Orthodox Dreamer</i>
22.	Aaron Kotler and American Haredism	Haym Soloveitchik, "Rupture and Reconstruction"
23.	Menachem Mendel Schneerson and Outreach	Menachem Friedman and Samuel Heilman, <i>The Rebbe</i>
24.	Ovadia Yosef and the Israeli Eastern Neo-Traditionalist Revolution	Nissim Leon, "Zikui Harabim: Ovadia Yosef's Approach toward Religious Activism and his Place in the Haredi Movement within Mizrahi Jewry"
25.	Blu Greenberg and Orthodox Feminism	Tamar Ross, "Modern Orthodoxy and the Challenge of Feminism"
26.	Shlomo Carlebach – Hasidism	Yaakov Ariel, "Hasidism in the Age

	and New Age	of Aquarius"
27.	Sharon Brous and Emergent Judaism	Steven Cohen and Arnold Eisen, <i>The Jew Within</i>

Requirements/ Assignment/Tasks:

Class Participation and Homework/Final Exam

Class Participation and HW: 30%

Exam: 70%

Bibliography: (Required/ Elective)

Ariel, Yaakov "Hasidism in the Age of Aquarius: The House of Love and Prayer in San Francisco, 1967–1977," *Religion and American Culture* 13, no. 2 (Summer 2003): 139–65;

Cohen, Gerson. "Messianic Postures of Ashkenazim and Sephardim," in Gerson Cohen, *Studies in the Varieties of Rabbinic Culture* (Philadelphia and New York, 1991), 271-298.

Eisen, Arnold and Cohen, Steven. *The Jew Within* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana U. P., 2000).

Elior, Rachel "Exile and Redemption in Jewish Mystical Thought," *Studies in Spirituality* 14 (2004): 1-15. [<http://www.cismor.jp/uploads-images/sites/3/2008/02/Exile-and-Redemption-in-Jewish-Mystical-Thought.pdf>]

Feiner, Shmuel, *Moses Mendelssohn* (New Haven: Yale, 2010).

Ferziger, Adam S. *Exclusion and Hierarchy: Orthodoxy, Non-Observance and the Emergence of Modern Jewish Identity* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005).

----"Feminism and Heresy: The Construction of a Jewish Metanarrative," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 77, 3 (September 2009), 494–546

-----"Between Catholic Israel and the K'rov Yisrael: Non-Jews in Conservative Synagogues (1982-2008)," *Journal of Jewish Studies*, LXI, 1 (Spring 2010), 88-116

----"'Outside the Shul': The American Soviet Jewry Movement and the Rise of Solidarity Orthodoxy (1964-1986)," *Religion and American Culture* 22, 1 (Winter 2012), 83-130

----"From Lubavitch to Lakewood: The 'Chabadization' of American Orthodoxy," *Modern Judaism* 33, 2 (2013), 101-124.

-----"Abraham Geiger and the Denominational Approach to Jewish Religious Life," in Christian Wiese (ed.), *Jüdische Existenz in de Moderne: Abraham Geiger und die Wissenschaft des Judentums* (Berlin: Walter De Gruyter, 2013), 179-192.

----“Beyond Bais Ya'akov: Orthodox Outreach and the Emergence of Haredi Women as Religious Leaders,” *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 14, 1 (2015), 140-59.

----"On Fragmentary Judaism: The Jewish “Other” and the Worldview of R. Dr. Aharon Lichtenstein," *Tradition* 47, 4 (2015), 34-68.

Finkelman, Yoel. “An Ideology for American Yeshiva Students: The Sermons of R. Aharon Kotler, 1942–1962.” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 58, no. 2 (2007), 314–32.

Halkin, Abraham and Hartman, David. *Crisis and Leadership: Epistles of Maimonides* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1985).

Held, Shai. *Abraham Joshua Heschel* (Bloomington, Ind., Indiana U.P., 2013).

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.

Katz, Steven T. “Irving (Yitzchak) Greenberg,” in *Interpreters of Judaism in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Steven T. Katz (Washington, D.C.: Bnai Brith Books, 1993), 59–90

Lasker, Daniel. “Rabbanism and Karaism: The Contest for Supremacy,” in Raphael Jospe and Stanley Wagner (eds.), *Great Schisms in Jewish History* (Denver, 1981), 47-72.

Leon, Nissim, "Zikui Harabim: Ovadia Yosef's Approach toward Religious Activism and his Place in the Haredi Movement within Mizrachi Jewry, " *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* (2008), 150-68.

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

Loewenthal, Tali “Contemporary Habad and the Paradox of Redemption,” *Perspectives On Jewish Thought And Mysticism*, ed. A. I. Ivry, et al. (Amsterdam, 1998), 381-402.

Maciejko, Paweł. *The Mixed Multitude: Jacob Frank and the Frankist Movement, 1755-1816* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

Mirsky, Yehudah. *Rav Kook: Mystic in a Time of Revolution* (Yale, 2014), Intro-92.

Ravitzky, Aviezer. *Messianism, Zionism, and Jewish Religious Radicalism* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

Rosman, Moshe, *Founder of Hasidism* (Berkeley: UC Press, 1996).

Ross, Tamar. “Modern Orthodoxy and the Challenge of Feminism,” *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* XVI (2000), 3-38.

Scholem, Gerschom. "Isaac Luria and his School," *Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism* (New York, 1941), chapter 7 [244-286].

----"Redemption Through Sin," in his *The Messianic Idea in Judaism* (New York, 1971), 78-141.

Scult, Mel. *The Radical American Judaism Of Mordecai M. Kaplan* (Indiana University Press 2013),

Silber, Michael, "The Emergence of Ultra-Orthodoxy: The Invention of a Tradition" in Jack Wertheimer, ed., *The Uses of Tradition: Jewish Continuity in the Modern Era*. New York: Jewish Theological Seminar, 1992

Soloveitchik, Haim, "Rupture and Reconstruction: The Transformation of Contemporary Orthodoxy," *Tradition* Vol. 28, No. 4 (Summer 1994)

Spiegel, Shalom. *The Last Trial* (Longhill: Woodstock Vt., 2000).

Stern, Eliyahu, *The Genius* (New Haven: Yale,

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

Weisman, Deborah R. "Bais Ya'akov as an Innovation in Jewish Women's Education." *Studies in Jewish Education* 7 (1995), 278-99.

Yaron, Zvi. *The Philosophy of Rav Kook* (Jerusalem, 1991).

Yuval, Israel Jacob. *Two nations in your womb: perceptions of Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006).

Zohar, Zvi. "Sephardic Rabbinic Responses to Modernity: Some Central Characteristics," *Jews among Moslems*, eds. Shlomo Deshen and Walter Zenner (London, Palgrave, 1996), 64-80.

Required textbooks, other textbooks

Required material for the final