

## Judaism (A005267)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

De Vos, Benjamin LW01 lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in History</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Elective Set Culture and Society</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Elective Set Religion Studies</a>	5	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

History of Religions, Judaism, Jewish traditions, rituals, currents, Bible, Biblical Interpretation.

**Position of the course**

This course wants to help students to gain insight into the complex relationship between Judaism as a religion and the Jewish people, and to acquire insight into the nature and evolution of Judaism as a religion, and its effect on written texts. The courses also familiarises students with the most important sources and hermeneutical methodologies.

**Contents**

This course offers an introduction to judaism, as a religion and as a demographic group, as a way of life based upon the Hebrew Bible, the development of monotheism, the combination of ritualism and religious ethics. The Hebrew Bible, and the main points it entails, the currents within judaism through its history, their place in history, and meaning in the modern dimension of judaism are discussed. The course also deals with spirituality, the most important religious feasts and rituals of the Jewish religion (throughout its history).

**Initial competences**

No specific requirements.

**Final competences**

- 1 To have knowledge of and insight in the most important historical developments of judaism in all its diversity.
- 2 To be able to recognize and situate the most important Jewish authors and schools/traditions.
- 3 To be able to reproduce the most important tenets of these Jewish authors and schools/traditions and to have insight into their interaction with the general social and historical developments.
- 4 To have knowledge of the most important rituals and feasts and to have insight in their meaning.
- 5 To have knowledge of the development of the Hebrew Bible, the emergence of the canon, and the most important currents in Biblical interpretation.
- 6 To be able to interpret Jewish texts from a broad cultural and historical perspective.

7 To be able to indicate the most important parallels with and differences between other religions, both abrahamic and non-abrahamic.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### **Teaching methods**

Lecture, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

- (On campus) Lectures (in Dutch)
- Independent work: personal reading of primary and secondary texts in preparation of the lectures (available via Ufora)

#### **Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: Slides Course Judaism

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: These slides will be made available online (via Ufora) before every meeting.

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with selected chapters from different secondary sources and companions

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: The reader contains several chapters from different secondary studies regarding many different aspects of Jewish religion(s). The reader will be made available (via UFora) before our first meeting.

#### **References**

Neusner, Jacob, and Alan J Avery-Peck. *The Blackwell Companion to Judaism*.

Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2000.

Perdue, Leo G. *The Blackwell Companion to the Hebrew Bible*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.

Jacobs, Louis. *The Jewish Religion: A Companion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Davies, William David, and Louis Finkelstein. *The Cambridge History of Judaism*. Cambridge: Cambridge university press, 1984-..., multiple volumes.

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

There will be ample opportunity for questions during the lectures.

There are also weekly office hours (Monday 16h-18h; Bla 120.048).

Students can also ask their questions after appointment with the lecturer.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Written with open questions (100%): both on knowledge and insight; comparisons.  
Oral examination possible for minores-students or students with extra facilities.  
Ufora offers a complete study-vademecum (examples of questions from exams, overview of study material etc.). There is also a trial exam in December during which we solve example-questions in class.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodical: 100%.

**Facilities for Working Students**

- 1) Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
- 2) Possible rescheduling of an oral examination to a different time in the same academic year.
- 3) Feedback can be given via MsTeams after an appointment or without appointment during office hours (Monday afternoon, 14-16h; Bla 120.048).