

Judaism (A005267)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

De Vos, Benjamin LW01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	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 (possibly online) lectures (available via Ufora)

Learning materials and price

Course material available on Ufora.

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 14-16h; 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).