

Society and Religion: The Jewish World (A002906)

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

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 40.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2016-2017

A (semester 2) Dutch lecture 40.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2016-2017

Yeshaya, Joachim LW21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2016-2017

	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 Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Mesopotamia)	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 Moral Sciences	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Jewish world, Judaism

Position of the course

This basic course introduces students to the most important moments and evolutions of the Jewish community in the Land of Israel and the diaspora. The course gives students knowledge of the social and cultural foundations of the Jewish world, with a specific focus on the common ground as well as on the diversity of the Jewish community. In order to understand the current problems in their complexity, a careful analysis is made of the circumstances that led to Zionism and the founding of the State Israel. Furthermore, the characteristics of the Jewish religion are discussed, as well as the diversity in Judaism and in the Jewish identity. Also the practice of Jewish life is part of the course.

This course meets the following learning outcomes: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6

Contents

The course begins with a social framework as portrayed in biblical texts, which give a binding structure to Jewish society. The diaspora causes a diversity within the community: differences between the Western (Greek-Roman world) and the Eastern

diaspora (by the Sassanides, in the Arabic-Islamic world). The course will reflect thoroughly on the most important differences.

The fate and development of the different communities in the Mediaeval period will be discussed. A careful analysis is made of the Ashkenazic diaspora in West-, Central-, and Eastern Europe (intellectual traditions, mass movements, anti-judaistic myths and actions) and the Sephardic diaspora on the Iberian peninsula (contact with muslims, influence of Greek and Arabic scientific traditions, mysticism, reconquista and anti-judaism that turns into anti-semitism).

The last part is dedicated to Jewish identity in the modern world of the 18th - 21st century (conversion to Christianity vs. resistance against losing Jewish identity; the rationalistic Haskalah vs. the nationalistic Zionism; the contribution of the Jews to the European culture and the rise of the racist antisemitism). The foundation and development of the State Israel will be studied. The political and social problems of the country are related to the Jewish history. Special attention is paid to the situation of the Jews in the Southern and Northern Netherlands.

Furthermore, the characteristics of the Jewish religion are discussed, as well as the diversity in judaism and in the Jewish identity. Also the special dynamics of the Jewish religion and the practice of Jewish life are part of the course.

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 To have a genuine grasp of the Jewish world.
- 2 To be able to place publications and broadcasts of the media as well as other writings in their social and cultural context.
- 3 To know the most important moments and evolutions of the Jewish community in diaspora.
- 4 To have knowledge of the social and cultural foundations of the Jewish world, with a specific focus on the common ground as well as on the diversity of the Jewish community.
- 5 To have an insight into the circumstances that led to Zionism and the founding of the State Israel in order to understand the current problems in their complexity.
- 6 To have an overview of the most important characteristics of the Jewish religion as opposed to other religion.
- 7 To have an overview of the Jewish life, as determined by religion.
- 8 To have an overview of the Jewish calendar and the rituals.
- 9 To have an insight into the diversity of Judaism.

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

Learning materials and price

K.A.D. Smelik, Herleefde Tijd, Leuven, Acco, 2011 tweede druk; ca. € 25,00

K.A.D. Smelik, Geschreven Leven, Leuven, Acco, 2012; ca. € 25,00

References

Course content-related study coaching

The interactive teaching system and exercises give the student a possibility of permanent feed-back. In all the classes there is the possibility to ask questions and to make remarks. After the exams there is feed-back.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

There is a closed written exam testing both knowledge and insight.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical: exam (100%)

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance during educational activities is required
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled
3. Feedback can be given by email

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy