

**Central Washington University**  
**Dept. of Philosophy and Religion Studies**  
**Fall 2007**

Religion 353.01  
M W 2:00-4:05  
Room: LL343

*Instructor:* Dr. Heidi M. Szpek  
*Office:* LL 315  
*Office Hours:* T R 11:00am-1:00pm  
& by Appointment

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**History of Judaism and Islam**  
(5 credits)

**Catalogue Description:**

Historical development of Judaism and Islam, from their origins to the present. Analysis of their beliefs, practices, symbols, institutions and interaction with one another.

**Course Syllabus**

**Required Texts:**

S. Daniel Breslauer, *Understanding Judaism through History*.  
Thompson-Wadsworth, 2003.

George Robinson, *Essential Judaism: A Complete Guide to Beliefs, Customs, and Rituals*. Pocket Books, 2000.

Karen Armstrong, *Islam: A Short History*.  
Modern Library, 2002.

John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*. Revised Third Edition.  
Oxford University Press, 2005.

**ALSO Required:** One CD-RW

**Recommended Websites:**

<a href="http://www.Judaism101.org">www.Judaism101.org</a>	(Judaism)
<a href="http://www.Islamicity.com">www.Islamicity.com</a>	(Islam)
<a href="http://www.Sacred-texts.com">www.Sacred-texts.com</a>	(JCI)
<a href="http://www.Liturgica.com">www.Liturgica.com</a>	(Judaism & Christian: Liturgics)

**Learner Outcomes:**

- Describe the origin, development and interconnection of Judaism and Islam.
- Describe the rituals and beliefs of Judaism and Islam, with special attention to the key themes of Scripture and Tradition, Monotheism, Authority, Worship and Ritual, Ethics, and Religion and the Political Order
- Verbally and expositoryly articulate an understanding of the potential distinction of these religions in theory and in practice
- Verbally articulate the potential distinction in exploring these traditions from an academic versus adherent's perspectives.
- To augment the more traditional classroom experience with active experiential activities such as visits to synagogues and mosques.
- Develop analytical, reading and writing skills.

## Course Requirements/Assessment:

1. Assigned Readings prepared in advance to assist in productive discussion.
2. Two (2) Exams based on lectures, readings & discussion (take-home essay format). Late exams will be downgraded a step for each DAY late. Take-home essays must be submitted on your CD-RW
3. Annotated Bibliography (10 references [books, journals, websites]) that will assist with your research paper. Turabian format for RELS majors; MLA/APA acceptable for non-RELS majors. Due Week 5 on your CD-RW. Bibliography will be downgraded a step for each DAY late.
4. Ten-Twelve page research/experiential paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 point; Turabian for RELS majors):
  - Each student will be expected to visit a service at a synagogue or mosque in conjunction with your research. This 'experiential component' should be incorporated into your paper. More specific guidelines will be provided in a separate handout.
  - The final exam class will be devoted to discussion of your research in light of class studies. Absence from this final exam day will result in a step downgrade on your paper.
  - Papers will be due on the last day of class. Late papers will be downgraded a step for each DAY late.
  - Papers must be submitted on your CD-RW and in hardcopy.
4. Attendance and Participation are required. No more than one unexcused absence. Daily sign-in sheet will be circulated. Each additional absence will result in a step downgrade for this portion of your grade. Note: Participation is more than breathing. If you attend every class, but never participate (i.e. contribute productively NOT loquaciously to discussion), you will earn an F for 10% of your grade.

## Grading Policy:

Essay Exams	50% (25% each)
Annotated Bibliography	5%
Research Paper	25%
Attendance & Participation	<u>20%</u> (10% each)
	100%

**NOTE: ALL requirements must be met in order to pass this course.**

**Plagiarism** is in effect stealing someone else's words and thoughts by not providing proper documentation of your written, visual or aural source. Give credit to the sources you use in your writing. The penalty for **plagiarism is an F for the course** and **will** also lead to further action by the University. Please see me if you are unfamiliar with/ uncertain about any aspect of documentation

**Cheating** is stealing someone else's words, thoughts or answers. Cheating on your essays, by (1) having another person write your essays; (2) buying essays; or (3) 'collaborating' on your essays, i.e. jointly writing each other's essays, will all **result in an F for the course** and will lead to further action by the University.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Be on time. Don't pack up until the class ends. Turn off cells phones. No text messaging. No eating in class. Drinks permitted but clean up after yourself. If I'm talking, you are listening. If you're called upon to talk, we're all listening.

**Mutual Respect:** We will be exploring diverse religious traditions with practices and beliefs perhaps very different from your own. I do not expect you to accept or agree with every belief and practice you learn, rather I expect you to try to understand the nature of difference. At times we will disagree; I expect you to respect the fact that we can disagree.

**Students with disabilities should contact me as soon as possible in order to make accommodations for their needs.**

## Tentative Schedule

### September

Wk 1 19

Orientation & Vignettes for Contemplation on Judaism and Islam

*Assignment:* Write a brief paragraph on what you want to learn in JI AND in which tradition you *might* want to do your research.

(DUE Monday, 24<sup>th</sup>)

*Reading:* Review Chronology in each text

Wk 2 24 26

*1000BCE-70CE Beginnings*

(M W) Beginnings in Judaism; *Readings:* Breslauer, Ch. 1-2; Robinson, Ch. 5

### October

Wk 3 1 3

*70CE-900CE Development*

(M W) Rabbinic Judaism; *Readings:* Breslauer, Ch. 3; Robinson, Ch. 6

**(W) Paper Topic Due**

Wk 4 8 10

(M W) Beginnings of Islam

*Readings:* Armstrong, Ch. 1-2; Esposito, Ch. 1 – Ch.2 (thru p. 45)

Wk 5 15 17

(M) *Documentary Excerpts:* Heritage of the Jews; The Story of Islam

(W) Wrap up Discussion on Beginnings of Judaism & Islam;

Student Research Updates

**(W) Annotated Bibliography Due**

**(W) MIDTERM TAKE-HOME ESSAYS Distributed**

Wk 6 22 24

(M) **MIDTERM TAKE-HOME ESSAYS Due**

*900CE-1700CE The Middle Ages*

(M) Judaism; *Reading:* Breslauer, Ch. 4

(W) Islam; *Reading:* Armstrong, Ch. 3-4; Esposito, Ch. 2

Wk 7 29 31

(M) *Mysticism - Readings:* Robinson, Ch. 7; Esposito, pp. 100-109

(W) *Rituals and Practices: Judaism*

*Readings:* Robinson, Ch. 1-4

### November

Wk 8 5 7

(M) *Rituals and Practices: Islam*

*Readings:* Esposito, Ch. 3

1700CE - Present

(W) *Excursus:* Poland: Shtetl Life & Tartar Muslims

(W) Judaism *Reading:* Breslauer, Ch. 5-6

Wk 9 12 14

(M) *No Class – Veteran's Day*

*1700CE-Present (cont.)*

(W) Islam: *Readings:* Armstrong Ch, 5, Epilogue; Esposito, Ch.4-7

Wk 10 19 21

(M) Wrap up Judaism and Islam to Present

(W) *No Class 21<sup>st</sup> – Thanksgiving Break*

Wk 11 26 28

(M) Film: *Ushpizin* w/Discussion

(W) Film: *Leila* or *Osama* w/Discussion

**(W) Papers due**

**(W) Final Exam Take-Home Essays distributed**

**Final Take-Home Essays due Exam week (Tues. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00-2:00pm) with concluding discussion on student research and final essay questions**