

Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2016
Previous Value Summer 2012

Course Change Information

What change is being proposed? (If more than one, what changes are being proposed?)

GE status, Cultures and Ideas category

What is the rationale for the proposed change(s)?

Philosophy 3111, Introduction to Jewish Philosophy, already fits the format for this GE category. The course deals with traditional and contemporary Jewish themes and ideas, aiding the student's capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgement. The course, as it is taught now, furthers the expected learning outcomes.

What are the programmatic implications of the proposed change(s)?

(e.g. program requirements to be added or removed, changes to be made in available resources, effect on other programs that use the course)?

The course can count as a philosophy elective for our majors. We hope that, with GE status, more of our majors will elect this course. We also hope that the course will continue to attract students interested in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies generally. Courses like this often make for an interesting interaction among the students with various backgrounds

Is approval of the request contingent upon the approval of other course or curricular program request? No

Is this a request to withdraw the course? No

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Jewish Studies
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Melton Ctr for Jewish Studies - D0508
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 3111
Course Title Introduction to Jewish Philosophy
Transcript Abbreviation Intro Jewsh Philos
Course Description A general introduction to major figures and trends in medieval, modern, and contemporary Jewish philosophy; emphasis on Philo, Saadia, Maimonides, Spinoza, Mendelssohn, and Buber.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 7 Week, 4 Week (May Session), 12 Week (May + Summer)
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never

Campus of Offering Columbus, Newark

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites

Exclusions Not open to students with credit for Philos 3111 (321).

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings Cross-listed in Philos.

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 38.0206
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

General Education course:
Culture and Ideas
The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

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Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students will encounter some key ideas in traditional and contemporary Jewish thought, in order to develop their own thinking on key philosophical and religious themes. Students will also evaluate how key Jewish ideas influence the character of huma

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Content Topic List

- Some key Jewish thinkers from different periods: Philo Judaeus, Moses Maimonides, Joseph Soloveitchik.
- Connections to other philosophical themes, notably Plato and Aristotle
- The nature of creation, the connection to Plato
- The place of Commandments and scientific law
- The nature of God
- God's relationship to the world, Providence
- The Sabbath: universal and particular
- Creation
- The nature of prayer and prophecy
- The predicament of the religious personality
- The struggle for a relationship with God

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- *Figures in Jewish philosophy ranging from the medieval era to the present*
- *Selected topics in Jewish philosophy*

COURSE CHANGE REQUEST
3111 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Heysel,Garett Robert
06/05/2015

Attachments

- Sample syllabus 3111.docx

(Syllabus. Owner: Boyd,Jared P)

Comments

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Boyd,Jared P	05/27/2015 04:46 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Fireman,Lori B	05/28/2015 11:29 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	06/05/2015 07:04 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Hanlin,Deborah Kay Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle,Danielle Nicole	06/05/2015 07:05 PM	ASCCAO Approval

PHILOS 3111: INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Stewart Shapiro
Office: 250 E University Hall
Hours: TBA
Email: shapiro.4@osu.edu

Course Description:

This course covers some of the main themes in both traditional and contemporary Jewish thought. Some of these are among the most meaningful and searching issues that confront any religion and, indeed, any member of a particular group of people. Other themes are unique to Judaism. What (if anything) can be known about the nature of God? What is the relationship between God and creation? What is the relationship between God and the people of Israel? What is it to be “chosen”? Chosen for what? What is behind the moral and religious commandments, especially those restricted to the people of Israel? What is the relationship between the people of Israel and the rest of humanity? Is it possible to have a relationship between God and an individual human? What is the nature and role of prophecy? How can one be a loyal, devout Jew and also a citizen of humanity at large? Students will confront these questions through the works of various Jewish philosophers and rabbis, and will discuss and evaluate the underlying themes.

Required texts and course materials:

- Selections from *The works of Philo Judaeus*, notably *On the creation of the world*, *On the allegories of the sacred laws*, and *On the unchangeableness of God* (posted on Carmen)
- Moses Maimonides, *The guide for the perplexed* [required; available in campus bookstores]
- Joseph Soloveitchik, *The lonely man of faith* and *Halachik man* [required; available in campus bookstores]
- Various other readings and course materials available on Carmen

Assignments and Grading:

- Six or seven short essays (2-4 pages each) on specific topics 40% of final grade
- Two or three group discussion exercises 10% of final grade
- One substantial term paper 20% of final grade
- Take home all essay final exam 20% of final grade
- Intangibles: participation, etc. 10% of final grade

Notes: Students are expected to attend class, and come prepared to discuss the material that day (or, at the least, to have questions on how to understand it). The short essays will be on specific topics, given in class. The student will choose a topic for his or her term paper. Within three weeks of when it is due, each student should consult with the instructor to clear a topic. Each student is encouraged to submit a draft first, for evaluation.

Weekly Topical Outline:

- Week 1 **Introduction to philosophy; introduction to Judaism**
Reading: selections from *The Encyclopedia Judaica*
- Week 2 **Philo: A Jewish philosopher in Antiquity**
Reading: some background material on Plato
On the creation of the world
- Week 3 **Philo continued:** the nature of creation, the connection to Plato
- Week 4 **Philo continued:** the place of Commandments and scientific law
Reading: *On the allegories of the scared laws*
- Week 5 **Philo continued:** the nature of God
Reading: *On the unchangeableness of God*
- Week 6 **Maimonides: A rabbi and philosopher in medieval times**
Reading: some background material on Aristotle and on Maimonides legal works
selections from *A guide for the perplexed*
- Week 7 **Maimonides continued:** the nature of God
Reading: selections from *A guide for the perplexed*
- Week 8 **Maimonides continued:** God's relationship to the world, Providence
Reading: selections from *A guide for the perplexed*
- Week 9 **Maimonides continued:** The Sabbath: universal and particular
Reading: selections from *A guide for the perplexed*
- Week 10 **Maimonides continued:** on creation
Reading: selections from *A guide for the perplexed*
- Week 11 **Maimonides continued:** the nature of prayer and prophecy
Reading: selections from *A guide for the perplexed*
- Week 12 **Soloveitchik: Rabbi and philosopher in our time**
Reading: *The lonely man of faith*

Week 13 **Soloveitchik continued:** the predicament of the religious personality
Reading: *The lonely man of faith*

Week 14 **Soloveitchik continued:** struggling for a relationship with God
Reading: *Halachik man*

GE Category: Cultures and Ideas

Goals: Students evaluate significant cultural phenomena and ideas in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgement; and interpretation and evaluation

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students analyze and interpret major forms of human thought, culture and expression.
2. Students evaluate how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms which guide human behavior.

Philos 3111 aims to achieve the first these learning outcomes by teaching students strategies for analyzing, interpreting, and critiquing philosophical and religious texts, as well as giving them multiple opportunities (in class discussion as well as in writing assignments) to practice these analytic skills. The course aims to achieve the second learning outcome by encouraging students to reflect about the ways in which the philosophical and religious values of the authors we are encountering might shape their own views on the same and similar questions. Further, the lectures will contain the instructor's reflections about the connection between cultural and personal values on the one hand, and more universal values on the other.

Policy about Academic Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Disability Services:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.