

RELG 387: Jews & Muslims

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Description: History of Jewish-Muslim relations in the Near East and the US; an exploration of Jewish-Muslim encounters, issues of religious law, politics, radical religious ideologies, and their repercussions for today.

Are Judaism and Islam related religions? Why do Muslims and Jews fight over Israel? What was the status of Jewish and Muslim immigrants in colonial America? How did they relate to one another? This course is an introduction to Jewish-Muslim relations through history and through some of the central writings this encounter produced, and strives to make sense of the present state of Jewish-Muslim affairs in the Near East and the US.

Learning objectives: On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Discuss the basic distinctions of Judaism and Islam
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the history of Jewish-Muslim relations
- Explain both in discussion and in writing the nuanced complex interactions of Jewish-Muslim relations in the past and present

Required readings: Course packet of selected readings

Bibliography:

Martin Gilbert. *In Ishmael's House. A History of Jews in Muslim Lands*. YUP, 2010.

Norman Stillman. *Jews of Arab Lands: A History and Source Book*. JPS 1979

Emmanuel Sivan. *Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics*, Enlarged Edition. 1990.

Course requirements:

Class participation and blog posts: 20%

3 short papers: 60%

Final: 20%.

Grading scale: A = 94-100 / B+ = 90-93 / B = 84-89 / C+ = 80-83 / C = 74-79 / D+ = 70-73 / D = 64-69 / F = 63 or less)

Schedule of topics

I. Introduction

Jan. 9-13: What is Judaism?

Jan. 16-20: What is Islam?

II. Basics of Jewish-Muslim Relations

Jan. 23-27: History

Jan. 30-Feb.3: Halakhah and Shariah

Feb. 6-10: Ottoman Empire

Feb. 13-17: Iran

Feb. 20-24: Israel and Palestine

III. Radical religious ideology

Feb. 27-Mar.2: Judah Halevi

Mar. 5-9: Hilltop People and other messianic post-67 groups

Mar. 12-16: Ibn Taymiyya

Mar. 19-23: Hasan al-Banna

III. Conclusion

Mar. 26-30&

Apr. 2-6: Jews and Muslims in the US

Apr. 9-13 &

Apr. 16-20: Jewish-Muslim Relations today: Current Issues