



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2022-2023

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Judaism

Course Code	G_BATRSPC111
Credits	6.00
Period	P5
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit Religie en Theologie
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. J.V. Roitman
Examiner	prof. dr. J.V. Roitman
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. J.V. Roitman
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course Objective

After finishing this course, the student:

- has basic knowledge of the different aspects that contribute to the history and lived experience of Jews and Judaism.
- has learned about and understands the diversity of the Jewish world (e.g. Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Mizrahi, Bene Israel, etc.).
- has learned about and understands the diversity and spectrum of Jewish religious practice from 'cultural' or 'secular' Judaism to various strands of 'ultra-Orthodox' practices (e.g. Reform, Conservative, Hasidism, Haredi, etc.).
- has learned about and understands the basic chronologies of Jewish history.
- is able to understand the different streams in the Jewish world and their point of view in relation to society and social developments.
- is able to compare the Jewish religion in a broad sense with other religions.
- is able to understand a treatise at an academic level on specific aspects of the Jewish religion.
- is able to write a simple treatise on academic level about a Jewish topic on the basis of found literature.

Course Content

This course starts with the question 'Who are Jews?', exploring diversity in Judaism. It enters into Jewish texts (Tanakh, Torah, Mishnah) and Jewish ways of reading and interpretation (Midrash, oral Torah). Students will study major Jewish holidays (the calendar, shabbat, high holidays, pilgrim festivals, secondary festivals -chanukah, purim, yom ha'atsmauth, yom yersushalaim, days of mourning, fasting days), as well as the topic of Jewish life-cycle (birth, adulthood, marriage, divorce, illness, dying). Furthermore, the course enters into Jewish daily life and ritual practice (rising, praying, eating, sexuality, the house). It puts Jewish beliefs, in perspective, and discusses the theme of Jewish History.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Seminars

Lectures (interactive), assignments, self-study questions of which to be discussed in class.

Method of Assessment

Written exam (40%)

Podcast (30%)

Reflection (10%)

Written assignments (10%)

Attendance (10%) (in inventarisatie 20% en geen reflectie?)

[Note: The exam and the podcast each have to be graded with at least 5.0 points out of 10.0 points.]

Literature

a. G. Robinson, Essential Judaism, A complete Guide to Beliefs, Customs and Rituals, Atria, New York.

b. Material to be found on Canvas

Additional Information Target Audience

Anyone with an interest in learning more about Judaism; suited for those with a Jewish background as well as those how know little-to-nothing about Judaism.

Recommended background knowledge

None, but some general knowledge of history and the basics of world religions would be helpful.