

Syllabus for
GBIB 766-NOV—Introduction to Rabbinic Thought and Literature
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2015

Modular format: includes Pre-course, In-course, and Post-course requirements.
The course will meet Nov. 2-6, 2015, on the 21st floor of the CityPlex Towers
Class times: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m; Friday, 8:30am to 1:30pm.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the field of Rabbinical Studies.

The course is designed to introduce the student to the thought and literature of the Jewish sages from the days of the second temple to the close of the Talmudic age. The course deals with the history of the period, the extant literary sources, the main historical personalities of the time, and scientific analysis of the literature.

II. COURSE GOAL

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to discover the world of Jewish learning found in the rabbinic literature.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Present the history of the Jewish people during the second temple period and the Talmudic age.
- B. Express the main issues, subjects of controversy, and problems that confronted the Jewish people during the period and that occupied the minds of the sages.
- C. Discuss the rabbis who had an impact upon the development of Jewish life, piety, and religious observance.
- D. Discuss the sources of rabbinic literature, and participate in active discussion and analysis of the texts.
- E. Discuss the importance of using the necessary tools to understand and interpret Jewish thought and literature.
- F. Explain the significance of carrying on original research and scientific analysis of the primary sources.
- G. Examine and explain the relevance of ancient Jewish thought for the study of early Christianity.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks
 - Buxbaum, Y. *The Life and Teachings of Hillel*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1989. ISBN: 9781568210490
 - Urbach, E. E. *The Sages*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979. ISBN: 9789652233196
 - Young, Brad. *Meet the Rabbis*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2007. ISBN: 9781565634053

2. Other
 - None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks
 - None
2. Other
 - None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
 5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. Graduate School of Theology Policies and Procedures—Modular Programs
1. Each module, usually held in the CityPlex Towers on the 21st floor, has sessions Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m, and Friday from 8:30am to 1:30pm. Students are to make travel arrangements that do not interfere with their involvement in all of these sessions and confirm course location prior to arrival. A final examination will be given during the course.
 2. **Students must upload all pre-course assignments to D2L dropbox by October 15, 2015) to the first day of the course.** Each overdue assignment will be penalized 10 % for **EACH WEEK** it is late. You must turn in your book critique and your biographical sketch before the first day of class. The biographical sketch is based upon a rabbi from the Talmud. You need to have the rabbi's name approved by the professor between Oct. 15th and 20th. You may email the name of the rabbi to bryoung@oru.edu during these five days. The book critique and the biographical sketch need to be turned in between Oct. 15th and the first day of the course. Late work will be penalized.. After the third week no credit will be given for the assignment.
 3. Following a modular course, the student is to do the following:
 - a. Upload all post-course assignments by **December 2, 2015**. Each overdue assignment will be penalized 10 % for **EACH WEEK** it is late. After the third week no credit will be given for the assignment.
 - b. Both pre-course and post-course assignments are to be put in the designated D2L drop box for the course.
 - c. Final exams will also be administered through the D2L system if the professor does not require the exam to be proctored.
 4. Attendance
 - a. Students are to attend all sessions during the modular course week.
 - b. All absences, late arrivals, and early departures receive a grade reduction equal to 2.5% for each classroom hour missed and **must be approved by the Modular Director**.
 5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

a. Grading:

Book critique	20%
Biographical Sketch	20%
In-course participation	20%
Research Paper	30%
Final Examination	10%

b. Grading scale:

A=90-100%
B=80-89%
C=70-79%
D=60-69%
F=59% and below

c. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

- 1) All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
- 2) WPA requirements for this course:
 - (a) All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the research paper for GBIB 766 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
 - (b) Failure to correctly submit designated artifact assignments on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change.

D. Other Policies and/or Procedures

1. Pre-Course Requirements

- a. Read all required textbooks. As you read the textbooks, you should choose a rabbi for your biographical sketch and oral report based upon the life of a rabbi from the Talmud.
- b. Write a four to six page book critique on the book by Y. Buxbaum, *The Life and Teachings of Hillel*, using this format:
 - 1) **A summary** of 1-3 pages.
 - 2) **An evaluation** of two to three pages discussing the author's purpose and indicating issues on which you **agree and disagree, and why**.
 - 3) **An integration** of two to three pages discussing elements of the content of the book and how it relates to Bible and theology.
- c. Write a four to six page biographical sketch on the life of a rabbi named in the Talmud. You may select the rabbi from the reading of your textbooks. For instance, in *Meet the Rabbis* several names appear in the Ethics of the Fathers chapter. The biographical sketch may be based

upon entries in *The Jewish Encyclopaedia* which is now available on line. Another reference work, *The Encyclopaedia Judaica* also presents a biographical sketch of every rabbi mentioned in the Talmud. These two reference works and other on line resources give a biographical overview of every rabbi mentioned in the Talmud. You should include biographical information based upon anecdotes and stories in the Talmudic literature. You should include an example or examples of Torah teaching. You should be prepared to give a five minute oral report to the class on the rabbi you select. Some example names of rabbis are: Rabbi Akiva, Rabbi Johanan ben Zakhai, Rabbi Judah the Prince, Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus, Rabbi Joshua ben Hananiah, Resh Lakish, Rabbi Eliezer ben Azarayah, Shammai, Rabbi Elisha ben Avuyah (Acher), Rabbi Ashi, Rabbi Joshua ben Levi, Rabbi Tarfon, Rabbi Jose the Galilean, Rabbi Hanina ben Dosa, Rabbi Honi the Circle Drawer, Rabbi Abbahu, Rabban Gamaliel, or you may even select the woman Torah scholar Beruryah. You should remember that the same name for a rabbi may be spelled differently in different books because of various methods of transliterating Hebrew into English. Use three steps to prepare the biographical sketch. Step 1 is selection and approval. Select the name of your rabbi and have it approved by emailing the professor, bryoung@oru.edu. If the name of the rabbi you chose has already been selected by another student, the professor may assign another name. Selection should be turned in from Oct. 15th to Oct. 20th. Step 2 is reading and writing. Read about the rabbi's life and teachings in an Encyclopaedia. Write about the events in the rabbi's life and about the rabbi's teachings. Step 3 is a five minute oral report in class.

2. In-Course Requirements

- a. Participate in discussions and group activities as requested by the professor.
- b. Present a five minute oral report on a rabbi's biographical sketch.

3. Post-Course Requirements

- a. Research Paper
 - 1) Write a 11-12 page research paper on any subject relating to rabbinic thought and literature. You may turn your biographical sketch based upon a rabbi from the Talmud into a research paper. You may write on a comparative theme between the rabbinic literature and the life of Jesus. The paper is due on Dec. 2, 2015 and should follow the STM style manual.
 - 2) A minimum of 10 cited sources are to be used.
 - 3) Further clarification of the professor's expectations for this paper will be given during the week of class.

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry
M. A. Biblical Literature/Judaic-Christian Studies**

**GBIB 766 Introduction to Rabbinic Thought and Literature
Fall 2015**

Dr. Brad Young, Instructor

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M. A. Biblical Literature/Judaic-Christian Studies degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome. Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
Translation, Biblical Languages				
Demonstrate proficiency in translating the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament.			X	
Major Old Testament Themes				
Correlate the major Old Testament themes and formulate a coherent Old Testament theology.			X	
Major New Testament Themes				
Correlate the major New Testament themes and formulate a coherent New Testament theology.	X			
Rabbinic/Judaic Literature and Culture				
Demonstrate ability to perform research in rabbinic literature and reflect knowledge of the influence of Jewish culture and theology upon Christian faith and literature.	X			
Concepts/Practices of Judaism				
Relate the concepts and practices of Judaism in the period of the Second Temple to the ministry and teachings of Jesus and Paul for sound theological understanding.	X			
Critical Methods of Exegesis				
Utilize critical methods of exegesis and tools for interpreting and appreciating the central themes of Scripture and related Judeo-Christian literature within the matrix of early Jewish and Christian communities.		X		
Tools/Methods of Research				
Use biblical critical tools and methods to write an advanced research M.A. thesis in the OT/NT and employ Jewish literature and theology in the discipline of Judaic-Christian studies.	X			