



Teaching Other Religions in Jewish Education

Course number: 34600

Dr. Michael Gillis

Tel: 02 588 2032

Office: Education 479

Email: michael.gillis@mail.huji.ac.il

Course Description

The course examines some of the central issues that arise with respect to teaching about other religion in the context of Jewish education. Learning about other religions is not only an essential element in the pupil's understanding of the world but is also necessary for a complete Jewish self-understanding resulting from centuries of Jewish life alongside and among Christians and Muslims in particular. The course will devote some attention to developing a deeper knowledge and understanding of other faith traditions particularly in their relation to Jews and Judaism. The course will also consider attempts to deal with other religions in Jewish educational curricula. The course will also consider some of the current approaches to teaching for understanding religion and religious understanding in different educational systems.

Course Aims

The course aims to provide students with a grasp of the central issues of the field. It seeks to cultivate a depth of understanding of the meaning of other religious traditions and their relationship with Jews and Judaism. It will provide conceptual tools that can serve educational practice in religious education.

Course Outcomes

Course outcomes are that participants will be able to:

- Participate in an informed manner in discussion on the relationship between Judaism and other religious traditions.
- Reflect deeply on the educational challenges of teaching about other religions in Jewish education.
- To develop their own educational approach to the issues raised in the course.

Mode of Instruction

The sessions of the course combine discussion of substantial reading assignments as well as some lecturing. The course will also require occasional participation in course forums on the course website.

Course requirements

1. Attendance and active participation. **10%**
Participants are expected to attend at least of 85% of course sessions, to have read the material for each class, to participate in course forums and to participate actively in class discussions.
2. An midterm exercise reviewing a piece of curriculum material in the light of theories of religious education. **20%**
3. A final paper of 8-10 pages discussing a significant issue relating to the subject of the course and drawing substantially on the course bibliography as well as other relevant research literature. A list of possible paper topics will be provided although participants are also invited to propose their own topic for papers. **70%**

1. Other Religions in Jewish Education	Symbols of conflict Ephraim Elimelech Urbach from "The religious ideal in Judaism" from "On Judaism and Education" (Hebrew) Jerusalem 1967
2. Dialogue	Abraham Joshua Heschel, "No Religion is an Island" in <u>Jewish Perspectives on Christianity</u> edited Fritz Rothschild, New York 1990 Joseph B. Soloveitchik, "Confrontation" <u>Tradition 6:1</u> 1964 pages 5-29 Alan Brill, Judaism and Other Religions: Models of Understanding, New York, 2010 pp. 15-30, 129-149.
3. Other Religions in classical Jewish Sources	Maimonides R. Yehudah Halevi R. Menachem Hameiri David Novak Maimonides' View of Christianity in Jewish Christian Dialogue: A Jewish Justification, Oxford, 1989 pp. 57-92. Moshe Halbertal, "Ones Possessed of Religion": Religious Tolerance in The Teachings of The Me'iri, Edah Journal 1:1, 2000.

<p>4. Pedagogies of Religious Education</p>	<p>Robert Jackson, Signposts - Policy and practice for teaching about religions and non-religious world views in intercultural education, Council of Europe 2014, pp. 21-26, 33-46/</p> <p>John Hull, Mishmash: Religious Education in Multicultural Britain - A Study in Metaphor (Birmingham Papers), Christian Education Movement, 1992.</p> <p>Michael Grimmitt "Contemporary Pedagogies of Religious Education: What are they?" in M. Grimmitt (ed) Pedagogies of Religious Education, Essex, 2000 pp. 24-52</p> <p>Diane Moore "How to Teach About Religion in the Schools" in Overcoming Religious Illiteracy, New York 2007, pp.53-88</p>
<p>5. Christianity in modern Jewish Thought</p>	<p>Rosenzweig From "The Star of Redemption" in <u>Jewish Perspectives on Christianity</u> edited Fritz Rothschild, New York 1990 187-226.</p> <p>Emmanuel Levinas, Judaeo-Christian Friendship, in <u>Difficult Freedom</u>, Baltimore, 1990, pp. 202-204.</p> <p>Yeshayahu Leibowitz, "Hochut's Error" and "The Common Judeo-Christian Heritage" in Judaism, Human Values, and the Jewish State, Harvard University Press, 1992, pp. 251-264</p>
<p>6. Abraham</p>	<p>Jon D. Levenson Abraham Among Jews, Christians, and Muslims: Monotheism, Exegesis, and Religious Diversity, ARC, The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill, 26, 1998, 5-29</p>
<p>7. Jesus</p>	<p>Paula Fredriksen, "What You See is What You Get: Context and Content in Current Research on the Historical Jesus", Theology Today</p> <p>Amy Jill Levine, The Misunderstood Jew, New York, 2006 pp. 17-52</p>
<p>9. Modern Changes in the Church's Relationship to Judaism</p>	<p>Nostra Aetate</p> <p>The Catholic Church and the Jewish people : recent reflections from Rome / edited by Philip A. Cunningham et al. New York : Fordham University Press, 2007</p> <p>Notes on the correct way to present the Jews and Judaism in preaching and catechesis in the Roman Catholic Church, http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/relations-jews-docs/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_19820306_jews-judaism_en.html</p> <p>Dabru Emet</p>

	<p>Jon Levenson, How Not to Conduct Jewish Christian Dialogue, Commentary, December 2001, pp. 31-37.</p> <p>https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/how-not-to-conduct-jewish-christian-dialogue/</p> <p>Jewish-Christian Dialogue: Jon Levenson and His Critics, Readers' Letters, Commentary April 2002, pp. 8-21</p>
10. Islam and Judaism	<p>Annemarie Schimmel, Islam: An Introduction, Albany, 1992, pp.29-58</p> <p>Malise Ruthven, Islam A Very Short Introduction, Oxford 2012 pp.1-26.</p> <p>Hava Lazarus-Yafeh, "Judaism and Islam: Sp,e Aspects of Mutual Cultural Influences", in Some Religious Aspects of Islam, Leiden, 1981, pp.72-89</p>
11. Approaches to teaching Islam	<p>Khalid Duran</p> <p>"Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Islam for Jews" New York 2001, pages 99-114</p> <p>Reuven Firestone, An Introduction to Islam for Jews pp.3-5, 33-42, 235-239.</p> <p>Reuven Firestone, Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Judaism for Muslims, Hoboken 2001 pp.44-54, 125-142</p>
13. Curriculum examples	<p>Other Religions in curriculum and textbooks in Jewish Education.</p>