

# JUDAIC STUDIES (JUST)

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## **JUST 3023 Great Thinkers: Maimonides-Politics, Prophecy and Providence (4 Credits)**

Using "The Guide for the Perplexed" as our central text, we explore the complex philosophical ideas of Moses Maimonides (1135-1204), one of the central figures in medieval philosophy and Jewish thought. Our study includes analyses of his ideas on: principles of faith, human perfection, intellectual vs. "imaginational" approaches to truth, pedagogy and politics, reasons for the commandments, the nature of God and divine will, the limits of human knowledge, the mechanics of prophecy, and the parameters and implications of providence. Cross listed with PHIL 3023 and RLGS 3023. Prerequisite: junior standing or instructor's permission.

## **JUST 3150 The Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls (4 Credits)**

This course includes an advanced study of the Dead Sea Scrolls with a particular focus on the Bible as it appears in the Qumran library. We will discuss the variant versions of the Bible, some of which were previously unknown before the discovery of the Scrolls, and how the findings of the Scrolls may question the very idea of "Bible" itself in the context of the late Second Temple Judaism. Further, we will place particular emphasis on studying the way biblical texts were engaged, interpreted and even written by the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls. In this way, we shall explore the origins of biblical interpretation and how the notion of the Bible came to be. Cross listed with RLGS 3150. Prerequisites: None. The Scrolls will be read in English translation, but those with Hebrew reading skills will have an opportunity to read/translate portions of the Scrolls in community.

## **JUST 3700 Topics in Judaic Studies (1-4 Credits)**

Topics vary reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the department and studies of the faculty.

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## **JUST 3740 Bodies and Souls (4 Credits)**

This course examines the unique place of the body in biblical religion. We ask how the Bible and its interpreters have shaped current views on sex and the gendered body in Western society. How has the Bible been (mis)used in relation to current understandings of the physical body? Is the saying that a "human" does not have a body, but is a body as true for the Hebrew Bible as the Christian New Testament? How has Judaism and Christianity (de)valued sexuality, procreation, and celibacy? How do the biblical traditions shape our modern opinions about the ideal physical body and body modifications? How can we understand "out-of-body" experiences and notions of death and afterlife in Western religion? Students are encouraged to interpret the Bible and their own beliefs from a uniquely embodied perspective. Cross listed with GWST 3740, RLGS 3740.

## **JUST 3891 Justice: A Biblical Perspective (4 Credits)**

This course explores the ways in which the Bible has been applied to questions of social justice in contemporary society. In addition to studying major theological and philosophical theories of justice, students read a variety of biblical texts related to major issues of social and economic justice such as world hunger, the poor, revolution, just war theory and pacifism, environmentalism, and the role of government. This course includes a service-learning component. Cross listed with RLGS 3891.

## **JUST 3991 Independent Study (1-5 Credits)**

Prerequisites: HEBR 1003 or JUST 1003 or equivalent and instructor's permission.

## **JUST 4700 Topics in Judaic Studies (1-5 Credits)**

Topics vary reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the department and studies of the faculty.

## **JUST 4701 Topics in Judaic Studies (1-5 Credits)**

Topics vary reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the department and studies of the faculty.

## **JUST 4702 Topics in Judaic Studies (1-5 Credits)**

Topics vary reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the department and studies of the faculty.

## **JUST 4991 Independent Study (1-10 Credits)**