



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

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
Period	P5
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Religion and Theology
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, Beta 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;

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). The background will be historical but students will learn not only the history, but also how that history informs the beliefs and practices found in the diversity of Judaisms in the contemporary world.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

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

Method of Assessment

Written (take home) exam (40%)

Podcast (30%)

Attendance (20%)

Pop quizzes (10%)

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

Entry Requirements

This course is, in principle, open to all students. However, a basic knowledge of history and religion is helpful. It is a reading intensive course.

Literature

a. Aaron Tapper, *Judaisms: A Twenty-First-Century Introduction to Jews and Jewish Identities*

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.