



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

JUDA13, Jewish Studies: Level 1 B, 15 credits

Judaistik: Grundkurs II, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2016-05-23 to be valid from 2016-08-29, autumn semester 2016.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It may be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of studies

History of Religions

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for and apply a basic Jewish terminology consisting of key religious terms
- account for basic religious ideas
- account for the central content of Jewish religious ceremonies, rites, traditions, practices and faith
- account for the historical and cultural contexts in which the classical texts of Judaism were produced
- account for the main contents of these texts and their importance for Jewish faith and thinking

Competence and skills

- with a certain degree of independence, produce a written critical analysis comparing how Judaism as a lived religion is presented in the required reading and in fiction, film and TV
- perform a critical reading and review of the text of a fellow student
- execute a simple exegesis of classical Jewish texts in translation with regard to their genre, structure, contents and key religious ideas

Judgement and approach

- judge how issues of gender, power and ethnicity are reflected and highlighted in the required reading and popular culture
- assess the role of the Jewish tradition of exegesis for the balance between continuity with the past and adjustment to the present
- critically discuss classical Jewish texts as a source of knowledge of Judaism in Antiquity.

Course content

Module 1 deals with Judaism primarily as a religious tradition, introducing students to key Jewish terminology, basic religious ideas and Jewish ceremonies, rites, traditions, practices and faith.

Against this background, the course discusses and exemplifies how present-day lived Judaism is manifested in both religious and more secular contexts, illustrated by a selection of fictional and visual representations of Jewish faith and practice, which is to enable students partly to nuance and broaden their understanding of how Judaism as a lived religion is expressed and interpreted, and partly to discuss and assess popular culture representations of Jewish faith and practices and how these can have an impact on the image of Judaism in non-Jewish communities.

The second module provides students with an introduction to the emergence of rabbinic Judaism, its most important literary works and the importance of these texts for Jewish culture and Jewish thinking. It includes reading and discussion of extracts from classical Jewish texts. The texts are read in translation and mainly consist of extracts from the Bible, Mishnah, Talmud, Midrash, medieval Bible commentaries and the prayer book. The students also practise simple exegesis and reflection on the significance of the texts for Jewish culture and Jewish thinking.

The course consists of two modules:

Module 1: Judaism as Lived Religion, 7.5 credits

Module 2: Classical Jewish Text, 7.5 credits

Course design

The course mainly takes place as independent study, complemented with screencasts, seminars and peer review. Participation in peer review in module 1 is compulsory. Four of the seminars in module 2 are compulsory. To be able to follow the teaching, students must have access to a computer and internet connection.

Assessment

The assessment of module 1 is continuous and based on six online exercises and two written application assignments amounting to approximately 1800-2000 words each.

The assessment of module 2 is continuous and based on four study assignments, which are to be solved individually or in groups, a final online individual repetition exercise and a final individual exegesis assignment amounting to approximately 3-4 pages.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

To be awarded a grade of Pass on the whole course, students must have completed all course components. To be awarded a grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, students must have been awarded this grade on one of the modules and at least a grade of Pass on the other.

Entry requirements

General requirements and studies equivalent of the courses History 1b or 1a1+1a2 and Social Studies 1b or 1a1+1a2 from Swedish Upper Secondary School.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
2. Both modules in the course can also be taken as freestanding courses.
3. Module titles in Swedish: 1. Judendom som levde religion 2. Klassiska judiska texter
4. This course replaces JUDA11, module 2 and module 4 and may not be included in a degree together with these courses.
5. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in JUDA13, Jewish Studies: Level 1 B

Applies from H16

- 1601 Judaism as Lived Religion, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 1602 Classic Jewish Texts, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction