



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

JUDD39, Jewish Studies: From Jesus to the Rabbis, 7.5 credits

Judaistik: Från Jesus till rabbinerna, 7,5 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 2020-09-02 and was last revised on 2026-06-05 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/350). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-09-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

General information

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

Language of instruction: Swedish

Instruction is primarily in Swedish, but teaching in other Scandinavian languages and English may occur.

Main field of study

Religious Studies and Theology with specialization in History of Religions and Religious Behavioural Studies

Specialisation

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- briefly discuss the place of the early Jesus movement within first-century Judaism, and explain the emergence of Rabbinic Judaism in relation to other Jewish groups, including the early Jesus movement,
- explain the principal rabbinic texts, their distinctive characteristics, history of composition, and cultural context,

Competence and skills

- independently discuss similarities and differences between Rabbinic Judaism and earlier/other forms of Judaism and Jewish literature,
- read and analyze a selection of rabbinic texts in translation,

Judgement and approach

- critically discuss how knowledge of Judaism contributes to the understanding of the early Jesus movement, and how groups believing in Jesus may have influenced the emergence of Rabbinic Judaism.

Course content

The course examines the development of Judaism from the first century up to and including the emergence and consolidation of Rabbinic Judaism. The primary focus is on Rabbinic Judaism and its relationship to earlier forms of Judaism, including the early Jesus movement. The course provides an overview of the rise of the Jesus movement within first-century Judaism and of Rabbinic Judaism, the principal rabbinic texts, and their history of composition, content, characteristics, and social context. The first part of the course follows a chronological structure, while the second part is thematic. Through the study of several central themes, both continuity and change between first-century Judaism (including the early Jesus movement) and Rabbinic Judaism are highlighted. Attention is also given to rabbinic literature as a source of knowledge about Jewish culture and conditions in antiquity, as well as to its significance for later Jewish tradition. In addition to secondary literature, the course includes the reading of a selection of rabbinic texts in translation.

Course design

The teaching consists of online lectures and webinars. The course entails six mandatory shorter written assignments.

The course is offered entirely as a distance learning course and makes use of an online learning platform and/or digital tools. Students are required to participate under these conditions, and to have access to a computer with an Internet connection including a headset (microphone and headphones) and preferably a webcam. The department will provide information about the technical requirements.

Assessment

The assessment of the course is based on a written take-home exam and an oral seminar discussion of the written take-home exam after it has been submitted.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

To receive the grade Pass for the course, participation in the mandatory seminar and a grade of Pass on the written take-home exam are required. To receive the grade Pass with distinction for the course, participation in the mandatory seminar and a grade of Pass with distinction on the written take-home exam are required.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements and successful completion of at least 15 credits within Religious Studies: Level 1 (REVA10/ÄRED11), of which at least 5 credits must consist of Module 4. Alternatively, general eligibility and successful completion of at least 15 credits within Jewish Studies: Level 1 (JUDA12/JUDA13), or the equivalent.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University.
- The course is also included as module 1 in JUDB16, Jewish Studies: Level 2 A.
- 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.