

Course Syllabus

Course Information

HUHI 7314.001 German Jewish Thought
Spring 2016

Th 4:00– 6:45 pm

Professor Contact Information

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Office: JO 4.906
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course consists of a survey of the writings of some of the most prominent German Jewish thinkers of the modern period. Thinkers whose work will be examined include Moses Mendelssohn, Hermann Cohen, Leo Baeck, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, Emil Fackenheim, and others. Of particular interest are the following questions: What exactly defines Jewish thought as Jewish? What is the German philosophical context for the emergence of these thinkers and their writings? And what are the tensions between the modern speculative philosophical tradition and the Jewish philosophical tradition in Germany?

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The purpose of examining this topic is to develop a deeper understanding of the philosophical tensions arising between Jewish thought and German philosophy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. One of the objectives, then, is to understand the evolution of philosophical views on good and evil, divinity and humanity, truth and responsibility, and so on in the modern period. Student learning objectives also include the attainment of the ability to (1) research an appropriate topic in a systematic manner, (2) formulate a thesis on the basis of that research, and (3) present in writing the results of research in an analytical argument support the thesis,

Measurement of Outcomes

In order to measure the outcomes, students will be required to write a five- to seven-page proposal for a research paper. The proposal will include a statement of the thesis, key points to be made in the support of the thesis, and a bibliography. Once the proposal has been evaluated and approved, students will write a research paper of at least 6,000 words. The research paper will be evaluated according to (1) analytical depth, (2) organizational integrity, (3) eloquence of style, and (4) grammatical correctness. Outcomes will be assessed according to the successful completion of these two projects.

Required Texts

Michael Mack, *German Idealism and the Jew: The Inner Anti-Semitism of Philosophy and the German Jewish Response*. University of Chicago Press, 2003. ISBN 0226500969
Moses Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem*. Brandeis University Press, 1983. ISBN 0874512646.
Hermann Cohen, *Reason and Hope*. Hebrew Union College, 1997. ISBN 0878202110.
Leo Baeck, *Essence of Judaism*. Schocken, 1987. ISBN 0805200061.
Martin Buber, *I and Thou*. Touchstone, 1971. ISBN 0684717255.

Franz Rosenzweig, *Understanding the Sick and the Healthy*. Harvard University Press, 1999. ISBN 0674921194.

Alan Udoff, *Rosenzweig's the New Thinking*. Syracuse University Press, 1999. ISBN 081562784X

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Between God and Man*. Free Press, 1997. ISBN 068483331X.

David Patterson, *Emil L. Fackenheim*. Syracuse University Press, 2008. ISBN 0815631839.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Jan 14: Intro to the course; what makes Jewish though Jewish

Jan 21: Mack, *German Idealism and the Jew*

Jan 28: Mack, *German Idealism and the Jew*

Feb 4: Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem*

Feb 11: Cohen, *Reason and Hope*

Feb 18: Baeck, *Essence of Judaism*

Feb 25: Baeck, *Essence of Judaism*

Mar 3: Buber, *I and Thou*

Mar 10: Buber, *I and Thou*

Mar 24: Rosenzweig, *Understanding the Sick and the Healthy*; **proposal due**

Mar 31: Udoff, *Rosenzweig's the New Thinking*

Apr 7: Heschel, *Between God and Man*

Apr 14: Heschel, *Between God and Man*

Apr 21: Patterson, *Emil L. Fackenheim*

Apr 28: Patterson, *Emil L. Fackenheim*; **paper due**

Grading Policy

Students will be evaluated on the basis of (1) a paper proposal of 5 to 7 pages, (2) an analytical paper of at least 6000 words, and (3) class participation. The proposal will account for 15%, the paper for 75%, and class participation for 10% of the grade for the course.

Course & Instructor Policies

No work will be accepted late except under extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for all information and all instructions given in class. Students are also responsible for all information sent to their UTD email accounts.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism

(see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.