

Attention!

This is a representative syllabus. The syllabus for the course you are enrolled in will likely be different.

Please refer to your instructor's syllabus for more information on specific requirements for a given semester.

SYLLABUS:

HEBREW 3120 / PHILOSOPHY 3120:

Engaging Time: Philosophical and Rabbinic Dimensions of Temporality

TERM:

CREDIT HOURS: 3

LEVEL:

CLASS TIME:

LOCATION:

INSTRUCTORS:

OFFICE:

OFFICE EMAIL:

OFFICE PHONE:

OFFICE HOURS:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Time is a familiar yet slippery concept. For thousands of years both philosophical and religious traditions have attempted to explain and characterize how time shapes peoples' thinking and their experiences as individuals and communities. This course introduces time through two traditions: western philosophy and classical Jewish law, understood within its Near Eastern contexts. Some of the issues addressed in the course include: how do we measure time; is time real, or is it the result of our subjective perception; how do perceptions of temporality affect ones religious life; is there an ontological difference between past and future – does it make sense to talk about travelling back to the past or forward to the future; does God know the future, and if so, are human beings free to refrain from activities that God 'knows' they will do?

The languages, questions and categories of these two traditions, the speculative and rabbinic, have shifted over millennia and provide two very different approaches to time. Students will further expand their investigations

of time through exposure to disciplines including astronomy, health sciences, and expressive arts with a strong interest in temporality such as music and dance. The interdisciplinary nature of the course begins with a team-teaching representing two disciplines and embraces many more points of view. By the end of the semester students will have a wealth of language and imagery to describe their own understandings of temporality and to contextualize them within a range of disciplines and intellectual traditions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students evaluate the phenomenon of time in a variety of cultural expressions, in order to gain greater capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment, and greater skills in interpretation and evaluation of legal and theoretical texts.

GE CULTURE AND IDEAS GOALS:

Students evaluate significant cultural phenomena and ideas in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; and interpretation and evaluation.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students analyze and interpret major forms of human thought, culture, and expression.
2. Students evaluate how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior.

HOW THE COURSE WILL SATISFY THE EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF GE CULTURES AND IDEAS:

1. Students will read and respond to texts primarily drawn from two intellectual traditions (Philosophical and Hebrew/Jewish legal), demonstrating facility in textual analysis and interpretation.
2. Students will be able to explain how the ideas they study affect one another, differ from one another and contribute to ancient and contemporary cultures,

perceptions of reality through temporality, and norms including law and ethics which guide human behavior.

TEACHING METHOD: Lecture and Discussion; occasional media (film, etc)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Required Course Packet is available from Cognella (Cognella.com) detailed ordering instructions will be available on Carmen site.

2. Videos for required viewing will be accessible through the library or open access online.

3. Additional Recommended Texts (available at SBX and University Bookstore)

Stern, S. *Time and Process in Ancient Judaism* (Littmann Library 2003)

Rudavsky, T.M. *Time Matters: Time, Creation and Cosmology in Medieval Jewish Philosophy* (SUNY 2003)

Aristotle, *Physics* (any edition)

Augustine *Confessions* (any edition)

The Philosophy of Time ed LePoidevin & MacBeath (Oxford 2009)

Time, eds. Levenson and Westphal (Hackett 1993)

Hawking, S. *The Nature of Time*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students must 1) complete assignments for each class including readings (30-40 pages per class), have thought about the readings and summarized them in note form for themselves and be prepared to discuss them in class; 2) participate actively and thoughtfully in class; 3) attend class regularly - more than two unexcused absences will result in a reduced final grade, see details below; 4) complete all scheduled examinations; 5) present one oral seminar presentation, and one commentary, to the class; 6) post one extended discussion board contribution and comment twice a week on the student post, see details below.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:

Students will have a midterm and final examination. They will each be expected to present once in class (details of assignment below). In addition, students are required to write posts on an online class discussion board in advance of each lecture.

Examinations

1. Midterm examination will take place during class time, in the classroom, it will be one hour and twenty minutes long. It will include both short answer and essay questions. Students must bring bluebooks. Date of examination: October 22, 2017. Midterm examination covers material from lectures and readings in the first half of the semester.
2. Final Examination will take place in the classroom on the date assigned by the college. It will be one hour twenty minutes long. It will include both short answer and essay questions. Students must bring bluebooks. Final examination covers material found in lectures and readings from the midterm through the end of the semester.

Oral Presentations

Each student will make one oral presentation to the class in the course of the semester. It will be no more than 5 minutes in length, and will present an overview of a selected reading for that class, and pose three substantive discussion questions. Students will be assessed on clarity of expression, organization and keeping to time. A schedule of oral presentations will be posted on Carmen. In addition, each student will comment upon one oral presentation.

Discussion Board Online

Each student is responsible for posting one 350 word response to the readings during the semester. Each student is required to post a response to the twice-weekly student posting, or to another student's response, of at least 50 words. Students will be assessed on the posts for the entire semester, based on creativity and depth of analysis and questioning.

GRADING:

Midterm Examination: 25%

Final Examination: 25%
Oral Presentation: 25%
Discussion Board Posts: 25%

Total 100%

GRADING SCALE is OSU Standard Grade Scheme:

93 - 100 (A)
90 - 92.9 (A-)
87 - 89.9 (B+)
83 - 86.9 (B)
80 - 82.9 (B-)
77 - 79.9 (C+)
73 - 76.9 (C)
70 - 72.9 (C-)
67 - 69.9 (D+)
60 - 66.9 (D)
Below 60 (E)

ATTENDANCE: Attendance at lectures and discussion sections is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will result in a percentage point deducted from the final grade for each absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out from their classmates about what was missed due to an absence. Please take the name, phone number and email of two fellow students.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>)

FOR YOUR SAFETY, the OSU Student Safety/Escort Service is available after 7 p.m. by dialing 292-3322.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings should be completed prior to class meeting

University calendar: <http://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcalsem.asp>

WEEKLY READINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

WEEK 1

M 8/26 *Introducing the Course*

No Readings

W 8/28 *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible and Time in Genesis*

Genesis 1-2, with accompanying notes from a Study Bible such as Oxford or JPS; Marc Zvi Brettler, “The Hebrew Bible and the Early History of Israel” in *Cambridge Guide to Judaism*, pp. 6-33

WEEK 2

M 9/2 No Class, Labor Day!

W 9/4 - *Time in Ecclesiastes and Psalms*

Ecclesiastes 1-3, Psalm 90

WEEK 3

M 9/9 *Time in Presocratics, Plato and Plotinus* (selections from Heraclitus, Parmenides, Plato's *Timaeus*, Plotinus in *Hackett Readings*)

W 9/11 *Time in Aristotle* (selections from the *Physics*; *Metaphysics* in *Hackett Readings*)

WEEK 4

M 9/16 *Time in Augustine* (selections from *Confessions* and Wittgenstein "St Augustine's Puzzle about Time", in *Hackett Readings*)

W 9/18 *Introduction to Rabbinic Literature: Midrash and Talmud* (Moshe D. Herr "Midrash" in *Encyclopedia Judaica*)

WEEK 5

M 9/23 *Time in Midrash and Rabbinic Storytelling: Telescoping Time* (Selections from *Lamentations Rabbah*)

W 9/25 *Time in Midrash and Rabbinic Storytelling: Narrative Time* (*Babylonian Talmud Tractates Ta'anit and Menahot*)

WEEK 6

M 9/30 *Time, Motion and Change* (J.M. McTaggart and Prior in *LePoidevin & MacBeath*)

W 10/2 *Time and Movement* (Selections from *Babylonian Talmud Tractates Shabbat and Eruvin*)

WEEK 7

M 10/7 *Simultaneity* (Shoemaker in *LePoidevin & MacBeath*;)

W 10/9 *Simultaneity* (Selections from the *Babylonian Talmud Tractates Eruvin, Bekhorot*)

WEEK 8

M 10/14 *Review and Recapitulation of Temporality So Far*

W 10/16 **Midterm Examination**

WEEK 9

M 10/21 *Time in Medieval Philosophy* (Part 1: Selections from Maimonides *Guide for the Perplexed*)

W 10/23 *Time in Medieval Philosophy* (Part 2: Selections from Aquinas *Summa Theologica*)

WEEK 10

M 10/28 *Time in Ancient Iranian Cosmology* (expanding the Talmudic cultural context)
(*Bundahišn* ch. 1 and 15)

W 10/30 *Time in Jewish Law: Sensation and Memory*
(Selections from Babylonian Talmud Tractate *Pesahim* and Palestinian Talmud Tractate *Pesahim*)

WEEK 11

M 11/4 *The Phenomenology of Time* (selections from Husserl; Benjamin)

W 11/6 *Time and Memory* (selections from Y. H. Yerushalmi, *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory*)

WEEK 12

M 11/11 *Time in Contemporary Philosophy of Physics, from Newton to Einstein* (Newton & Leibniz selections in Hackett; readings in Maudlin, *Philosophy of Physics*)

W 11/13 *Time and Space from Einstein to Hawking* (Maudlin readings)
Guest lecture, Dr. Chris Porter (?), Physics Dept.

WEEK 13

M 11/18 (Un)Reality of the Past -- (Film: "Back to the Future" dir. Robert Zemeckis 1985; "Bringing About the Past" by Dummett and "The Paradoxes of Time Travel" David Lewis in *Le Poidevin and MacBeath*)

W 11/20) *Time and the End of Life* (*Ecclesiastes*; selections from Heidegger, *Being and Time*)

WEEK 14

M 11/25 Time and the End of Life, cont. (selections from *the Babylonian Talmud Tractate Mo'ed Kattan*, Israeli Poet Yehuda Amichai, "A Man in His Life")

W 11/27 - No Class - Thanksgiving

WEEK 15

M 12/2 *Time in Modern Literature* (selections from Proust; Woolf) Guest Lecture, (?) Prof Steven Kern, English

W 12/4 *Time in Modern Jewish Thought and Contemporary Talmudic Law* (Heschel; Soloveitchik; David Golinkin "A Responsum Regarding Space Travel" *Insight Israel* 2:8 (2002).