

History 2821F: Jewish History to 1492

Prerequisites: none; Antirequisites: none

Instructor: Rabbi Catharine Clark, cclar69@uwo.ca

Email is checked on weekdays that are not Jewish holidays

519.438.7224 ext. 198

Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 pm and Thursdays from 12:30 to 2:30 pm

Office Hours: Thursdays (but not Nov. 3) from 2:30 to 3:30 pm or online by appointment

Office Location: A319C

Course Description:

This course provides a critical survey of the social, economic, religious, and political experience of the Jewish people and their precursors from the biblical period until the Spanish Expulsion. The course will cover a wide variety of topics and will focus on three principal themes: (1) how we know what we know about Jewish history; (2) the ways in which Jewish life was influenced by the cultures in which particular Jewish communities lived; and (3) the ways in which there is continuity and commonality among Jewish communities no matter the time and place of these communities.

Course Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- identify key events, persons, places, and works in Jewish history;
- relate these facts to the larger cultural and political contexts in which they took place;
- describe continuities in Jewish life regardless of region or time period;
- analyze primary sources and understand what they tell us about Jewish history;
- formulate clear and analytic arguments in written work and presentations based on primary and secondary sources.

Description of Class Methods

Class methods will include lectures, weekly quizzes, weekly exercises on primary sources and issues, and class discussion. Students are expected to have completed the readings for each session before the session, to participate in class discussions, particularly in weekly exercises on primary sources, and to complete the weekly quizzes in a timely manner.

Required Text (for purchase at the bookstore):

John Efron, et al, *The Jews: A History*, 3rd ed. (Boston: Routledge, 2018)

Other readings will be available on OWL or in the Tanakh (Jewish Bible), the second Jewish Publication Society version of which is available online at sefaria.org

Method of Evaluation/Assessment:

Weekly Quizzes + Mid-Term Chronology Quiz

15%

Weekly Classroom Exercises on Primary Sources	13%
Primary Source Analysis #1 (1,300-1,600 words)	24%
Primary Source Analysis #2 (1,300-1,600 words)	24%
Final Examination	24%

Grades will be based on weekly quizzes and the mid-term chronology quiz, weekly classroom exercises on primary sources, one exam, and two papers designed to develop students' ability to analyze primary documents and integrate them into broader historical narratives. A primary source will be suggested for each assigned paper. Student may choose a different primary source only with prior approval from the instructor. The primary text analyses will be a more in-depth analysis of the type done for the weekly exercises on primary sources. The papers are due on the schedule set forth below.

Someone from Library & Learning Services will come to class on Thursday, September 15 and Thursday, October 20 to provide training on research methods for the primary source analysis papers. These training sessions will provide significant guidance on successful analysis of primary sources.

Please complete the readings for each session before the scheduled time for that session. For the Tuesdays that we meet in person, students will have about 10-15 minutes of class time to complete the quiz. The quizzes are open-book, but you will need to be familiar with the material in order to complete the quiz successfully.

Note the following exceptions to the quiz schedule:

- 1) The Quiz for the first day of class is due Thursday, September 8 at 8:00 am. Please submit via OWL BEFORE reading any of the assigned readings. Everyone who submits a thoughtful answer by the deadline will receive full credit of 1% of the total course grade.
- 2) Tuesday, September 27, Tuesday, October 11, and Tuesday, October 18 are Jewish holidays. We will not meet in-person on those days. On those weeks, the quiz will go live on OWL on Sunday morning of that week at 8:00 am and will close on OWL at 3:00 pm on Wednesday of that week. For the quiz on Tuesday, September 27 and on Tuesday, October 11, you should watch the online lecture noted on the syllabus, in addition to the reading, before taking the quiz.
- 3) The Mid-Term Chronology Quiz is on Thursday, October 20 at the start of class. You will have up to 30 minutes to complete the quiz. It is open-book, but you will need to be familiar with the chronology of the material covered to that point to complete the quiz successfully. The Mid-Term Chronology Quiz is worth 2% of the total course grade.

If necessary, make-up time will be offered for up to 30 minutes on the last day of class, Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Evaluation on weekly classroom exercises on primary sources will be based on participation and insights into the significance of the primary source for understanding Jewish history. Participation each week is worth 1% of the total course grade.

Primary Source Analysis #1 is due Thursday, October 6 at 12:00 noon via OWL. Primary Source Analysis #2 is due Thursday, November 10 at 12:00 noon am via OWL. The final examination will be posted to OWL on Dec. 8 after the last class ends. The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar’s Office and is to be completed and submitted via OWL. It is a take-home, open-book exam. Please use your course materials to complete the questions.

The Primary Source Analyses must be typed, double-spaced, using 1” margins, and 12-point font. Each paper must be between 1,300 and 1,600 words.

Papers handed in late will be penalized one full letter grade if submitted within one week of the due date. Papers will not be accepted after that time. Exams will be taken as scheduled. Any exceptions will be pursuant to the Western Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness.

	Before Class	In Class
Pre Week		
Thurs Sept 8	Quiz: When Do You Think Jewish History Begins? Due via OWL: Thursday, September 8 at 8:00 am. <i>Ben Tor, The Archaeology of Ancient Israel, pp. 7-9</i>	
Week 1: Origins to the Babylonian Exile, Part 1		
Tues Sept 13	Efron Chapter 1, pp. 1-14	Quiz: Jewish History Map
Thurs Sept 15		Introductory Research Training Session
Week 2: Origins to the Babylonian Exile, Part 2		
Tues Sept 20	Efron Chapter 1, pp. 14-32	Quiz: Nebuchadnezzar
Thurs Sept 22		
Week 3: Exile and Return		
Tues Sept 27	Efron Chapter 2 Watch Lecture on the Canonization of the Hebrew Bible Quiz: Canonization of Hebrew Bible	Rosh Hashanah, NO in-person class
Thurs Sept 29		
Week 4: Judaism and Hellenism		
Tues Oct 4	Efron Chapter 3	Quiz: Dead Sea Scrolls

Thurs Oct 6	Primary Source Analysis #1 Due via OWL at 12:00 noon	
Week 5: Jews Under Roman Rule		
Tues Oct 11	Efron Chapter 4 Watch Lecture on Josephus (2 nd "slide" of Philo of Alexander and Josephus) Quiz: Josephus	Sukkot, NO in-person class
Thurs Oct 13	Brooten, <i>Women Leaders in the Ancient Synagogue: Inscriptional Evidence and Background Issues</i> , pp. 5-33 (extra pages included in OWL document for those interested in further examination of source material)	
Week 6: Jewish Life in Late Antiquity, Part 1 (Roman West)		
Tues Oct 18	Efron Chapter 5 Quiz: Jewish Life in Christian Rome	Simchat Torah, NO in-person class
Thurs Oct 20		Quiz: Chronology Review (2% of Total Course Grade) Advanced Research Training Session
Week 7: Jewish Life in Late Antiquity, Part 2 (Persian East)		
Tues Oct 25		Quiz: Jewish Life in Late Antiquity
Thurs Oct 27		
READING WEEK (Nov 1 & 3)		
Week 8: Jews in the Mediterranean World & the Cairo Geniza, Part 1		
Tues Nov 8	Efron Chapter 6	Quiz: Jewish Life in the Muslim World
Thurs Nov 10	Primary Source Analysis #2 Due via OWL at 12:00 noon	
Week 9: Jewish Life in the Mediterranean World & the Cairo Geniza, Part 2		
Tues Nov 15	Melammed, Renee Levine, "He Said, She Said: A Woman Teacher in Twelfth-Century Cairo," <i>AJS Review</i> 22/1 (1997), pp. 19-35	Quiz: Jewish Life in the Muslim World, Part 2

Thurs Nov 17	Cohen, <i>Under Crescent & Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages</i> , pp. 77-103	
Week 10: Jewish Life in Christian Europe, Part 1		
Tues Nov 22	Efron Chapter 7	Quiz: Antisemitism in Christian Europe
Thurs Nov 24		
Week 11: Jewish Life in Christian Europe, Part 2		
Tues Nov 29	Cohen, <i>Under Crescent & Cross: The Jewish in the Middle Ages</i> , pp. 121-128	Quiz: Jewish Literature in Christian Europe
Thurs Dec 1		
Week 12: Expulsions from Europe		
Tues Dec 6	Efron, Chapter 8, through page 216 only	Quiz: Expulsions from Europe
Thurs Dec 8		



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_calendar) . The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) Consideration on **Medical Grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: **Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community

Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)