University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Judaism: history and biblical literature, PG_00167332		
Field of study	Religious Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish The exam may be taken in the following languages: Polish, English, French, German, and Italian.
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	3.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	prof. dr hab. Grzegorz Szamocki	
	Teachers	prof. dr hab. Grzegorz Szamocki	

Lesson types							
	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours					
	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	4.0	45.0	79

Subject objectives	To acquaint the student with the origins and history of Judaism and the practical expressions of the religion.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[RELL3_U03] Be able to retrieve information (using bibliographies, archival aids, databases, etc.) and critically analyse, classify, categorise and synthesise it in order to solve a problem formulated by him/herself or others	The student is able to operate accurately with terms and concepts from the sources and history of Judaism. Compares the religious practices of Palestinian Judaism and Diaspora Judaism. Classifies Jewish religious and social views according to the directions in Judaism of the 18th-20th centuries.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[RELL3_K02] Is ready to take action to protect and promote the cultural heritage of the region, Poland and Europe	He is open to researching religious contentious and controversial issues. He is creative in revising and overcoming hurtful stereotypical views.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[RELL3_K01] Critically evaluates his/her knowledge, demonstrates a willingness to continually expand his/her knowledge and to seek expert advice if he/she has difficulty solving a problem on his/ her own	He is aware of the limited scope of his knowledge and understands the need to develop his own competence. Demonstrates responsibility for the opinions expressed about the manifestations of religious life.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[RELL3_U04] Be able to define, explain and correctly use, orally and in writing, professional terms from the fields of cultural and religious sciences, history and philosophy, both in their work on selected topics and in their dissemination activities.	Student potrafi precyzyjnie operować terminami i pojęciami z zakresu źródeł i dziejów judaizmu. Porządkuje żydowskie święta zgodnie z cyklem liturgicznym i porównuje ich charakter ze świętami chrześcijańskimi. Rozpoznaje i ocenia motywy oraz porządek judaistycznego rytuału w życiu.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[RELL3_W03] Has advanced, structured detailed knowledge of cultural and religious studies	The student explains the basic terms and concepts functioning in relation to Jewish history and religion. Lists hypotheses regarding the origins of Judaism. Describes the foundations of rabbinic ideology. Identifies the changeable and unchangeable elements in Judaism, which are determinants of the essence of the religion.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[RELL3_W04] Has advanced, structured knowledge of the history of various religions, understands the historical conditions of their development	Identifies the changeable and unchangeable elements in Judaism, which are the determinants of the essence of this religion.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

The origins and history of Judaism along with contemporary Jewish movements; Judaic heortology; life ritual and customs.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Class attendance	80.0%	10.0%
Credit test	51.0%	90.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Adler, Y., *The Origins of Judaism: An Archaeological-Historical Reappraisal* (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library), New Haven–London: Yale University Press, 2022. Collins, J.J., *The Invention of Judaism: Torah and Jewish Identity from Deuteronomy to Paul* (Taubman Lectures in Jewish Studies; 7), Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2017. Collins, J.J., "What Is Hellenistic Judaism?," *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 53/4–5 (2022), 567–576.
	Supplementary literature	Fisch, Y., "The Origins of Oral Torah: A New Pauline Perspective," *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 51 (2020), 43–66. Grabbe, L.L., *Ancient Israel: What Do We Know and How Do We Know It?*, London–New York, NY: T&T Clark, 2017 Grabbe, L.L., A History of the Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple Period, vol. 1: The Persian Period (539–331 BCE), London–New York, NY: T&T Clark, 2006. Grabbe, L.L., A History of the Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple Period, vol. 2: The Coming of the Greeks: The Early Hellenistic Period (335–175 BCE), London–New York, NY: T&T Clark, 2008. Grabbe, L.L., A History of the Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple Period, vol. 3: The Maccabaean Revolt, Hasmonaean Rule, and Herod the Great (175–4 BCE), London–New York, NY: T&T Clark, 2020. Grabbe, L.L., A History of the Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple Period, vol. 4: The Jews under the Roman Shadow (4 BCE–150 CE), London–New York, NY: T&T Clark, 2021.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Tradition about Moses: his history and role. Religious practices of the Judeans in the Persian period. The most important Jewish holidays. The most important works of Moses Maimonides. The Holocaust	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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