

Jewish Law: Traditional, Progressive, Radical

This course investigates the philosophical and mystical underpinnings of Jewish law. Issues include tradition and change, interpretive freedom, authority, ritual as magic, kabbalistic vs. philosophical views of halakha (Jewish law), antinomian trends, and contemporary expressions of halakhic practice. Ranging from the Talmudic to modern periods, this course emphasizes the teachings of Mendelssohn, Hirsch, Rosenzweig, Mordechai Kaplan, Soloveitchik, Hartman, Levinas, and Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. Special attention is given to how these teachers understand the relationship between Jewish law and the process of inner transformation. Co-requisite: REL529 or equivalent.

Course Number: REL663E

Unit: 3.0

Program: GRAD/UNDG Religs Studies