I. General Overview of the Course:
This course introduces students to the Jewish religious tradition in its various historical and contemporary manifestations. We will be asking: how has Judaism changed, over time? What divisions does it have, and how does it respond to the challenges of modernity? To answer these questions, our readings and discussion will cover core Jewish “stories” and their ongoing impact on the Jewish religious tradition, Jewish beliefs and practices, key literary classics of the Jewish tradition, varieties of classical and modern Jewish religious expression (for instance, philosophy and mysticism), and the contemporary Jewish movements. Although this is not a history class, we will proceed chronologically in order to appreciate the historical development of Judaism and the roles that memories of the Jewish past play in motivating Jewish religious practices and commitments.

In addition to learning more about Judaism and the Jewish people, you will also have the opportunity to broaden your academic horizons, learn valuable lessons regarding the study of religion in general and, it is hoped, improve your analytic and presentation skills. This course is open to everyone. There are no pre-requisites, and no knowledge of religious studies in general or Judaism in particular is presupposed.

Caveats and additional information
Syllabus: Depending on time constraints and other factors, the instructor may alter the syllabus during the semester. Students will be given notice of such alterations.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance. For grading policies, please see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.
Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. 
http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu
Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. 
http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio
Students are invited to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Readings: Three books are required for this course. There will be additional required readings, which will be available online or will be distributed as handouts. Students should complete readings before the discussion session for which they have been assigned.

Required Texts:
4) For our Bible readings, you may want to use the Jewish Publication Society translation here: https://jps.org/download-the-tanakh-1917-translation/

Grading (how we will assess the progress and quality of your learning in this course):
1) Attendance and participation 20%
2) Three in-class tests 30% (There will be 4 tests; the lowest grade will be dropped.) Test questions will derive from our readings, lectures and class discussions.)
4) Midterm 20%
5) Writing assignments 30% Three, short writing assignments will be handed out during the semester.
Extra credit: There are two lectures (Thursday, Feb 8th at 5:00 in the Judaica Suite, and Tuesday, March 27th) which you may attend and complete a one-paragraph summary

Grading Scale: final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:
A 93-100  C+ 77-79
A- 90-92   C 73-76
B+ 87-89   C-70-72
B 83-86    D 60-69
B- 80-82   E 0-59

For UF policies on grading, please see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Schedule:
Introduction:
Jews, Judaism – what do they mean?

1) Monday, January 8: Introduction -- Judaism, Jewishness, and Jews
   - *IJ* 1-6
   - NAJ 45-56

2) Wednesday, January 10:
   - NAJ 45-56

3) Friday, January 12
   - IJ 11-20
   - CG 6-20

4) Monday, January 15:
   - NAJ: 59-64

5) Wednesday, January 17:
   - Judaica Suite

6) Friday, January 19:
   - NAJ: 72-96
   - **Writing assignment #1**
   - Due to rgordan@ufl.edu by 8 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 23rd

7) Monday, January 22:
   - CG: 20-33
   - Deuteronomy 34 (death of Moses)

8) Wednesday, January 24:
   - **Passover**
   - NAJ: 247-251

9) Friday, January 26
   - *Early Second Temple Period*
   - IJ: 21-36
   - CG: 34-38

10) Monday, January 29:
    - **The Later Second Temple Period: Independence, Sectarian Disputes, and Destruction**
    - CG: 38-57

11) Wednesday, January 31:
    - NAJ: 142-147
    - **Chanukah**
    - **Writing assignment #2**
    - Due to rgordan@ufl.edu by 8 pm, Tuesday, Jan 30th

12) Friday, February 2:
    - Rabbinic Judaism
    - IJ: 40-59

13) Monday, February 5:
    - Rabbinic Judaism
    - CG: 58-82

14) Wednesday, February 7
    - Talmud
    - CG 311-317
    - NAJ: 193-201

Thursday, February 8th 5 pm Ruby Namdar talk, Judaica Library

15) Friday, February 9:
    - Talmud
    - CG 317-323
CG 323-335
16) Monday, February 12:
   Test #1
16) Wednesday, February 14:
   Practice and Belief
   CG 288-310
17) Friday, February 16:
   Sabbath & holidays
   NAJ 214-221
   IJ 277-303
18) Monday, February 19:
   Synagogues & liturgy
   IJ: 245-256
   NAJ 89-96
19) Wednesday, February 21:
   Lifecycle & death
   IJ 295-303
   IJ 182-186
20) Friday, February 23:
   Marriage & Gender
   CG 357-369

Medieval Judaism
21) Monday, February 26:
   Judaism Under Islam and Christianity
   IJ 60-68
22) Wednesday, February 28:
   Jewish Philosophy
   NAJ 285-289
   NAJ 299-306
   NAJ 322-331
23) Friday, March 2
   Midterm
25) Monday, March 12
   Jewish philosophy: Maimonides
   IJ 141-144
   NAJ 322-329
26) Wednesday, March 14
   Jewish Mysticism
   IJ 86-102
27) Friday, March 16: Test 2

28) Monday, March 19:
   Jewish learning
   IJ 197-222
29) Wednesday, March 21
   Rise of the Talmud
   CG 317-331
30) Friday, March 23:
   Modern Judaism
   CG 140-151
   NAJ 493-496
31) Monday, March 26
Tuesday, March 27\textsuperscript{th} John Connelly evening talk

32) Wednesday, March 28
Jews and modernity
CG 154-166
IJ 117-21

33) Friday, March 30: Passover – no class

34) Monday, April 2: Test 3

35) Wednesday, April 4:
    CG 414-423
    NAJ 438-442

36) Friday, April 6: end of Passover – no class

37) Monday, April 9
    Mendelssohn and rise of Reform
    Jewish movements
    NAJ 512-519
    NAJ 531-538
    NAJ 543-544

38) Wednesday, April 11
    From Reform to Conservative
    NAJ 547-551
    IJ 117-130

39) Friday, April 13
    CG 210-232

40) Monday, April 16
    Jewish thinkers
    NAJ 576-584

**Writing Assignment #3: due to rgordan@ufl.edu by Sunday, April 22\textsuperscript{nd} at 8:00 pm

41) Wednesday, April 18
    Newer American variants
    CG 445-464

42) Friday, April 20
    The Shoah
    CG 233-257

43) Monday, April 23:
    NAJ 634-662

44) Wednesday, April 25: Test 4