

Course Description

This course explores the sweep of Jewish history from the close of the Biblical period through the end of the Middle Ages. Students will trace the political, religious, and cultural developments that shaped the Jewish people over nearly two millennia, the Second Temple era, the rise of rabbinic leadership after its destruction, and the flourishing of Jewish communities across the Islamic and Christian worlds. By the end of the course, students will understand when key events happened and how they connect as well as familiarity with the key Rabbinic figures and works that guided and inspired the Jewish people during this period.

Major Units of Study

- Unit I Destruction of the First Beit HaMikdash, Exile and Reconstruction
- Unit II Second Temple era, Destruction and Exile
- Unit III Babylonian Jewry, Oral Torah
- Unit IV Rise of Islam and Medieval Jewish Communities under their domain
- Unit V Rise of Christianity and Medieval Jewish Communities under their domain
- Unit VI Crusades and Expulsions

Attendance

I expect students to attend every day of class so that they can gain maximum benefit from Chumash class. The time spent in class working on Hebrew reading is invaluable, and time spent having classroom discussions are meant to develop ideas and thoughts, not simply arrive at a conclusion to be reiterated on a test. Hence the process is as important as the outcome, and when students miss class they lose out on that process. Additionally, I find that even though students will “get a copy of the notes” when they miss class, that material learned from a student’s notes is rarely integrated in any meaningful manner. As you will see below, my grading rubric reflects the great value I place on consistent attendance. Each student will be allowed two absences each quarter. Additional absences will impact the class participation component of the grade. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Grades

Your grade will be determined by the following components: attendance, class participation, homework/projects, quizzes and tests. The breakdown for your grade is as follows:

- 40% tests, projects, homework and quizzes
- 60% attendance and class participation

Expectations

1. **For my class, you are strongly encouraged to use a three ring binder.** I frequently give out handouts and worksheets and want them to be kept neatly and in order in your three-ring binder.
2. To arrive on time to class and be prepared at the start of class with your notebook to take notes. You can expect me to start and end class on time. If I don’t notice when our time is up, please feel free to mention it.
3. To take notes on what we learn. This reinforces what we learn in your memory and will also enable you to prepare for tests/quizzes/homework.
4. To be attentive in class. Keep your head up, no side conversations, pay attention to whomever is speaking to the class or the task at hand.
5. To participate in class discussions and work productively during classwork time.
6. To speak and act respectfully to students and to me at all times.

You can reach me by Whatsapp or text on my cell phone with questions, (619) 846-0343 or by email at ariellaadatto@gmail.com. Please try not to call after 10 pm.

I look forward to a wonderful year learning with you!