



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The Pedagogy of Teaching Religions - 34600*

*Last update 05-05-2024*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Education*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr Michael Gillis*

*Coordinator Email: [michael.gillis@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:michael.gillis@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays 12.00-13.00*

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Michael Gillis

Course/Module description:

The course examines some of the central issues that arise with respect to teaching religions in different cultural contexts and educational systems. We will see how the field of religious education confronts secularism and pluralism on the one hand, and fundamentalist trends, on the other. The course will also look at the rivalry and dialogue between the so-called Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and their expression in education. This will be done by studying the complex case of Abraham as a potential bridging figure between faiths as well as the educational significance of changes in Christian attitudes to Judaism since the Second World War.

Course/Module aims:

The course aims to provide students with a grasp of the central issues of the field. It seeks to provide knowledge of current trends in religious education. It aims to cultivate a depth of understanding of the meaning of other religious traditions and their relationship with Jews and Judaism. It will provide conceptual tools that can serve educational practice in religious education.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Course outcomes are that participants will be able to:

- Participate in an informed manner in a systematic discussion of issues in religious education.
- To appreciate the complexity of the relationship between Judaism and other religious traditions.
- Reflect deeply on the educational challenges of teaching about other religions.
- To develop their own educational approach to the issues raised in the course.

Attendance requirements(%):

90

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

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Course/Module Content:

1. What is "Religious Education"?
2. From Religious Instruction to Religious Education – secularism and multiculturalism
3. Religious pluralism and religious education
4. Religious Education – The case of the UK
5. Religious Education in Europe
6. Religious Education – The case of the United States
7. Religious Education the Case of Israel
8. "Abrahamic Religions" – rivalry, dialogue and education
9. Teaching Islam and Judaism
10. Modern Changes in the Church's Relationship to Judaism

Required Reading:

Will Kymlica, *Multicultural states and intercultural Citizens, Theory and Research in Education*, vol 1(2) 147-169 (2003)  
Rodney Stark *Source: Sociology of Religion*, Vol. 60, No. 3, (Autumn, 1999), pp. 249-273

John Hick, *A Philosophy of Religious Pluralism*, in *Classical and Contemporary Readings in the Philosophy of Religion*, John Hick (ed.), 3rd edition, Englewood Cliffs, 1993, pp. 418-432

Peter Berger, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v&eq;wMc4Jip2Smo>

John Hull, "Religionism and Religious Education" in *Spiritual and Religious Education*, London, 2002, pp. 76-83.

Robert Jackson and Kevin O'Grady,  
"Religions and Education in England

*Social Plurality, Civil Religion and*

*Religious Education Pedagogy*," in, *Religion and Education in Europe:*

*Developments, Contexts and Debates (Religious Education and Diversity in Europe series)* - Edited by R. Jackson, S. Miedema, W. Weisse and J-F. Willaime Vol.3 .

Munster:2007 pp. 181-202

Thorsten Knauth, "Religious Education in Germany: Contribution to Dialogue or Source of Conflict?" in in, *Religion and Education in Europe: Developments, Contexts and Debates (Religious Education and Diversity in Europe series)* - Edited by R. Jackson, S. Miedema, W. Weisse and J-F. Willaime Vol.3 . Munster:2007 pp. 243-265

Robert Jackson, (2015) 'Inclusive Study of Religions and Other Worldviews in Publicly-funded Schools in Democratic Societies' in Kristina Stoeckl and Olivier Roy (Eds.) *The Future of Religious Education in Europe*, San Domenico di Fiesole: European University Institute

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Robert Jackson, *Signposts - Policy and practice for teaching about religions and non-religious world views in intercultural education*, Council of Europe 2014, pp. 21-26, 33-46 <https://docplayer.net/13123346-Robert-jackson-signposts-policy-and-practice-for-teaching-about-religions-and-non-religious-world-views-in-intercultural-education.html>

Nel Noddings, "Understanding Unbelief as Part of Religious Education," in *The Role of Religion in 21st Century Public Schools*, Steven Jones and Eric Sheffield (eds.), New York, 2009, pp. 19-31.

Diane Moore, "How to Teach About Religion in the Schools" in *Overcoming Religious Illiteracy*, New York 2007, pp.53-88

American Academy of Religion *Guidelines on the Teaching of Religion*  
<https://www.aarweb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Publications/epublications/AARK-12CurriculumGuidelines.pdf>

Elie Podeh, *Teaching Christianity and Islam in the Jewish Education System in Israel* in Moshe Maoz (ed.) "The Meeting of Civilizations", Eastbourne, 2009.

*Living in the Holy Land*, Tel Aviv 2006

Najwan Saada, "Teachers' Perceptions of Islamic Religious Education in Arab High Schools in Israel in, *Global Perspectives on Teaching and Learning Paths in Islamic Education*", ed. Miftachul Huda et al., Hershey PA, 2019 pp. 135-163

Jon Levenson, *Abraham Among Jews Christians and Muslims: Monotheism, Exegesis, and Religious Diversity*, ARC, *The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies*, McGill, 26, 1998, 5-29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v&eq;PQHE9Fuo0zQ>

Bruce Feiler, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v&eq;sEFi-KzVRd8>

Hava Lazarus-Yafeh, "Judaism and Islam: Some Aspects of Mutual Cultural Influences", in *Some Religious Aspects of Islam*, Leiden, 1981, pp.72-89

Khalid Duran, "Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Islam for Jews" New York 2001, pages 99-114

Reuven Firestone, *An Introduction to Islam for Jews* pp.3-5, 33-42, 235-239.

Reuven Firestone, *Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Judaism for Muslims*, Hoboken 2001 pp.44-54, 125-142

Nostra Aetate

*The Catholic Church and the Jewish people : recent reflections from Rome / edited by Philip A. Cunningham et al.*

New York : Fordham University Press, 2007

Notes on the correct way to present the Jews and Judaism in preaching and catechesis in the Roman Catholic Church, [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/chrstuni/relations-jews-docs/rc\\_pc\\_chrstuni\\_doc\\_19820306\\_jews-](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/relations-jews-docs/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_19820306_jews-)

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*judaism\_en.html*

*Dabru Emet: A Jewish Statement on Christians And Christianity*

*[http://www.jcrelations.net/Dabru\\_Emet\\_-\\_A\\_Jewish\\_Statement\\_on\\_Christians\\_and\\_Christianity.2395.0.html](http://www.jcrelations.net/Dabru_Emet_-_A_Jewish_Statement_on_Christians_and_Christianity.2395.0.html)*

*Film, "I am Joseph Your Brother" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v&eq;zrsBOFu30GU&list&eq;PL0I541FH\\_W0T5tEOfnZy-LOqZZDFQ6lcg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v&eq;zrsBOFu30GU&list&eq;PL0I541FH_W0T5tEOfnZy-LOqZZDFQ6lcg)*

*Jon Levenson, How Not to Conduct Jewish Christian Dialogue, Commentary, December 2001, pp. 31-37.*

*<https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/how-not-to-conduct-jewish-christian-dialogue/>*

*Jewish-Christian Dialogue: Jon Levenson and His Critics, Readers' Letters, Commentary April 2002, pp. 8-21*

#### *Additional Reading Material:*

#### *Grading Scheme:*

*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %*

*Active Participation / Team Assignment 20 %*

*Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 20 %*

#### *Additional information:*