

COURSE DETAIL

HASIDISM: FROM MYSTIC FRATERNITY TO REACTIONARY MOVEMENT

Country

Israel

Host Institution

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Program(s)

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Religious Studies

UCEAP Course Number

111

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

HASIDISM: FROM MYSTIC FRATERNITY TO REACTIONARY MOVEMENT

UCEAP Transcript Title

HASIDISM

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

The course examines the teachings, traditions, and history of the Hasidic movement, from its revolutionary beginnings to its current, reactionary position. The movement is examined for its original philosophical and theological teachings, and how changing assumptions affected its history and development over the last three centuries. The movement's history can be divided into approximately four historical and ideological periods: the 18th century and the movement's beginnings, its pioneering figures, its mystical-messianic vision, and the social controversy which surrounded it. The 19th century with the consolidation of the Hasidic movement into mainstream Judaism, the founding of Hasidic dynasties and their internecine battles, Hasidism's relationship to modernity and the Jewish Haskala (Enlightenment), and the nascent Zionistic movement. The 20th century sees the budding of a contemporary Hasidism, in dialogue with the world, only to be cut short by the Holocaust and replaced by extreme reactionism. And the 21st century, with the current challenges facing the movement, both in Israel and America. Attention is also given to "neo-Hasidic" groups, such as the Jewish Renewal movement, Carlebach minyanim, Breslov, and Chabad. Students approach Hasidism through its primary texts (in the original Hebrew with English translation), culture, customs, and literature, in addition to more contemporary media forms such as magazines, movies for and about Hasidism, web logs, etc. Several films and television shows about Hasidim are assigned for viewing during the semester. The course also includes first-hand meetings with Hasidic Rebbes and members of the community.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

48525

Host Institution Course Title

HASIDISM: FROM MYSTIC FRATERNITY TO REACTIONARY MOVEMENT

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Rothberg International School, Division of Undergraduate Studies

Host Institution Degree**Host Institution Department**

Jewish Civilization, Religion and History

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