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

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Host Institution Course Details

https://overseas2.huji.ac.il/oslibrary/syllabi/2021-2022/UGJT2016.htm

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Rothberg International School, Division of Undergraduate Studies

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Jewish Civilization, Religion and History

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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