

# COURSE DETAIL

## WHO IS A JEW: DEFINING JEWS AND OTHERS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

**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**

141

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

WHO IS A JEW: DEFINING JEWS AND OTHERS IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

DEFINING JEWS

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00

### **Course Description**

This course explores the shaping of Jewish identity and the formation of border lines between Jews and non-Jews in the rabbinic period. Through critical readings of Talmudic texts from the second to sixth centuries CE, it investigates how rabbinic laws and ideas inform the contemporary understanding of what it means to be Jewish. The course begins by delving into texts which highlight the shift of defining Judaism as a religion rather than an ethnicity. It then focus on the challenge of integrating into a non-Jewish society while protecting Jewish separateness from the other. The course also studies texts which reveal the deep influence that non-Jewish cultural context had on rabbinic practice. The final unit of the course explores the essential question of how the rabbis see the role of Judaism in the world at large.

### **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

### **Host Institution Course Number**

48625

### **Host Institution Course Title**

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### **Host Institution Course Details**

<https://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics/course-catalog/undergraduate-course-catal...>

### **Host Institution Campus**

Rothberg International School

### **Host Institution Faculty**

### **Host Institution Degree**

### **Host Institution Department**

Jewish Civilization, Religion and History

**Course Last Reviewed**

2021-2022

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