

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Jeffrey Dodge Humanities Discipline: Philosophy 102 & 220 Date: Dec. 8, 2015

World Religion: American Judaism Module Title: The Philosophy of Religion: American Judaism (PHIL 220)

Introduction to the Ethics of American Judaism (PHIL 102)

Teaching Module Goals:

*Introduce students to basic Jewish beliefs and ethics in the United States

For PHIL 220: Introduce students to American Jewish thought, religious ideas, and experiences, and explain how the American experience has affected American Jews

For PHIL 102: Introduce students to American Jewish moral thinking on justice, self-identity, family, relationships with one's own and other's faith community, Anti-Semitism, and human rights

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Bowker, *World Religions, Judaism*, pp. 124-147 (PHIL 102 & 220)

Diner, *A New Promised Land: A History of Jews in America*, Oxford Press, 2003.

Telushkin, *Jewish Literary*, William Morrow & Co., NY--selected readings from this anthology for PHIL 102 & 220 from 5 on Zionism, 7 on Holocaust, 8 American Jewish Life, 10 Antisemitism, and 9 Soviet Jewry.

Chabad.org, *Chabad-Lubavitch Media Center*, 1995-2015. (Jewish TV, website with general Jewish information on ethics and beliefs; this is link to Learning & Values).

http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/1675887/jewish/Learning-Values.htm

Russian-Jewish Immigrants in the U.S: Social Portrait, Challenges, and AJC Involvement

<http://www.ajcrussian.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=chLMK3PKLsF&b=7718799&ct=11713359>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

What major events shaped Jewish thought and practice as Jews immigrated and settled in America? Give a brief explanation of how each major event had an impact.

What are the major religious sects or faith communities of American Jews? Explain the basic differences among those faith communities. What major ideas and values define these groups?

List ten famous American Jews that have made major contributions to the United States or the world. What did each of them achieve? What effects did they have on American society and American ideas (PHIL 220)? What effects did they have on American society and American values (PHIL 102)?

Explain the importance of Jewish identity in American Jewish thought (PHIL 220) and ethics (PHIL 102).

Explain how Jewish religious beliefs and practices changed as they adapted to American society (PHIL 220).
Explain how Jewish values and practices changed as they adapted to American society (PHIL 102).

What effect does the nation-state of Israel have upon current Jewish beliefs (PHIL 220)? What effect does Israel have upon current Jewish values (PHIL 220)?

Judaism has been affected by the American experience. List some of the major moral values of Judaism that have endured, and some that have changed. Explain their importance (PHIL 102).

What effects does the Holocaust still have upon Jewish Americans today? What major moral dilemmas are raised by it? What solutions would you offer? Be specific rather than general in your responses (PHIL 102 & 220).

What forms of Judaism are practiced in America, and what effect have these groups had upon American thought (PHIL 220) or ethics (PHIL 102)? List them and give a specific example.

What are the major philosophical beliefs of American Judaism today? List and explain each one. Use examples for support (PHIL 220).

What are the major ethical beliefs of American Judaism today? List and explain each one. Use examples for support (PHIL 102).

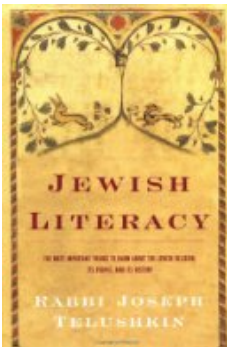
What issues do newer Jewish immigrants (for example, Russians and Ukrainians) bring as they adjust to American society?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

(PHIL 220) Black Board Journal entries (essay minimum 500 words each).

(PHIL 102) Black Board Discussion Board (minimum 500 words).

Additional Resource information:



Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People and Its History

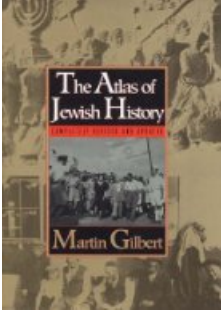
ISBN-13: 9780688085063

ISBN-10: 0688085067

Author: Joseph Telushkin

Edition: 1,

Binding: Hardcover, **Publisher:** William Morrow, **Published:** April 1991, **List Price:** \$35.00



The Atlas of Jewish History (Compl Rev & Updtd)

ISBN-13: 9780688122645

ISBN-10: 0688122647

Author: Martin Gilbert

Edition: Rev Upd Su

Binding: Hardcover, **Publisher:** William Morrow & Company, **Published:** January 1993, **List**

Price: \$23.00