

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Joshua M. Phillippe

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: October 30, 2015

World Religion: Judaism

Teaching Module Title: Judaism and the Temple Mount

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to central themes of Judaism and important keystone moments in Jewish history.
2. Familiarize students with concepts of Galut, anti-Semitism and the Shoah.
3. Further learning on the vast religious and political history of the Temple Mount and the course of empire.

Assigned Readings and Websites:

John Bowker, *World Religions*, "Judaism", emphasis on pages 124-131, 145-147.

Joshua Hammer, *Smithsonian Magazine*, "What is Beneath the Temple Mount?" April 2011

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-is-beneath-the-temple-mount-920764/?no-ist>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What is the building where Jews pray together called?
2. What is the Torah?
3. What are the two major divisions of European Judaism?
4. What is the Galut and why it is important?
5. What is anti-Semitism and how did it lead to the Shoah?
6. *The Ten Commandments* by Lucas Cranach the Elder (pg. 128) is a rich 16th century, northern Renaissance work depicting the laws of Moses. Although this is a Christian painting it speaks to the vast influence of Judaism on the western world. Notice the clear organization of the laws and the experimental use of linear perspective. Be able to discuss details in class.
7. *The White Crucifixion* by Marc Chagall (pg. 146) is a complicated painting dealing with the Shoah by a Russian-Jewish artist. Examine this work and be able to discuss its imagery and controversy.

Be able to supply the answers to these short questions and participate in a conversation on the two paintings for next class. Also, bring a print-out of the essay assignment on the following page.

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

After reading John Bowker's Chapter on Judaism and the Smithsonian article on current excavations in Jerusalem complete the following assignment:

Write an essay that examines the history of "The Temple Mount" in the city of Jerusalem.

Discuss the speculative layout of the original Jewish Temple and the significance of each "precinct" as explored in Bowker's "World Religions" on page 131.

What monuments decorate the Temple Mount today (Smithsonian article)?

What other religious traditions or imperial powers have left their mark on the site?

What challenges have modern archeologists faced throughout the current excavation?



Detail from the *Arch of Titus* depicting looted relics from the Jewish temple's destruction in 70 CE.

Do you remember this image from our discussion on Roman monuments? What did the spoils of this conflict fund?