

RELI 143 Judaism in Our Time

T/TR 9:30-10:45

Instructor: Prof. Yaakov Ariel yariel@email.unc.edu

The course aims at providing a panoramic view of Jewish life, culture, practices and challenges in our time. It will explore the diverse ethnic, geographical, political, literary, artistic and communal forms in which Judaism has found expression in our generation and will offer students an opportunity to study the manner in which social and cultural changes affect religious practices and norms.

In addition to readings of scholarly essays and classroom discussions, we will read novels and watch a number of movies on themes relating to contemporary Judaism. We will also surf the internet, and hear from Jewish writers, leaders and thinkers, as well as laypersons about their experiences in their own voices. We will look at the effect of such cultural developments as the women's movement and the movement of gay liberation on Jewish secular and religious expressions. Taking a global perspective, we will compare the manner in which the Jewish communities in America, Israel, Europe, Asia and Africa have accommodated themselves to the changing cultural norms.

