

# GOD, POLITICS, AND THE JEWISH TRADITION

A SEMINAR OF THE WITHERSPOON INSTITUTE

Directed by  
Professor David Novak, University of Toronto  
and Professor Leora Batnitzky, Princeton University

Sunday, July 27 – Thursday, August 7, 2008  
Princeton University

The Witherspoon Institute announces a two-week summer seminar to be held at Princeton University on "God, Politics, and the Jewish Tradition." Modern Jewish thought has for the most part focused on ethics to the exclusion of the political and theological dimensions of Judaism. At the same time, the study of Judaism in the academy has focused largely on historicizing Judaism to the detriment of appreciating the Jewish tradition's broad humanistic concerns with questions of justice, authority, and human obligations and rights. This seminar aims to remedy both of these more limited but dominant perspectives by engaging the theological and political dimensions of the Jewish tradition, with an eye to their contemporary relevance. In this way, the seminar aims to bring the intellectual and moral riches of Judaism into current political discussions. The seminar will enable young scholars to consider and perhaps continue the legacy of great Jewish thinkers and teachers, both ancient and modern, who have engaged the broader intellectual and political world from a self-consciously Jewish perspective in the struggle for a just, morally decent, and humane social order. Participating scholars include:

LEON KASS  
*University of Chicago*  
ALAN MITTLEMAN  
*Jewish Theological Seminary*

SUZANNE STONE  
*Yeshiva University*  
MICHAEL WALZER  
*Institute for Advanced Study*

DAVID MYERS  
*UCLA*  
LENN GOODMAN  
*Vanderbilt University*

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Applications from graduate and qualified undergraduate students are welcome. There is a \$50 fee for attending the seminar (though there is no cost for applying). Board and lodging will be provided. Application requirements: résumé, filled seminar application form (available through the website given below), a 500-word essay describing your interest in the seminar, and one faculty letter of recommendation, preferably from your advisor. Please e-mail your résumé, application form, and essay to Duncan Sahner at [dsahner@winst.org](mailto:dsahner@winst.org). A hardcopy of your recommendation may be mailed to:

THE WITHERSPOON INSTITUTE  
Attn: God, Politics, and the Jewish Tradition  
16 Stockton Street  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2008**

Please visit [www.winst.org/seminars/judaism2008.html](http://www.winst.org/seminars/judaism2008.html) for more information  
or contact Duncan Sahner at [dsahner@winst.org](mailto:dsahner@winst.org)