

# Jay A. Holstein

---

Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa  
Gilmore Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242

Phone: 319.335.2171; FAX: 319.335.3716  
E-mail: [jay-holstein@uiowa.edu](mailto:jay-holstein@uiowa.edu)

## EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

---

### Education

- 1970 Ph.D., Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati  
1966 ordained as Rabbi—Hebrew Union College, New York  
1966 M.A., Hebrew Union College, New York (with Honors)  
1962 B.H.L., Hebrew Union College, New York  
1960 A.B. Temple University (cum laude with Distinction in Philosophy)

### Positions

- 2007–present J. J. Mallon Teaching Chair of Judaic Studies, University of Iowa  
1982–1998 J. J. Mallon Chair of Judaic Studies, University of Iowa  
1970–present Professor of Judaic Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa  
1978, 79 Visiting Professor, Grinnell College  
1966–70 Teaching Fellow, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati  
1966, 67 Assistant Rabbi, Rockdale Temple, Cincinnati

### Honors (Selected)

- 2014 President and Provost's Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Iowa  
Alpha Omega Alpha Chapter of Iowa Visiting Professor  
2009 Awarded University Medallion at 2009 CLAS Faculty Honors Celebration  
2007 Named the UI's first Teaching Chair (J.J. Mallon Teaching Chair of Judaic Studies)  
2007 Named Teacher of the Year by the UI Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils  
1996 University of Iowa Honors Program Teaching Award  
1989 University of Iowa Collegiate Teaching Award  
\* Who's Who in America  
\* Who's Who in Religion in America

---

## TEACHING

---

### Teaching Areas/Specialized Courses

- Broad Areas:** Hebrew Bible and its interpreters, Herman Melville's use of the Bible, Religion and Literature, the Holocaust and the Hebrew Bible, Higher and lower criticism, the American Jewish Experience

**Course Examples: (Selected)**

**Judeo-Christian Tradition:** GE course, for decades taught in Macbride every fall as a sectioned course with lectures and TA-led discussion sections, enrolling up to 750 students per offering

**Quest for Human Destiny:** GE course, for decades taught in Macbride Auditorium as a sectioned course with a lecture and TA-led discussion sections, enrolling 700+ students per semester; more recently, taught online fall, spring, summer, enrolling between 100-120 students per year

**Quest 2:** Lecture Course taught once a year, enrolling 100 students

**Quest 3:** Lecture course, taught once a year, enrolling 50 students

**Hollywood and the Bible:** lecture course, taught once a year, enrolling 50 students; for many years, also taught as a correspondence course and subsequently online

**The Bible and the Holocaust:** Lecture course enrolling 75 students, for many years has been taught as a correspondence course and more recently is taught online with enrollments limited to 25 students.

**SERVICE**

**Department (Selected)**

- 2016 Five-Year Review for Richard Turner
- 2015 Promotion Review for Kristy Nabhan-Warren
- 2010-2013 Departmental committee chair for Distance Education Review.
- \*\* In the course of my 50-year tenure, more than 60,000 students enrolled in my classes, thereby helping to support a graduate program by providing TA lines.

**University (Selected)**

- April 25, 2014 Visiting Professor for Alpha Omega Alpha Chapter of Iowa Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony, talk entitled, "The Practice of Medicine and Tincture of Time."
- Summer Session 2013 Invited presenter for two class periods of Mitch Kelley's 2013 summer session course, *07P:217 Seminar in College Teaching*: (1) "Why Teaching is a Dangerous Profession" and (2) "Don't Worry About Motivating Your Students; It Is Self-motivation That Counts in the Classroom."
- April 25, 2011 I gave a presentation along with coaches Ferentz and Brands on getting students motivated in the classroom to Mitchell Kelly's College of Education course *07P:217 Seminar in College Teaching*
- Fall 2006 Took the lead in securing a pledge from Marvin Pomerantz to raise \$300,000 to shore up the J.J. Mallon Chair
- 1980s At the behest of the UI Foundation, I spoke throughout the state of Iowa to groups of potential donors which resulted in an endowed chair of Judaic Studies (approximately \$500,000 was raised)

**Community (Selected)**

- May 2016 "Genesis 4 and the Holocaust: 'Am I My Brother's Keeper?'" St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

April 2015	“Jews, Christians, and the Holocaust,” St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN
October 5-7, 2012	"Immortals, Mortals and Life After Death in Biblical Judaism" Eighth Annual Faith Explorations Lecture Series, Waterloo, IA.
September 18, 2011	TV Premier of <i>PROFESSOR</i> on the Documentary Channel.
February 4, 2011	"People...Passion...Precision": Keynote speaker for the Kum & Go District Supervisor Annual Meeting, Des Moines IA.

---

## SCHOLARSHIP

---

### Publications

- “God-talk in Reform Judaism: Historicism, Progress, and the Hebrew Bible." In Steven J. Kaplan et al (Eds.) *Understanding God: Jewish Perspectives*, Saarbrücken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing (2011).
- "Rivkin's structural hypothesis and the Hebrew Bible." In A. Podet (Ed.), *Structural Analysis: The historiographic method of Ellis Rivkin*. Diepenau, Germany: Verlag Arthur Göttert. (2002)
- "Making the Written Word 'Speak': Reflections on the Teaching of Correspondence Courses," *The Journal of Long Distance Education* (Fall/Winter 1992–93)
- "The Inadequacies of a 'Value-Free' Approach," *Counseling and Values* (Spring, 1991)
- "How Not to Read the Bible: Bloom's *The Book of J*," *The Iowa Review* Vol. 21, Number 3 (1991)
- The Jewish Experience*, third edition. Burgess Press (1990)
- "Hyperbole, Ellipsis and Allusion in Esther," *Journal of the American Association of Rabbis* (1990)
- The Jewish Experience*, Burgess Press (1988)
- "Counseling and Value in the David Story," *Counseling and Values* (March, 1986) Editorial Board, *Counseling and Values*
- "The Documentary Hypothesis" an invited paper delivered to the faculty of Hebrew Union College (Cincinnati, March 26, 1986)
- "The Role of the Bible in Public Education," in *Multicultural Non-Sexist Education: A Human Relations Approach* (1985)
- "Melville's Inversion of Jonah in Moby-Dick," *The Iliff Review* (Fall, 1985)
- The Jewish Experience—The Biblical Period*, Burgess Press (1985)
- "Samuel Sandmel's Philosophy of Religious Education: 'To Speak the Truth in Love,'" *Religious Education* (1982)
- "Melville's Stereotypical Treatment of Jews," *The Journal of Reform Judaism* (1981)
- "Melville's Inversion of Job in Moby-Dick," *The Iliff Review* (Winter, 1980)
- "The 'Inside' Role of Biblical Allusions in Melville's *Billy Budd (An Inside Narrative)*," *Rendezvous* 15 (Fall, 1980)
- "The Case of 'is ha'elohim' Reconsidered: Philosophical Analysis versus Historical Reconstruction," *Hebrew Union College Annual XLVIII* (1977)
- With George Forrell, *Judaism and Christianity: Sources of the Western Religious Tradition* (Campus Stores, University of Iowa, 1976)
- "Confronting the 'Old' in the Old Testament," *Religious Education* (Jan.–Feb., 1975)
- "Spinoza's Treatise and the Higher Critics," *C.C.A.R. Journal* (Spring, 1975)
- "Max Weber and Biblical Scholarship," *Hebrew Union College Annual XLVI* (1975)