

**COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 2710A**

MACCABEES TO MUHAMMAD

Fall Instructor: Shawna Dolansky
Office hours: Tu/Th 1:15-2:15pm Paterson 2a60
Lectures: Tues/Thur 4:05-5:25pm, Paterson 303

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Interpretations of the Hebrew Bible in the changing historical, social, religious, and political landscapes of Greco-Roman antiquity spawned a variety of monotheistic traditions. The Fall term of 2710 introduces students to the Judaisms and Christianities that emerged between the 6th century BCE and the 2nd century CE throughout the area that became the Roman Empire. We will trace textual interpretations of key ideas – sacrifice, messiah, leadership/authority, canon, ethnicity, gender, theology, monotheism – among the various communities to see how historical, cultural, geographical, and political circumstances shaped different understandings of the biblical God and his intention for humanity. We will be engaging primary texts from a critical perspective, and within their historical contexts. A main focus will be to understand the texts of antiquity as witnesses to a history of ideas, influenced by specific circumstances, as they developed and shaped the emergent foundational doctrines of Rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity.

Learning Objectives:

- To demonstrate an understanding of how academics think, present, and research information on theological and religious topics from a historical-critical perspective;
- To provide an historical overview of the formation of a variety of Judaisms and Christianities, from their origins in the post-biblical period to the mid-2nd century CE;
- To critically evaluate primary source texts from a variety of historical periods against their social, cultural, religious, and political contexts;
- To perceive threads in the history of ideas that are common among Western religions, and to understand when, why, and how they intersected and diverged from each other in particular places and times.

Evaluation

Fall Essay (30%) – due at the beginning of class December 7 (see details below)

December Exam (20%) – date set by Exam Services, TBA

REQUIRED Textbooks

- 1) *Texts & Traditions: A Source Reader for the Study of Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism*, edited by Lawrence H. Schiffman (Ktav Publishing House, 1998)
- 2) *The Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha* (any edition. You can also read the Bible online at biblegateway.com, but choose NRSV translation). (Bible readings marked with * below.)

Research Essay

Your paper will focus on: 1) a person, or 2) a text/set of texts, or 3) a theme that appears in 2-3 specific texts, that fall within the scope of this course. You will formulate an investigative research question. Your answer to this question will constitute your thesis for the paper, and set out the parameters for the research you will conduct this term. The final paper will be 9-10 pages double-spaced, with no cover page. Your bibliography will contain, in addition to the primary source(s)

upon which your research will focus, at least 5 secondary sources that have helped you to understand the primary text(s).

Research Proposal, due by noon on Thursday, October 19, via CuLearn dropbox = 5/30

Annotated Bibliography, due by noon on Tuesday, November 14, via CuLearn = 5/30

Final Paper, hard copy due at the beginning of class Thursday, December 7 = 20/30

NOTES: 1) FP will not be accepted if either RP or AB have not been handed in; 2) late RP and/or AB will be penalized 2 marks per day; 3) late FP will be penalized 5 marks per day; 4) plagiarism of *any* degree, sort, or kind, will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. If you're having trouble, come see me as an alternative to cheating!

Class Schedule:

Th Sept 7	Introduction to the course
Tu Sept 12	The Foundation of the Hebrew Bible READ: TT pp. 7-11; 29-39; 56-59
Th Sept 14 & Tu Sept 19	Exile and Diaspora: The Persian Period Elephantine, Babylon, Jerusalem, Samaritans Ezra & Nehemiah; new covenant, and midrash READ: TT 65-78; 80-99; 103(bottom)-105; 110-116
Th Sept 21	Library research workshop – with Trish O’Flaherty Library, rm 252 (just to the left of the stairwell on the main level)
Tu Sept 26	Hellenism in the Land of Israel Cultural, social, economic implications; Josephus, Temple, priesthood, Maccabean revolt READ: TT pp. 121-125; 143-146; 151-169
Th Sept 28	Hellenism in the Jewish Diaspora Egypt, Babylon; attitudes to Jews/Judaism; Philo READ: TT 171-175; 184-186; 192-206; 209-211; 218-221; 228-230
Tu Oct 3	The Hasmonean Dynasty Hasmonean Hellenism; Apocrypha/ Book of Judith READ: TT 231-234; 253-266 and *Judith
Th Oct 5	Sectarianism Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots; Apocrypha/ Susanna READ: TT pp. 266 (6.2) -291; 306-310; 321-329; 333-336
Tu Oct 10	Apocalypticism Pseudepigrapha / 1 Enoch; Jubilees; resurrection, life after death READ: *Daniel; TT 301-305; 323 (7.1.9) -326; 333-354

- Th Oct 12** **Qumran & the Dead Sea Scrolls**
READ: TT 292-299; 354-367
- Tu Oct 17** **Roman Judea**
 Josephus; Herod; Tacitus; Jews under Roman rule
READ: TT 369-407
- Th Oct 19** **Roman Religion**
READ: Apuleius, *The Golden Ass* (on e-reserve)
Research Proposal due at noon via CuLearn
- Oct 24 & Oct 26 FALL BREAK**
- Oct 31** **Judaisms**
 Temple destruction; Synagogues; life in 1st century Palestine
READ: TT 429-439; 442-446; 464-474; and
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/portrait/empire.html>
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/portrait/apocalypticism.html>
- Nov 2** **Messiahs**
READ: *Mark; and
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/jesus/complexity.html>
<http://bibleodyssey.org/tools/video-gallery/m/messiah-figures---bond>
<http://bibleodyssey.org/people/related-articles/greco-roman-jesus>
- Nov 7** **Jews for Jesus**
READ: *Matthew; and
<http://bibleodyssey.org/passages/related-articles/was-jesus-illegitimate>
<http://bibleodyssey.org/people/related-articles/jewish-context-of-jesus>
- Nov 9** **Paul & the Parting of the Ways**
READ: *Acts; *Romans 1-3; *Galatians 1-3; and
<http://bibleodyssey.org/people/main-articles/paul>
<http://bibleodyssey.org/people/related-articles/paul-and-authorship>
- Nov 14** **Paul's Mission**
READ: *1 Corinthians; *James; and
<http://bibleodyssey.org/people/related-articles/paul-and-judaism>
<http://bibleodyssey.org/tools/ask-a-scholar/paul-and-the-gentiles>
Annotated Bibliography due at noon via CuLearn
- Nov 16** **Luke**
READ: *Luke; and
<http://bibleodyssey.org/passages/related-articles/was-luke-a-historian>
<http://bibleodyssey.org/passages/main-articles/nativity-luke-2120>

<http://bibleodyssey.org/passages/related-articles/political-significance-of-lukes-christmas-story>

- Nov 21** **Non-Canonical Gospels**
<http://bibleodyssey.org/tools/bible-basics/what-are-noncanonical-writings>
<http://gnosis.org/naghamm/gosthom.html>
<http://www.gnosis.org/library/marygosp.htm>
- Nov 23** **John**
READ: *John; and
<http://bibleodyssey.org/people/main-articles/jesus>
<http://bibleodyssey.org/people/related-articles/jesus-and-politics>
- Nov 28** **Revelation**
READ: *Revelation (a.k.a. The Apocalypse of John)
- Nov 30** **Bar Kokhba & Aftermath**
READ: TT 487-495
- Dec 5** **Movie: *Life of Brian***
- Dec 7** **Discussion/Conclusions**
*papers due at the *beginning* of class*



University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Religious obligation: write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System Chart](#)

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Statement on Class Conduct

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and

preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

Deferred Exams

Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office **no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination;** and
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and in cases of illness by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

NEW FALL 2017: WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Dates can be found here: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

Department Contact Information

College of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

Registrar's Office 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

Student Resources on Campus

[CUKnowHow Website](#)