JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM: FROM MACCABEES TO MUHAMMAD
RELI 2710 A
Winter Term 2012
College of Humanities

INSTRUCTOR: Timothy Pettipiece, PhD (Timothy_Pettipiece@carleton.ca)
WHERE: Tory Building 240
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course aims to introduce students to the early literature and history of the three great monotheistic traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In particular, the course will examine key aspects of the social, literary, cultural, and intellectual development of these three interrelated traditions from approximately the Destruction of the Second Temple to the founding of Baghdad. Special attention will be given to reading a diversity of primary texts (in translation), thereby allowing some of the key figures of these religious traditions to speak in their own voices. Students will be required to engage these primary texts critically, to appreciate the diversity of opinions within and across traditions, and to situate them in a broad socio-historical context. Since this material will be approached from a non-confessional, religious studies perspective, students are invited to set aside their preconceptions in order to gain a more nuanced understanding of the early and classical development of this hugely influential family of religions.

TEXTBOOKS:
   -this concise, comparative treatment of the three traditions is meant to provide an over-arching synthesis and framework in which lecture material can be situated

EVALUATION:
Winter Essay (25%)—Due April 4 (see details below)
Winter Exam (25%)—Multiple choice and short answer (date TBA)

WINTER TERM SYLLABUS
JAN 4  W  THE RISE OF THE RABBIS
Pirke Aboth (Sayings of the Fathers) (www.sacred-texts.com/jud/sjf/index.htm)

JAN 9  M  DYING FOR A CAUSE
Pliny’s Letter to the Emperor Trajan (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/pliny.html)

JAN 11  W  MAKING THE CASE
Athenagoras, A Plea for Christians (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/athenagoras-plea.html)
Celsus, fragments from On True Doctrine (http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/celsus.html)

JAN 16  M  THE RIGHT WAY TO READ
Ptolemaeus, Letter to Flora (www.gnosis.org/library/flora.htm)
JAN 18  W  ATHENS AND JERUSALEM

JAN 23  M  TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

JAN 25  W  BUILDING A NEW WORLD VIEW

JAN 30  M  RELIGION AND EMPIRE
*Edicts of Toleration* (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/edict-milan.html)
Inscription of Kirdir (http://www.avesta.org/mp/kz.html)

FEB 1  W  PROPHET OF LIGHT
Manichaean Psalm 223 (http://www.gnosis.org/library/bc23.htm)

FEB 6  M  CHURCHES OF THE EAST
Story of Abgar (Eusebius); *Ode of Solomon* 19 (http://www.gnosis.org/library/odes.htm)

FEB 8  W  RUN TO THE HILLS
*Life of Paul the First Hermit* (http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3008.htm)

FEB 13  M  “WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”
Letters of Arios and Alexander
*“Arianism”* (http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01707c.htm)

FEB 15  W  CANONS AND CREEDS
Letter of Eusebius on Nicaea (www.newadvent.org/fathers/2804.htm)
Nicaea (http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3801.htm)

FEB 27  M  CITY OF GOD
Selections from *City of God* (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/aug-city2.html)

MAR 29  W  WOMEN OF LATE ANTIQUITY
*Life of Macrina* (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/macrina.html)

MAR 5  M  FILM: Agora (2009)

MAR 7  W  PRE-ISLAMIC ARABIA
Classical Accounts (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/arabia1.html)

MAR 12  M  MERCHANT OF MECCA

MAR 14  W  THE QUR'ĀN
MAR 19 M  FROM UMMAH TO EMPIRE
Selections from outsider reports on the rise of Islam
“Donner, “Early Arab Conquests” (www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/donner.html)

MAR 21 W  REASON AND REVELATION
Ibn Rushd (Averroes), Religion & Philosophy
(www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1190averroes.html)

MAR 26 M  SAINTS AND MYSTICS
Rumi, Selections from the Masnavi (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1250rumi-masnavi.html)
Sayings of al-Hallaj (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/all-hallaj-quotations.html)

MAR 28 W  ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION
Al-Biruni, Monument of Chronology (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1030al-biruni1.html)

APR 2 M  FILM: TBA

APR 4 W  CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS
Term Paper Due*

SELECTED WEB RESOURCES:
Jewish History Sourcebook http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jewishsbook.html
Early Jewish Writings http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/
Ancient History Sourcebook http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook.html
Early Christian Writings http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/
Fathers of the Church http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/
Islamic History Sourcebook http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/islam/islamsbook.html

ESSAY (25%)—10 pages, Winter Essay Due April 4
For your essay, you are invited to investigate in more detail one of the texts, authors, or themes from the course syllabus. Other topics are possible but must be approved by me beforehand. Once you have decided on a topic that peaks your interest, you are expected to find at least five relevant books and/or articles to serve as the basis of your paper from one of the three local university libraries. If you are investigating a particular text, you may choose to examine issues such as its original language, genre, social-setting, author, theological perspective, later reception, etc. If you choose to study a person, you should describe his or her social setting, career, major ideas, writings, historical significance, etc. Thematic papers should address broader issues and incorporate a wider array of sources. These suggestions are meant as a minimum and should not be interpreted as a formula. Remember! Any information taken from your sources and used in your paper must be properly referenced (either in footnotes or in parentheses). Failure to do so will result in an automatic loss of 10%. (NB: while websites can be an important starting point, references to websites will not be accepted as legitimate sources for your paper, with the exception of articles downloaded from JSTOR, or similar databases).
TERM PAPER EVALUATION

GENERAL RUBRIC DEFINITIONS

EXCELLENT ★
- advanced understanding of source material with considerable critical analysis
- very well written, documented, and organized
- surpasses the requirements of the assignment

GOOD ●
- sufficient source material with some critical analysis
- well written, documented and organized
- meets the requirements of the assignment

ADEQUATE ☺
- adequate source material with little critical analysis
- adequately written, documented, and organized
- just meets the requirements of the assignment

INADEQUATE ☹
- inadequate source material with no critical analysis
- inadequately written, documented, and disorganized
- barely meets the requirements of the assignment

UNACCEPTABLE ✻
- insufficient source material with no analysis
- poorly written, documented, and organized
- does not meet the requirements of the assignment

GENERAL CRITERIA DEFINITIONS
Length: (at least) 10 pages (not including title and works cited pages)
Presentation: typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, standard margins, stapled w/ title page
Style: proper grammar, spelling, and syntax
Documentation: number of legitimate sources consulted
Referencing: consistent use of accepted referencing style (MLA, Chicago, SBL)
Organization: information is structured and presented in clear and readable manner
Comprehension: source material has been understood
Critical Analysis: reflection upon and critique of source material

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REGULATIONS COMMON TO 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.

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

GRADING SYSTEM
Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>85-89 (11)</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79 (9)</td>
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<td>73-76 (8)</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72 (7)</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69 (6)</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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F: Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS: Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF: Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND: Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me 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. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov.11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER
If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a FINAL assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within 5 working days of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)
College of the Humanities 520-2809 300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100 2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500 300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 3rd Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library