



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

INSTRUCTOR: Timothy Pettipiece, PhD (Timothy_Pettipiece@carleton.ca)

WINTER TERM: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:35-12:55 (Jan 04, 2012 - Apr 04, 2012)

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:

F. E. Peters, *Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam. A New Edition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004) ISBN-10: 0-691-12769-7 (required)

-this concise, comparative treatment of the three traditions is meant to provide an overarching 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

Clement, *Stromata*, Book 1 ch. 5 (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/clement-stromata-book1.html)

Tertullian, *Prescription of the Heretics* (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/terullian11.html)

JAN 23 M TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Eusebius, *Life of Origen (History of the Church, Book 6)*
(<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/250106.htm>)

JAN 25 W BUILDING A NEW WORLD VIEW

Origen, *On First Principles*, Book 1, Introduction (www.newadvent.org/fathers/04120.htm)

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>)

*Lieu, "Manichaean and Nestorian Christian Remains"
(<http://www.anchist.mq.edu.au/doccentre/Zayton.htm>)

FEB 8 W RUN TO THE HILLS

Life of Paul the First Hermit (<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3008.htm>)

*Conrad, "Egyptian and Syrian Asceticism in Late Antiquity"
(<http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~epf/1995/ascetic.html>)

FEB 13 M "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

Letters of Arius 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>)

*Shahid, "Byzantium and the Arabs" (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/shahid.html>)

MAR 12 M MERCHANT OF MECCA

Ibn Ishaq, *Life of Muhammad* (<http://facweb.furman.edu/~ateipen/almusharaka/IbnIshaq-Excerpt2.htm>)

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)

Ibn Sina (Avicenna), *On Medicine* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1020Avicenna-Medicine.html)

*Nasr, "Science and Civilization in Islam" (www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/nasr.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/jewishsbok.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

Criteria	%	Unacceptable	Inadequate	Adequate	Good	Excellent
Length	5	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation	5	1	2	3	4	5
Style	10	2	4	6	8	10
Documentation	10	2	4	6	8	10
Referencing	10	2	4	6	8	10
Organization	10	2	4	6	8	10
Comprehension	25	5	10	15	20	25
Critical Analysis	25	5	10	15	20	25
COMMENTS:					Total:	

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:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

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.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 5, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2012**.

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 Instructor receives 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	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library