

Carleton University

Fall-Winter, 2019-20

College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 2710
Winter syllabus

Maccabees to Muhammad

Winter Instructor: Dr. Andrea D. Lobel

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Class times: Tues/Thurs, 2:35-3:55 pm

Class location: Southam Hall, Room 404

Office hours: Thursday, 3:55-4:55, 310A Paterson Hall

COURSE CONTENT

In this course, students will be introduced to the history and literature of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Among the themes we will examine will be identity formation and maintenance, ethnicity, law, apocalypticism and apocalyptic literature, canon, authority, sectarianism, heresy, the nature of the Divine, philosophical approaches to God and faith, the roles of women, exile and the concepts of diaspora and homeland, and the interplay between the three monotheistic traditions. Each of these central ideas will be situated in their ancient sociopolitical and religious contexts.

In the first half of this course, we will survey the trajectory from the biblical period through the formation of early “Judaisms,” the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem, the negotiation of Jewish identity in Greco-Roman culture/s, and the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans. We will then turn to the formation of early Christianity and its texts, including the synoptic Gospels, Gnostic Christianity, and Christian apocalypticism.

The second half of the course after the December break will span approximately 900 years of history, from the 2nd century CE to the Crusades in the medieval period. Together, we will survey the history of rabbinic Judaism as it emerged after the Roman destruction of the Second Temple, as well as the growth of the early Church, and the emergence of Islam.

Close readings of the primary texts of these western religious traditions will be key components of this course, from the Book of Daniel in the Hebrew Bible and those of the early church fathers and rabbis of Late Antiquity, to the Qur’an.

During both semesters, we will focus on several central, unifying themes. These are:

1. Othering, including heresy, and the discourse on monotheism vs. polytheism and “idolatry”
2. Supersessionism
3. Communal identity formation and maintenance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should:

- Know the historical origins, as well as the central tenets of faith and ritual of rabbinic Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Be able to engage with and properly situate the primary texts in their geographical, social, and historical contexts.
- Be able to think, reflect, and write critically about the themes examined in the assigned texts and discussed in class.
- Demonstrate sound research skills and proper citation styles.

REQUIRED TEXTS*

Readings and resources online, on ARES, via full-text on the MacOdrum Library website, and occasionally, on CULearn

EVALUATION (Both semesters)

Fall term paper or creative/reflective assignment (Due Thurs, December 5th via CULearn ONLY. – 20%

December exam – date set by Exam Services, TBA – 25%

Winter experiential paper* (Due on the last day of class in April via CULearn only) – 20%
(*Guidelines will be provided)

April exam – date set by Exam Services, TBA – 25%

Class attendance and participation in activities and discussion – 10%

COURSE PARTICIPATION – HERESY POINTS™

Students will be evaluated on the quality of their participation, and students who make in-class contributions to discussion will be eligible to receive HERESY POINTS™ of various denominations. The top three students will be treated, as a group, to an informal coffee break with me, and a copy of the revised version of the Game of Heresy™, which students will play in class during the academic year.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

- All work is due on the stated due dates.
- Extensions will only be granted in serious circumstances
- The late penalty is 2% of the assignment mark per day of lateness

A NOTE ON ATTENDANCE, CLASS PARTICIPATION, AND READINGS

To be successful in this course, attending class and keeping up with assigned readings are critical. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Please be sure to complete the assigned readings prior to lectures to which they correspond.

However. . . there are sometimes very good reasons to miss class. For example:

- Your health. If you have a contagious disease such as the flu, please don't come to class. This safeguards the well-being of other students.
- Family emergencies
- Special events such as Tuesdings, graduations, that it would be reasonable for you not to miss
- School-sponsored events such as scheduled trips.

That said, each student in this course is permitted three absences without penalty during the 2019-20 academic year.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU NEED TO MISS CLASS?

- Send me an e-mail as soon as you can.
- Download the class lecture on CULearn.
- Copy one of your classmate's notes
- Come see me during office hours or before class. I'll always do what I can to help you catch up.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND THE PAUL MENTON CENTRE

Should you require accommodations for a disability or other health condition. (For example, a note-taker, accommodated examinations), and have not already made arrangements with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, please be sure to contact them as soon as possible at 613-520-6608 or via email at pmc@carleton.ca. (Visit their web site at: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>) I will work with them to ensure that you receive the accommodations you require throughout the academic year.

A NOTE ON STUDENT WELL-BEING

As my student, your well-being is important to me. University can be stressful, and part of the job of being your professor is responding to you as a whole person, not just as a student working to earn marks in the classroom. Here are some recommendations to help you make the academic year a smoother one:

Take care of yourself. Do what you can to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well and exercising, avoiding illegal drugs, avoiding or minimizing alcohol, getting enough sleep, and taking some time to relax. Meditation and yoga may also be useful. This will help you better achieve your academic goals, and to cope with stress.

None of us is immune to life's challenges. If you find yourself in this position, you are far from alone! There are many useful resources available on campus and an important part of the university experience is learning how to ask for help. If you or anyone you know experiences academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support sooner rather than later. Please consider visiting <https://carleton.ca/wellness/> to access useful resources both here at Carleton University and off-campus. As well, please consider reaching out to a Thursend, faculty or family member you trust for additional support.

POLICY ON TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Students are encouraged to use technology such as tablets and laptops in the classroom for educational purposes only (e.g., note-taking, accessing readings). Accessing social media, playing games, or similar activities are not acceptable.

CLASS DATES AND ASSIGNED READINGS

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| Tues, January 7 | The Parting of the Ways between Judaism and Christianity
Read: Paula Fredriksen, What "Parting of the Ways"? Jews, Gentiles, and the Ancient Mediterranean City. |
| Thurs, Jan 9 | Christianity: Conversion Narratives, Virtues, and Baptism
Read: Didache |
| Tues, Jan 14 | Christianity: The Early Church; Rituals and Cycles; Church Fathers
Read: Bart D. Ehrman and Andrew S. Jacobs, <i>Christianity in Late Antiquity 300-450 C.E.: A Reader</i> , Introduction; 4. Christianity and Roman Law |
| Thurs, Jan 16 | Christianity: Of Constantine, Eusebius, and Heresies
Read: Bart D. Ehrman and Andrew S. Jacobs, <i>Christianity in Late Antiquity 300-450 C.E.: A Reader</i> , 7. Heresy and Orthodoxy |
| Tues, Jan 21 | Christianity: The Medieval Period
Read: John Arnold, <i>The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity</i> , Introduction |

- Thurs, Jan 23** **Christianity: The Great Schism; The Crusades**
Read: Sara Lipton, “Christianity and Its Others: Jews, Muslims and Pagans,” In John Arnold, *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity*
- Tues, Jan 28** **Rabbinic Judaism 1: Overview – Transition from Second-Temple Judaism**
Read: Bruce Chilton and Jacob Neusner: Types of Authority. pp. 73-99.
- Thurs, Jan 30** **Rabbinic Judaism – Rabbinic Texts and Hermeneutics: Tannaim**
Read: Naftali S. Cohn, *The Memory of the Temple and the Making of the Rabbis*, Chapter 1, Rabbis as Jurists of Judaeen Ritual Law and Competing Claims for Authority
- Tues, Feb 4** **Rabbinic Judaism – Rabbinic Texts and Hermeneutics: Amoraim**
Read: Kiddushin, The Babylonian Talmud, pp. 1-7.
In-class experiential exercise
- Thurs, Feb 6** **Rabbinic Judaism – Rituals and Cycles**
No readings
- Tues, Feb 11** **Other Judaisms: Early Jewish Mysticism**
Read: Pirkei Heikhalot. **Recommended:** Kimberly Stratton, “The Mithras Liturgy and Sepher Ha-Razim”
- Thurs, Feb 13** **Early Medieval Judaism: The Geonim; Karaite Judaism; Life in Host Cultures**
Read: Robert Brody, *The Geonim of Babylonia and the Shaping of Medieval Jewish Culture*, Ch. 6, The Struggle Against Heresy
Short in-class video (Karaite Judaism in Israel)
- February 17-21:** **Winter Break, no classes**
- Tues, Feb 25** **Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Medieval Period**
Read: Jacob Lassner, Jews, Christians, and the abode of Islam: modern scholarship, medieval realities, Preface, & 11. Christians, Muslims, and Jews: Cross-pollinations in Medieval Philosophy and Science. (Accessible for online reading on the MacOdrum Library website.)
- Thurs, Feb 27** **Islam: Introduction and Overview**
Read: Garth Fowden: Islam, in *Empire to Commonwealth; Consequences of Monotheism in Late Antiquity*
- Tues, March 3** **Islam: The Life of Muhammad; the Birth of Islam**
Read: Al-Tabari, The Beginning of the Prophetic Mission

- Thurs, March 5** **Islam: Rituals and Cycles**
No readings
- Tues, March 10** **Islam: The Caliphate Crumbles; Shi'a and Sunni Islam; The Crusades: The Muslim perspective**
Read: Al-Tabari, *The history of al-Tabari*, Volume XVII: The first civil war. The events of the year 40
- Thurs, March 12** **Islamic Texts and Hermeneutics: Qur'an, Hadith, Tafsir Law (shari'ah); halal vs. haram; jurisprudence (fiqh); Theology and philosophy**
- Tues, March 17** **Mysticism – Sufism; Women in Classical Islam; Documentary film: *Children Of Abraham***
Read: Rumi: *The Mathnawi of Jalalu'ddin*, Vol II, pp. 3-16; 164-171.
- Thurs, March 19** **Muslim Ritual Spaces: Mosques of the world.**
- Tues, March 24** **In-class experiential exercise**
- Thurs, March 26** **Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Synthetic Exercise; Exam review session**
- Tues, March 31** **Final paper – peer review session**
- Thurs, April 2** **Wrap-up and questions**
- Tues, April 7** **Final paper due today; TBA**



University Regulations for All College of the 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 [here](#).

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).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

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](#)

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 Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made. [More information.](#)

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online 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](#).

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

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#).

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. [More information](#)

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 and SAST 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](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)