

**College of the Humanities  
Religion Program: RELI 2710  
Winter syllabus**

**Maccabees to Muhammad**

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrea D. Lobel  
**Class times:** Asynchronous

**Email:** [Andrea.Lobel@carleton.ca](mailto:Andrea.Lobel@carleton.ca)  
**Class location (Winter):** Online

**Zoom/phone Office hours:** Upon request via email

**Required equipment:** This course requires high-speed internet access and a computer.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

In this course, students will be introduced to the history and literature of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Among the topics we will examine will be 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, late antique, and medieval 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 apocalyptic literature.

The second half of the course after the December break will span approximately 900 years of history, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Readings from 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 also view the course topics and texts through the lens of several unifying themes. These include:

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:

- Think, reflect, and write critically, at a second-year university level, about the topics and themes examined in the lectures and assigned materials
- 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.
- When reading, be able to distinguish a paper's argument from its subject matter
- Construct an argument and support it with evidence
- Work well with primary and secondary sources, and be able to recognize and properly cite acceptable academic sources for the study of religion
- Demonstrate second-year undergraduate-level research skills and proper citation styles
- Recognize, understand and be able to discuss the theoretical and thematic frameworks and terminology taught in the course

## PRECLUSIONS

Precludes additional credit for RELI 2208

## REQUIRED TEXTS (WINTER SEMESTER)\*

Readings and resources online, on ARES and occasionally on Brightspace

\*Except biblical or apocryphal texts, which are found in *The Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha* (purchased for HUMS 1000), marked with an \* under **Class Dates And Assigned Readings**.

## EVALUATION (Both semesters)

- Reflective paper\* (Due **October 4, 5:00 pm via Brightspace**) – 10%
- Fall presentation\* (Due **December 10, 5:00 pm via Brightspace** – 10%)
- December exam – date set by Exam Services, **TBA** – 30%
- Winter synthetic term paper or creative assignment\* (Due on the last day of class in April via Brightspace only) – 25%
- April exam – date set by Exam Services, **TBA** – 25%

\*Guidelines will be provided.

*Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.*

## **ON KEEPING UP WITH READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

This is an asynchronous course. The lectures will be recorded and uploaded to Brightspace for viewing/listening on your own time.

To be successful in this course, viewing the posted lectures (narrated, and slides for exam study) on Brightspace, and keeping up with the assigned readings, viewing, and listening are critical.

## **POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

- All work is due on the stated due dates.
- Extensions will be granted in serious circumstances (e.g., illness, family illness or emergency)
- The late penalty is 2% of the assignment mark per day of lateness.

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FIND YOURSELF MISSING DEADLINES OR FALLING BEHIND**

To be successful in this course, attending class and keeping up with assigned readings are critical. Please be sure to complete the assigned readings prior to or immediately after the lectures to which they correspond.

Send me an email as soon as you can, and we can arrange an office hour/time to talk via Zoom or phone. 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, 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](mailto: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. And of course, the current coronavirus pandemic has been stressful and isolating for many, adding to these difficulties to varying degrees.

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.

Remember to wear masks and practice social distancing, and follow advice found on Carleton University's COVID-19 page, at <https://students.carleton.ca/coronavirus>.

None of us is immune to life's challenges. If you find yourself feeling stressed, 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. Visit <https://carleton.ca/wellness/> to access useful resources both here at Carleton University and off-campus. As well, please consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for additional support.

### ***Optional online social gatherings***

Online Zoom gatherings will be held at least twice during the winter semester. A Zoom link will be posted for students prior to these gatherings, on Brightspace. These are completely optional, and will not count toward marks. No course content will be covered during these gatherings, however questions about the class are welcome. Nevertheless, this is a good way to connect and get to know your instructor and classmates. If you are able to attend, please do, and feel free to bring snacks.

## **CLASS DATES AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

### **Week of Jan 10**

#### **The Parting of the Ways between Judaism and Christianity**

**Read:** Paula Fredriksen, What "Parting of the Ways"? Jews, Gentiles, and the Ancient Mediterranean City.

#### **Christianity: Conversion Narratives, Virtues, and Baptism**

**Read:** Didache

**Week of Jan 17**

**Christianity: The Early Church; Rituals and Cycles; Church Fathers**  
**Read:** Bart D. Ehrman and Andrew S. Jacobs, *Christianity in Late Antiquity 300-450 C.E.: A Reader*, Introduction; 4. Christianity and Roman Law

**Christianity: Of Constantine, Eusebius, and Heresies**

**Read:** Bart D. Ehrman and Andrew S. Jacobs, *Christianity in Late Antiquity 300-450 C.E.: A Reader*, 7. Heresy and Orthodoxy

**Week of Jan 24****Christianity: The Medieval Period**

**Read:** John Arnold, *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity*, Introduction

**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*

**Week of Jan 31****Rabbinic Judaism 1: Overview – Transition from Second-Temple Judaism**

**Read:** Bruce Chilton and Jacob Neusner: Types of Authority. pp. 73-99.

**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 Judaean Ritual Law and Competing Claims for Authority

**Week of Feb 7****Rabbinic Judaism – Rabbinic Texts and Hermeneutics: Amoraim**

**Read:** Kiddushin, The Babylonian Talmud, pp. 1-7.

**Rabbinic Judaism – Rituals and Cycles**

No readings

**Week of Feb 14****Other Judaisms: Early Jewish Mysticism**

**Read:** Pirkei Heikhalot. **Recommended:** Kimberly Stratton, “The Mithras Liturgy and Sepher Ha-Razim”

**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 video – YouTube – Karaite Judaism in Israel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6vDwQWRh7E>

**Week of Feb 21****Statutory holiday; Winter Break, no classes**

**Week of Feb 28****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.)

**Islam: Introduction and Overview**

**Read:** Garth Fowden: Islam, in *Empire to Commonwealth; Consequences of Monotheism in Late Antiquity*

**Week of March 7****Islam: The Life of Muhammad; the Birth of Islam**

**Read:** Al-Tabari, The Beginning of the Prophetic Mission

**Islam: Rituals and Cycles**

No readings

**Week of March 14****Islam: The Caliphate Crumbles; Shi'a and Sunni Islam**

**Read:** Al-Tabari, The history of al-Tabari, Volume XVII: The first civil war. The events of the year 40

**The Crusades: The Muslim perspective****Week of March 21****Islamic Texts and Hermeneutics: Qur'an, Hadith, Tafsir**

**Law (shari'ah); halal vs. haram; jurisprudence (fiqh); Theology and philosophy**

**Mysticism – Sufism; Women in Classical Islam**

Read: Rumi: *The Mathnawi of Jalalu'ddin*, Vol II, pp. 3-16; 164-171.

**Week of March 28****Documentary film: *Children Of Abraham, parts 1-3***

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrWs5wQOlZM>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecZ8m7LNXas>

Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk2tqpL0Xsw>

**Muslim Ritual Spaces: Mosques of the world.****Week of April 4****Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Synthesis; Exam review session****Tues, April 12****Wrap-up lecture, and responses to emailed questions**

Final paper due today



## University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

### Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

### Online Learning Resources

While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. [On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

### 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 Policy (updated June 2021)

**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, material on the internet and/or conversations.

**Examples of plagiarism** include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms,

formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;

- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Academic Integrity Process](#)

## **Academic Accommodation Policy**

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

### **Addressing Human Rights Concerns**

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#).

### **Requests for Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your [academic obligations](#) during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

#### **Religious Accommodation**

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. For more details, please review the [Student Guide to Academic Accommodation](#).

#### **Pregnancy Accommodation**

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. . For more details, please review the [Student Guide to Academic Accommodation](#).

### **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 where 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 the [Equity and Inclusive Communities website](#).

### **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. For more details, see the [Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities](#)).

## **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre website](#).

## **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 can be found [here](#). 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.

## **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).  
[More information](#)

## Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

## 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.

1. 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) 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. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic accommodation or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should consult with the department/school/institute chair/director. If a mutually agreeable accommodation to complete course requirements prior to the course grade submission deadline cannot be achieved, the Associate Dean will become involved. If academic accommodation is not granted, and the student receives word **after** the academic withdrawal deadline, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) for a final grade of WDN (Withdrawn) in the course(s). If academic

accommodation is not granted, and the student receives word **prior** to the academic withdrawal deadline, the student may elect to withdraw from the course(s).

4. Furthermore, if academic accommodation is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. [More information of deferred Term Work](#)

## 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.

The application for a deferral must:

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 [here](#).

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals](#)  
[Registrar's Office "Defer an Exam" page](#)

## 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. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published [deadlines](#) (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the “Calculate amount to pay” button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

## **Department Contact Information**

*Bachelor of the Humanities* 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Greek and Roman Studies* 300 Paterson Hall  
[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Religion* 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

*Digital Humanities (Graduate)* 2A39 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

*Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor)* 300 Paterson Hall  
[digitalhumanities@carleton.ca](mailto:digitalhumanities@carleton.ca)

*MEMS (Undergraduate Minor)* 300 Paterson Hall  
[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)