Carleton University        College of the Humanities:    Religion Program      Fall 2011

Maccabees to Mohammed: RELI 2710A

Monday + Wednesday 11:30-1pm; 240 Tory

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Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the early history and literature of the three Western monotheistic traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Key notions encountered will include: Apocalypticism, the origins of Messianism, belief in life after death, ideas about authority (textual vs. charismatic/visionary), the negotiation of identity and community boundaries, the place and role of law, the status of women, and evolving conceptions of God and his relationship to human communities. These ideas, which shaped Western culture to a large degree and continue to do so, have a specific history; it is therefore important to understand their origin and development within the context of ancient politics, culture, and religion. Students will be expected to engage primary texts critically and to consider the origins and development of central tenets of these three faiths while encountering them as integral cultural systems on their own terms. This course seeks to inculcate critical thinking skills, an informed understanding of these three religious traditions, and greater cultural literacy in the Western tradition.

Evaluation

Fall Essay (25%) – due December 5
December Exam (25%) – date set by Exam Services, December 8-21

Course Text Books

Available at Octopus Books (in the Glebe), 116 Third Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 2K1
(613) 233-2589

FALL:

* The Golden Ass, Apuleius
* The Elements of Style, Strunk and White
* Course Pack (for all additional readings*)

* Except biblical or apocryphal texts, which are found in the Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha (purchased for Hums 1000) and are marked with an *.
Schedule for Fall Semester

Sept 12   Introduction

Sept 14   Review of biblical period (Hums 1000)

Sept 19   Return from Exile – rebuilding Temple
          Read: Ezra,* Schwartz 19-22

Sept 21   Greek Period
          Read: 1 Maccabees,* Schwartz 22-48

Sept 26   Martyrdom, Apocalypticism, and Life after Death
          Read: Book of Daniel,* 1 Enoch: 83-90; 96-97

Sept 28   Qumran
          Read: Schiffman 275-299

Oct 3     Sectarianism
          Read: Cohen 160-173, Schiffman 266-272, Philo “On the Contemplative Life”

Oct 5     Diaspora
          Read: Fine Chs. 9 & 11

Oct 10    Thanksgiving: NO CLASS

Oct 12    Jewish Philosophy – Philo (LEARNING CELL)
          Read: “On the Unchangeableness of God”

Oct. 17   Roman Religion
          Read: Apuleius, The Golden Ass

Oct 19    Paul the Apostle
          Read: Galatians,* 1 Corinthians*

Oct 24    Pauline Theology
          Read: Romans*

Oct 26    First Gospel
          Read: Gospel of Mark*

Oct 31    War with Rome
          Read: Josephus ch. 17 & 21, Schiffman 462-464

Nov 2     Rabbinic Response
          Read: Schiffman 471-472, 491-495; Mishnah Avot
Nov 7 Early Sayings of Jesus
  Read: Q (WebCT), Gospel of Thomas

Nov 9 Gospel to the Jews
  Read: Gospel of Matthew*

Nov 14 Gospel to the Gentiles
  Read: Gospel of Luke*

Nov 16 Dualism and “Gnosticism”
  Read: Gospel of John* and Apocryphon of John

Nov 21 Movie: Life of Brian
  NO READING

Nov 23 Apocalyptic Rhetoric and Visions of the End
  Read: Apocalypse of John* (aka Book of Revelation)

Nov 28 Paper Writing 101
  Read: Elements of Style

Nov 30 Paper Workshop (Please bring your paper to class; you must have a complete 1st draft for someone to read and correct.)

Dec 5 Papers Due / Exam Review
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)
- A  = 85-89 (11)
- A- = 80-84 (10)
- B+ = 77-79 (9)
- B  = 73-76 (8)
- B- = 70-72 (7)
- C+ = 67-69 (6)
- C  = 63-66 (5)
- C- = 60-62 (4)
- D+ = 57-59 (3)
- D  = 53-56 (2)
- D- = 50-52 (1)
- F Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points

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 Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept. Deferrals of 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 4th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 4th Floor Library