

College of the Humanities  
Religion Program: RELI 2710A

## **Maccabees to Mohammed**

Monday + Wednesday 4:05-5:25pm; 303 Paterson Hall

**Kimberly Stratton** -- PA 2a47  
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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. Students will be expected to engage primary texts critically, consider the origins and development of central tenets of these three faiths, while encountering them as integral cultural systems on their own terms.

### **Evaluation**

Fall Essay (25%) – 10 pages, due December 1  
December Exam (20%) – date set by Exam Services, December 9-22  
Winter Essay (25%) – 10 pages, due March 30  
Final Exam (30%) – date set by Exam Services, April 7-21

### **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\*)

#### **WINTER:**

*Enchiridion on Faith, Hope, and Love*, St. Augustine  
*Islamic Theology and Law*, Ignaz Goldziher  
*The Qur'an*, trans. by Abdel Haleem (optional, but cool to have; will be available in the bookstore for the Winter semester)  
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 13 Introduction
- Sept 15 Return from Exile – rebuilding Temple  
**Read:** Ezra\*, Schwartz 19-22
- Sept 20 Greek Period  
**Read:** 1 Maccabees\*, Schwartz 22-48
- Sept 22 Martyrdom, Apocalypticism, and Life after Death  
**Read:** Book of Daniel\*, 1 Enoch: 83-90; 96-97
- Sept 27 Qumran  
**Read:** Schiffman 275-299
- Sept 29 Sectarianism  
**Read:** Cohen 160-173, Schiffman 266-272, Philo “On the Contemplative Life”
- Oct 4 Diaspora  
**Read:** Fine Chs. 9 & 11
- Oct 6 Jewish Philosophy – Philo (LEARNING CELL)  
**Read:** “On the Unchangeableness of God”
- Oct 11 Thanksgiving: NO CLASS
- Oct. 13 Roman Religion  
**Read:** Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*
- Oct 18 Text Criticism (Zeba Crook)  
NO READING
- Oct 20 Paul the Apostle  
**Read:** Galatians\*, 1 Corinthians\*
- Oct 25 Pauline Theology  
**Read:** Romans\*
- Oct 27 First Gospel  
**Read:** Gospel of Mark\*
- Nov 1 War with Rome  
**Read:** Josephus ch. 17 & 21, Schiffman 462-464
- Nov 3 Movie: *Life of Brian*  
NO READING

- Nov 8            Rabbinic Response  
**Read:** Schiffman 471-472, 491-495; Mishnah *Avot*
- Nov 10          Early Sayings of Jesus  
**Read:** Q, Gospel of Thomas
- Nov 15          Gospel to the Jews  
**Read:** Gospel of Matthew\*
- Nov 17          Gospel to the Gentiles  
**Read:** Gospel of Luke\*
- Nov 22          Dualism and “Gnosticism”  
**Read:** Gospel of John\* and Apocryphon of John
- Nov 24          Apocalyptic Rhetoric and Visions of the End  
**Read:** Apocalypse of John\* (aka Revelation)
- Nov 29          Paper Writing 101  
**Read:** *Elements of Style*
- Dec 1            Paper Workshop/ Papers Due
- Dec 6            Exam Review

### **Schedule for Winter Semester**

- Jan 3            Welcome back: Review/Preview
- Jan 5            Writing History  
**Read:** Acts of the Apostles\*
- Jan 10          Institutionalizing the Churches  
**Read:** 1 Timothy\*, Didache
- Jan 12          Women in the Early Church  
**Read:** “Acts of Paul and Thecla”
- Jan 17          Witnessing the Faith  
**Read:** The Martyrdom of Sts. Perpetua and Felicitas
- Jan 19          Rabbinic Judaism I: Mishnah  
**Read:** Mishnah *Niddah*; Chilton/Neusner Ch. 3
- Jan 24          Rabbinic Judaism II: Talmud  
**Read:** Kidushin (LEARNING CELL)

- Jan 26            Role of rabbi, Synagogue, Law, and *am ha aretz*  
**Read:** Schwartz 103-128; Fine, Ch. 5
- Jan 31            Other Judaisms—magic, mysticism, 2 powers  
**Read:** Sefer haRazim; Pirkei Heikhalot
- Feb 2             Constantine  
**Read:** Eusebius, “Life of Constantine”
- Feb 7             Defining the Creed  
**Read:** Arius, “Thalia”; “Creeds and Canons of Nicea”, “Canons of Chalcedon”
- Feb 9             Asceticism and Monasticism  
**Read:** Lee, A.D. “Ascetics”; Sayings of the Desert Fathers
- Feb 14            Other Christianities: Constructing “Heresy”  
**Read:** Jerome, “Letter to Ctesiphon (Against Pelagius)”; John Chrysostom  
“Against the Judaizers”
- Feb 16            Augustine  
**Read:** *Enchiridion on Faith, Hope, and Love* (skim entire)
- Feb 21            Reading Week: NO CLASS
- Feb 23            Reading Week: NO CLASS
- Feb 28            Movie: *Introduction to Islam*  
NO READING
- Mar 2             Muhammad  
**Read:** “Muhammad at Mecca,” pp. 60-03, in *The History of Al-Tabari*, vol. VI.;  
Surah 33 + 97 (first rev), Surah 96
- Mar 7             Founding a Community  
**Read:** “The Foundation of Community,” pp. 1-67, in *The History of Al-Tabari*,  
vol. VII; G. Fowden, ch. 6.
- Mar 9             Shi’a Split  
**Read:** Rippin and Knappert, ch. 7.; “The First Civil War,” pp. 206-32, in *The  
History of Al-Tabari*, vol. XVII.
- Mar 14            Qur’anic Themes (LEARNING CELL)  
**Read:** Sura 2 (3, 4, 5, and 17 recommended)
- Mar 16            Islamic Law  
**Read:** Goldhizer Chapter 2; Rippen and Knappert, ch. 5.

Mar 21 Islamic theology & philosophy--preserver of Greek thought  
**Read:** Goldziher, Ch. 3, Rippin/Knappert, Ch 6

Mar 23 Mysticism  
**Read:** Goldziher, Ch. 4; selections from Jalal Al-Din Rumi

Mar 28 Questions about Islam by Iman Ibrahim  
NO READING

Mar 30 Paper Workshop/Papers Due

April 4 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)	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. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

### 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/](http://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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: [carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/](http://carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/)

### 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 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library