

Carleton University

Winter, 2019

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

Maccabees to Muhammad

Winter Instructor: Dr. Andrea D. Lobel

E-mail: Andrea.Lobel@carleton.ca

Class times: Wed/Fri 1:05-2:25 pm

Class location: 303 Paterson Hall

Office hours: Fridays, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, 310A Paterson Hall

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.

The second half of the course will span approximately 900 years of history, from the 2nd century CE to the Crusades in the 11th century CE. 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. Occasional in-class experiential exercises will also comprise part of this course.

Throughout, a focus will be maintained on several key, unifying themes. These are:

1. Othering, including heresy, and the discourse on monotheism vs. polytheism and "idolatry,"
2. Supersessionism, and 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, Winter, 2019

- 1) All readings will be made available on ARES and/or CULearn

EVALUATION – Winter, 2019

1. Winter term paper or creative/reflective assignment; this may be text, video, or audio* [Text assignments due via both CULearn and hard copy in class (video/audio assignment submission to be discussed), **Friday, April 5**] – 25% (*Guidelines to be provided)
2. Winter exam – date set by Exam Services, TBA – 20%
3. Class participation (Fall and Winter) – 10%

A NOTE ON ATTENDANCE

To be successful in this course, attending class and keeping up with assigned readings are critical. Lecture slides will be uploaded, but should not be solely relied upon. If absent, please arrange to obtain notes from a classmate, or speak with the professor.

CLASS DATES

Wed, January 9	The Parting of the Ways between Judaism and Christianity Read: Paula Fredriksen, What "Parting of the Ways"? Jews, Gentiles, and the Ancient Mediterranean City. Recommended: Edward Kessler, An Introduction to Jewish-Christian Relations, Ch. 3, Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and Ch. 6, Medieval relations
Fri, Jan 11	Christianity: Conversion Narratives, Virtues, and Baptism Read: Didache; Recommended: Acts of Paul and Thecla
Wed, Jan 16	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> , selections TBA
Fri, Jan 18	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> , selections TBA
Wed, Jan 23	Christianity: The Medieval Period Read: John Arnold, <i>The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Christianity</i> , selections TBA

- Fri, Jan 25** **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*,
- Wed, Jan 30** **Rabbinic Judaism 1: Overview – Transition from Second-Temple Judaism**
Read: Bruce Chilton and Jacob Neusner: Types of Authority. pp. 73-99.
- Fri, Feb 1** **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
- Wed, Feb 6** **Rabbinic Judaism – Rabbinic Texts and Hermeneutics: Amoraim**
Read: Kiddushin, The Babylonian Talmud, pp. 1-7.
In-class experiential exercise
- Fri, Feb 8** **Rabbinic Judaism – Rituals and Cycles**
No readings
- Wed, Feb 13** **Other Judaisms: Early Jewish Mysticism**
Read: Pirkei Heikhalot. **Recommended:** Kimberly Stratton, “The Mithras Liturgy and Sepher Ha-Razim”
- Fri, Feb 15** **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 18-22:** **Winter Break, no classes**
- Wed, Feb 27** **Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Medieval Period**
Read: Chris Lowney, *A Vanished World: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain*, selections
- Fri, March 1** **Islam: Introduction and Overview**
Read: Garth Fowden: Islam, in *Empire to Commonwealth; Consequences of Monotheism in Late Antiquity*
- Wed, March 6** **Islam: The Life of Muhammad; the Birth of Islam**
Read: Al-Tabari, The Beginning of the Prophetic Mission
- Fri, March 8** **Islam: Rituals and Cycles**
No readings

Wed, March 13	Islam: Texts and Hermeneutics: Qur'an, Hadith, Tafsir Read: Al-Tabari, TBA
Fri, March 15	Islam Read: Al-Tabari, TBA
Wed, March 20	Islam: Guest lecturer
Fri, March 22	Term paper or creative assignment peer review session
Wed, March 27	Islam: Mysticism – Sufism Read: Rumi: <i>The Mathnawi of Jalalu'ddin</i> , Vol II, pp. 3-16; 164-171.
Fri, March 29	Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Synthetic Exercise In-class gaming
Wed, April 3	Film TBA
Fri, April 5	Wrap-up and questions; term papers due/exam review session

COMMON HUMANITIES REGULATIONS HERE



University Regulations for 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.

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.](#)