JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM:
FROM MACCABEES TO MUHAMMAD
RELI 2710 A
Fall-Winter 2009-2010
College of Humanities

INSTRUCTOR: Timothy Pettipiece, PhD  (Timothy_Pettipiece@carleton.ca)
FALL TERM: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:35-12:55 (Sep 10, 2008 - Dec 08, 2008)
WINTER TERM: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:35-12:55 (Jan 05, 2009 - Apr 01, 2009)
WHERE: Paterson 303
OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 9:30-11:30 (Room 2A40 PA)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course aims to introduce students to the early literature and history of the three great monotheistic traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In particular, the course will examine key aspects of the social, literary, cultural, and intellectual development of these three interrelated traditions from approximately the Babylonian Exile to the founding of Baghdad. Special attention will be given to reading a diversity of primary texts (in translation), thereby allowing some of the key figures of these religious traditions to speak in their own voices. Students will be required to engage these primary texts critically, to appreciate the diversity of opinions within and across traditions, and to situate them in a broad socio-historical context. Since this material will be approached from a non-confessional, religious studies perspective, students are invited to set aside their preconceptions in order to gain a more nuanced understanding of the early and classical development of this hugely influential family of religions. Moreover, given the fact that most of the history of these traditions is told outside of their canonical texts, the object of this course is not simply a comparison of scriptures.

TEXTBOOKS:

EVALUATION:
Fall Essay or Creative Project  (25%)—Due Dec. 8 (see details below)
Fall Exam  (25%)—Multiple choice and short answer (date TBA)
Winter Essay or Creative Project  (25%)—Due April 1 (see details below)
Winter Exam  (25%)—Multiple choice and short answer (date TBA)

FALL TERM SYLLABUS

SEPT 10 Th  COURSE INTRODUCTION

PART I: JUDAISM, FROM TEMPLE TO TALMUD

SEPT 15 T  BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON
Psalm 137; The Letter of Jeremiah (http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/letterjeremiah.html)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 17</td>
<td>TWILIGHT OF THE IDOLS</td>
<td>Bel and the Dragon (<a href="http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/bel.html">http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/bel.html</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT 24</td>
<td>EXILE AND RETURN</td>
<td>Ezra (<a href="http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/ezra.html">http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/ezra.html</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SEPT 29 | JEWS AND GREEKS            | Hecataeus of Abdera (http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/pseudohecataeus.html)  
|       |                              | Letter of Aristides (http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/letteraristeas.html)  |
| OCT 1  | LOVE OF WISDOM              | Philo, On the Creation of the World (www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/philo-creation.html) |
| OCT 6  | HOUSE OF THE HAMMER         | 1 Maccabees (http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/1maccabees.html)         |
| OCT 8  | DIVISION AND DEVOTION       | Philo, On the Contemplative Life (www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/philo-ascetics.html) |
| OCT 13 | HIDDEN TRADITIONS           | 1 Enoch (http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/1enoch.html)                 |
| OCT 15 | DEAD SEA DISSIDENTS         | Selections from the Dead Sea Scrolls (http://www.openscrolls.org/)         |
| OCT 20 | JEWS AND ROMANS             | Selections from Jewish and Roman Historians (www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/roman-jews.html) |
| OCT 22 | JUDAISM FILM                | TBA                                                                      |
| OCT 27 | THE RISE OF THE RABBIS      | Pirke Aboth (Sayings of the Fathers) (www.sacred-texts.com/jud/sjf/index.htm) |
| OCT 29 | THE LIFE OF THE TORAH       |                                                                          |

**PART II-A: EARLY CHRISTIANITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOV 3</td>
<td>JESUS OF NAZARETH</td>
<td>Sayings of Jesus (<a href="http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/q.html">www.earlychristianwritings.com/q.html</a>)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Passion Narrative (<a href="http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/passion-young.html">www.earlychristianwritings.com/passion-young.html</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 5</td>
<td>PETER, PAUL, AND/OR MARY</td>
<td>Letter to the Galatians (<a href="http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/galatians.html">www.earlychristianwritings.com/galatians.html</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gospel of Mary (<a href="http://www.gnosis.org/library/marygosp.htm">www.gnosis.org/library/marygosp.htm</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 10</td>
<td>PARTING OF THE WAYS</td>
<td>The Teaching (Didachē) (<a href="http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0714.htm">www.newadvent.org/fathers/0714.htm</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 12</td>
<td>DYING FOR A CAUSE</td>
<td>Pliny’s Letter to the Emperor Trajan (<a href="http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/pliny.html">www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/pliny.html</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NOV 17**  T  **MAKING THE CASE**  
Celsus, fragments from *On True Doctrine* ([http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/celsus.html](http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/celsus.html))

**NOV 19**  Th  **IN THE KNOW**  
*Secret Book of John* ([www.gnosis.org/naghamm/apocjn.html](http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/apocjn.html))

**NOV 24**  T  **THE RIGHT WAY TO READ**  

**NOV 26**  Th  **ATHENS AND JERUSALEM**  

**DEC 1**  T  **TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**  

**DEC 3**  Th  **BUILDING A NEW WORLD VIEW**  

**DEC 8**  T  **CONCLUSIONS / EXAM REVIEW**  
NB: 1st PAPER or PROJECT DUE

**PRELIMINARY WINTER TERM SYLLABUS**  
(NB: subject to change)

**PART II-B: CHRISTIANITY IN LATE ANTIQUITY**

**JAN 5**  T  **RELIGION AND EMPIRE**  
*Edicts of Toleration* ([http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/edict-milan.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/edict-milan.html))  
*Inscription of Kirdir* ([http://www.avesta.org/mp/kz.html](http://www.avesta.org/mp/kz.html))

**JAN 7**  Th  **PROPHET OF LIGHT**  
*Manichaeans Psalm 223* ([http://www.gnosis.org/library/bc23.htm](http://www.gnosis.org/library/bc23.htm))

**JAN 12**  T  **CHURCHES OF THE EAST**  
Story of Abgar (Eusebius); *Ode of Solomon* 19 ([http://www.gnosis.org/library/odes.htm](http://www.gnosis.org/library/odes.htm))  

**JAN 14**  Th  **RUN TO THE HILLS**  
*Life of Paul the First Hermit* ([http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3008.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3008.htm))  

**JAN 19**  T  **“WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”**  
Letters of Arius and Alexander  
*“Arianism”* ([http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01707c.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01707c.htm))
JAN 21  Th  CANONS AND CREEDS
Letter of Eusebius on Nicaea (www.newadvent.org/fathers/2804.htm)
Nicaea (http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3801.htm)

JAN 26  T  CITY OF GOD
Selections from City of God (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/aug-city2.html)

JAN 28  Th  THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PART III: EARLY AND CLASSICAL ISLAM

FEB 2  T  PRE-ISLAMIC ARABIA
Classical Accounts (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/arabia1.html)
*Shahid, “Byzantium and the Arabs” (http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/shahid.html)

FEB 4  Th  MERCHANT OF MECCA
Ibn Ishaq, Life of Muhammad (http://facweb.furman.edu/~ateipen/almusharaka/IbnIshaq-Excerpt2.htm)

FEB 9  T  TOWARDS PROPHECY
Film: Mohammed (Part 1)

FEB 11  Th  REvelATION
Film: Mohammed (Part 2)

FEB 23  T  MEDINA AND THE LAW
Film: Mohammed (Part 3)

FEB 25  Th  MECCA, SEAT OF POWER
Film: Mohammed (Part 4)

MAR 2  T  THE QUR'ĀN
Film: Mohammed (Part 5)

MAR 4  Th  ALTERNATE THEORIES OF THE QUR’ĀN’S FORMATION

MAR 9  T  FROM UMMAH TO EMPIRE
Selections from outsider reports on the rise of Islam
*Donner, “Early Arab Conquests” (www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/donner.html)

MAR 11  Th  SUNNI AND SHIA
Conference of Baghdad Ulema (www.sacred-texts.com/isl/mub/mub.htm)

MAR 16  T  THE INCOHERENCE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS
Guest lecture TBA

MAR 18  Th  REASON AND REVELATION
Ibn Rushd (Averroes), Religion & Philosophy
(www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1190averroes.html)

MAR 23  T  SAINTS AND MYSTICS
Rumi, Selections from the Masnavi (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1250rumi-masnavi.html)
Sayings of al-Hallaj (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/all-hallaj-quotations.html)
MAR 25  Th  ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

MAR 30  T  THE LIFE OF THE UMMAH

APR 1  Th  CONCLUSIONS / TERM II REVIEW
***Term II Papers and Projects Due

SELECTED WEB RESOURCES:
Jewish History Sourcebook  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/jewishsbook.html
Early Jewish Writings  http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/
Ancient History Sourcebook  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook.html
Early Christian Writings  http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/
Fathers of the Church  http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/
Islamic History Sourcebook  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/islam/islamsbook.html

*OPTION A: ESSAY (25%)—10 pages, Fall Essay Due Dec 8; Winter Essay Due April 1
For your essay, you are invited to investigate in more detail one of the texts, authors, or themes from the course syllabus. Other topics are possible but must be approved by me beforehand. Once you have decided on a topic that peaks your interest, you are expected to find at least five relevant books and/or articles to serve as the basis of your paper from one of the three local university libraries. If you are investigating a particular text, you may choose to examine issues such as its original language, genre, social-setting, author, theological perspective, later reception, etc. If you choose to study a person, you should describe his or her social setting, career, major ideas, writings, historical significance, etc. Thematic papers should address broader issues and incorporate a wider array of sources. These suggestions are meant as a minimum and should not be interpreted as a formula. Remember! Any information taken from your sources and used in your paper must be properly referenced (either in footnotes or in parentheses). Failure to do so will result in an automatic loss of 10%. (NB: while websites can be an important starting point, references to websites will not be accepted as legitimate sources for your paper, with the exception of articles downloaded from JSTOR, or similar databases).

**OPTION B: CREATIVE PROJECT (25%)**
In lieu of either the Fall or Winter essay, you may choose to undertake a creative project of your choice. Keep in mind that this option is not a freebie! The chosen project must involve the same amount of effort that would go into an essay as described in Option A. Also, the project must be relevant to the course material covered during the term in question and demonstrate the same degree of critical engagement and reflection. For instance, visual artists may choose to turn one of the texts studied in class into a painting, sculpture, or even a short graphic novel. Writers may wish to produce a piece of creative poetry or prose on one of the course’s major themes or retell one of the texts from another perspective. Musicians and songwriters might aspire to similar goals through sound. Along with your project, you will be asked to submit 1-2 pages describing the conceptualization and techniques involved in realizing your work, as well as its relation, if any, to other similar works. You will be evaluated on factors such as your project’s originality, relevance, presentation, and execution. Please inform me if you intend to pursue this (one time) option.

NOTE ON ATTENDANCE: In my experience, there is a high degree of correlation between class-attendance and success in the course. While no credit has been allocated for attendance, if you wish to get the most out of this learning experience, then I strongly encourage you to attend as many lectures as possible.
TERM PAPER EVALUATION

GENERAL RUBRIC DEFINITIONS

EXCELLENT ★
- advanced understanding of source material with considerable critical analysis
- very well written, documented, and organized
- surpasses the requirements of the assignment

GOOD ★
- sufficient source material with some critical analysis
- well written, documented and organized
- meets the requirements of the assignment

ADEQUATE ★★
- adequate source material with little critical analysis
- adequately written, documented, and organized
- just meets the requirements of the assignment

INADEQUATE ★★★
- inadequate source material with no critical analysis
- inadequately written, documented, and disorganized
- barely meets the requirements of the assignment

UNACCEPTABLE ★★★★
- insufficient source material with no analysis
- poorly written, documented, and organized
- does not meet the requirements of the assignment

GENERAL CRITERIA DEFINITIONS

Length: (at least) 10 pages (not including title and works cited pages)
Presentation: typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, standard margins, stapled w/ title page
Style: proper grammar, spelling, and syntax
Documentation: number of legitimate sources consulted
Referencing: consistent use of accepted referencing style (MLA, Chicago, SBL)
Organization: information is structured and presented in clear and readable manner
Comprehension: source material has been understood
Critical Analysis: reflection upon and critique of source material

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Inadequate</th>
<th>Adequate</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehension</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
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COMMENTS:                                                                 Total:
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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

GRADING SYSTEM
Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>53-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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F Failure. No academic credit
WDN Withdrawn from the course
ABS Absent from the final examination
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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

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:

Pregnancy obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 I receive 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: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation

PETITIONS TO DEFER
Students unable to complete a final term paper or write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)
College of the Humanities 520-2809 300 Paterson
Classics and 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 500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632 4th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125 4th floor Library