



**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:

F. E. Peters, *Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam. A New Edition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004) ISBN-10: 0-691-12769-7 (required)

-this concise, comparative treatment of the three traditions is meant to provide an overarching synthesis and framework in which lecture material can be situated

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>)

SEPT 17 Th TWILIGHT OF THE IDOLS

Bel and the Dragon (<http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/bel.html>)

SEPT 22 T THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 44-45 (www.earlyjewishwritings.com/isaiah.html)

SEPT 24 Th EXILE AND RETURN

Ezra (<http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/ezra.html>)

SEPT 29 T JEWS AND GREEKS

Hecataeus of Abdera (<http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/pseudohecataeus.html>)

Letter of Aristides (<http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/letteraristeas.html>)

OCT 1 Th LOVE OF WISDOM

Philo, *On the Creation of the World* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/philos-creation.html)

OCT 6 T HOUSE OF THE HAMMER

1 Maccabees (<http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/1maccabees.html>)

OCT 8 Th DIVISION AND DEVOTION

Philo, *On the Contemplative Life* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/philos-ascetics.html)

OCT 13 T HIDDEN TRADITIONS

1 Enoch (<http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/1enoch.html>)

OCT 15 Th DEAD SEA DISSIDENTS

Selections from the Dead Sea Scrolls (<http://www.openscrolls.org/>)

OCT 20 T JEWS AND ROMANS

Selections from Jewish and Roman Historians (www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/roman-jews.html)

OCT 22 Th JUDAISM FILM

TBA

OCT 27 T THE RISE OF THE RABBIS

Pirke Aboth (Sayings of the Fathers) (www.sacred-texts.com/jud/sjf/index.htm)

OCT 29 Th THE LIFE OF THE TORAH

PART II-A: EARLY CHRISTIANITY

NOV 3 T JESUS OF NAZARETH

Sayings of Jesus (www.earlychristianwritings.com/q.html)

Passion Narrative (www.earlychristianwritings.com/passion-young.html)

NOV 5 Th PETER, PAUL, AND/OR MARY

Letter to the Galatians (www.earlychristianwritings.com/galatians.html)

Gospel of Mary (<http://www.gnosis.org/library/marygosp.htm>)

NOV 10 T PARTING OF THE WAYS

The Teaching (Didachē) (www.newadvent.org/fathers/0714.htm)

NOV 12 Th DYING FOR A CAUSE

Pliny's *Letter to the Emperor Trajan* (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/pliny.html)

NOV 17 T MAKING THE CASE

Athenagoras, *A Plea for Christians* (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/athenagoras-plea.html)

Celsus, fragments from *On True Doctrine* (<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/celsus.html>)

NOV 19 Th IN THE KNOW

Secret Book of John (www.gnosis.org/naghamm/apocjn.html)

NOV 24 T THE RIGHT WAY TO READ

Ptolemaeus, *Letter to Flora* (www.gnosis.org/library/flora.htm)

NOV 26 Th ATHENS AND JERUSALEM

Clement, *Stromata*, Book 1 ch. 5 (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/clement-stromata-book1.html)

Tertullian, *Prescription of the Heretics* (www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/tertullian11.html)

DEC 1 T TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Eusebius, *Life of Origen* (*History of the Church*, Book 6)

(<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/250106.htm>)

DEC 3 Th BUILDING A NEW WORLD VIEW

Origen, *On First Principles*, Book 1, Introduction (www.newadvent.org/fathers/04120.htm)

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>)

Inscription of Kirdir (<http://www.avesta.org/mp/kz.html>)

JAN 7 Th PROPHET OF LIGHT

Manichaean Psalm 223 (<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>)

*Lieu, "Manichaean and Nestorian Christian Remains"

(<http://www.anchist.mq.edu.au/doccentre/Zayton.htm>)

JAN 14 Th RUN TO THE HILLS

Life of Paul the First Hermit (<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3008.htm>)

*Conrad, "Egyptian and Syrian Asceticism in Late Antiquity"

(<http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~epf/1995/ascetic.html>)

JAN 19 T "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

Letters of Arius and Alexander

* "Arianism" (<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/avg-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/lbnIshaq-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

Al-Biruni, *Monument of Chronology* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1030al-biruni1.html)
Ibn Sina (Avicenna), *On Medicine* (www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1020Avicenna-Medicine.html)
*Nasr, "Science and Civilization in Islam" (www.fordham.edu/halsall/med/nasr.html)

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/jewishsbok.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

Criteria	%	Unacceptable	Inadequate	Adequate	Good	Excellent
Length	5	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation	5	1	2	3	4	5
Style	10	2	4	6	8	10
Documentation	10	2	4	6	8	10
Referencing	10	2	4	6	8	10
Organization	10	2	4	6	8	10
Comprehension	25	5	10	15	20	25
Critical Analysis	25	5	10	15	20	25
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 work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B+ = 77-79 (9)	C+ = 67-69 (6)
A = 85-89 (11)	B = 73-76 (8)	C = 63-66 (5)
A - = 80-84 (10)	B - = 70-72 (7)	C - = 60-62 (4)
D+ = 57-59 (3)	D = 53-56 (2)	D - = 50-52 (1)

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	4 th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library