

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program

RELI 2710 A: Maccabees to Mohammed (2020-2021)

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Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom
Lecture: Recorded and posted on cuLearn (see a note on the course format below).

Course Description

This is an introduction to the early history and literature of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students in this course will engage textually and historically with important formative ideas at the centre of the three Abrahamic traditions, such as God, monotheism, prophecy, messianism, afterlife, community, authority, law, as well as others. Key concepts will be examined across the three traditions to learn and appreciate how ancient history, culture, and politics informed different yet intertextual readings of the Bible and the Quran and influenced the relationship of the Jews, Christians and Muslims with God and with one another. A major focus of this course is on primary texts. Students will read and reflect on them critically drawing upon the theory of intertextuality as an exegetical and literary analytical tool. Through intertextuality, we will approach texts as *intertexts*, as dynamic orbits of processes and relational practices, not rigid linguistic structures.

Course Evaluation

Quizzes (20 x 2%)	40%
Class Participation (20 posts x 1%)	20%
Research Paper (4 components)	40%

Course Readings

1. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha* (any edition). You can also read the Bible online at biblegateway.com, but make sure you read the NRSV translation.
2. *The Study Quran: A New Translation and Commentary*, ed. Seyyed H. Nasr et. al (New York: HarperOne, 2017). Provides a modern and accessible English translation of and a comparative commentary on the Quran.
3. Other required readings will be made available through ARES and cuLearn.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, the students should be able to:

- Gather, interpret, evaluate, and communicate central ideas, themes, arguments, and concepts relevant to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

- Understand the historical development, basic data and disciplinary vocabulary associated with the study of religion broadly and Judaism, Christianity and Islam and their textual traditions specifically.
- Reflect critically on primary sources from the three Western traditions and appreciate them within their social, cultural, religious, and political contexts.
- Understand the theory of intertextuality distinguishing between its exegetical and literary models and apply it to primary texts.
- Conduct annotated bibliographical research and incorporate theory in textual analysis.
- Engage with primary texts, analyse secondary texts, and cite properly.
- Express information, arguments, and analyses accurately and coherently in writing.

Note on Course Format and Workload

This is an asynchronous course. No real-time lectures will be scheduled. Instead, they will be pre-recorded and posted on cuLearn on a weekly basis. Office hours will be held virtually via zoom by appointment.

Although it will be taught asynchronously, this course is designed to provide maximum opportunity for engagement. To this end, there will be no sizable exams, but smaller assignments that must be completed weekly. This includes the quizzes and your contribution to the discussion forum. Also, the research paper assignment is scaffolded to allow you to undertake it over multiple stages. With each stage, you will earn a portion of the paper's mark.

As such, to do well in class, it is crucial to keep up with the weekly readings, lectures, and your colleagues' reflections on the Forum. For one reason, part of the lectures will elaborate on these reflections and will be part of the quiz. For another, there are no midterm or final exams that give you the chance to prepare course content even if you had not been keeping up.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Sep. 9:	Course begins
Sep. 19:	First quiz due (see full schedule below).
	First online discussion post due (see full schedule below).
Sep. 30:	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
Oct. 12:	Statutory holiday, University closed.
Oct. 26-30:	Fall break, no class.
Dec. 7:	Proposal and annotated bibliography due.
Feb. 1:	Paper outline due.
Feb. 15-19:	Winter break, no class (University closed on Feb. 15).
Mar. 8	Research paper due.
Apr. 2:	Statutory holiday, University closed.
Apr. 9:	Self-review due.

Course Requirements

1. Quizzes (40%)

Students are required to write 20/22 quizzes, 10 in the Fall term and 10 in the Winter. If you write all 22, the best 20 will count. Each quiz is worth 2%, covers the weekly readings, lectures, and any other material

that your instructor assigns. The quiz is one hour and will be available for 24 hours. In other words, within a window of 24 hours, once you start a quiz, you will have one hour to complete and submit it. For details, see “Quizzes Guide” on cuLearn.

Quizzes Schedule:

Quiz	Fall Dates	Quiz	Winter Dates
1.	Sep. 19	12.	Jan. 16
2.	Sep. 26	13.	Jan. 23
3.	Oct. 3	14.	Jan. 30
4.	Oct. 10	15.	Feb. 6
5.	Oct. 17	16.	Feb. 13
6.	Oct. 24	17.	Feb. 27
7.	Nov. 7	18.	Mar. 6
8.	Nov. 14	19.	Mar. 13
9.	Nov. 21	20.	Mar. 20
10.	Nov. 28	21.	Mar. 27
11.	Dec. 5	22.	Apr. 1

2. Class Participation (20%)

Class participation is measured by your contribution to the Discussion Forum. To earn the full mark (20%), you must make 20 posts. Each post must consist of (1) a summary/reflection paragraph on the assigned reading and 1-2 questions about it, and (2) a response to 1-2 posts by your classmates. The Forum posts are graded by principle based on completion only so long they show a genuine effort of engaging with the readings and your colleagues’. Posts are due on cuLearn at the beginning of the week since your instructor reads and incorporates them in the lecture. See “Class Participation Guide” for details.

Discussion Posts Schedule:

Post	Fall Dates	Post	Winter Dates
1.	Sep. 21	11.	Jan. 11
2.	Sep. 28	12.	Jan. 18
3.	Oct. 5	13.	Jan. 25
4.	Oct. 13	14.	Feb. 1
5.	Oct. 19	15.	Feb. 8
6.	Nov. 2	16.	Feb. 22
7.	Nov. 9	17.	Mar. 1
8.	Nov. 16	18.	Mar. 15
9.	Nov. 23	19.	Mar. 22
10.	Nov. 30	20.	Mar. 29

3. Research Paper (40%)

The research paper will be completed over four stages. Everything you need to know about it is detailed in the “Research Paper Guide.” In a nutshell, your task is to explore and analyse a figure, theme, or concept that is central in two or all three Western religious traditions drawing on the theory of intertextuality. The process is as follows:

Stage 1: Proposal and annotated bibliography (5%)

Due on Dec. 7. This consists of (1) a proposal that explains your topic and area of focus, and (2) a list of all potential sources that will be used in this research. In addition to your primary sources, list and annotate a minimum of 5 secondary sources.

Stage 2: Paper outline (5%)

Due on Feb. 1. At this stage, you need to express a precise and clear research question. Part of your outline is to submit a working introduction with a proper thesis statement.

Stage 3: The research paper (30%)

Due on Mar. 8. Your crowning achievement: the research paper! The paper should be 2000-2500 words long and follow the specific guidelines outlined in the “Research paper Guide.”

Stage 4: Self-Review (5%)

Due on Apr. 9. After retrieving your paper and reading your instructor’s feedback, implement some of the necessary changes and upload your revised paper with a brief reflection on your writing experience.

Due Dates and Late Penalty

Discussion Forum posts are due by **12:00 PM** on their due dates. Since part of my lectures is a review of your posts, these will not be accepted late. There will be no exceptions. In cases of documented illness, the student will be given an alternative task.

Quizzes are due by **9:00 PM** on their due dates. They cannot be taken past this time since cuLearn will automatically disable the submission option. Missing a quiz without a legitimate reason will result in a grade of zero.

The research paper and all its components (proposal, outline, self-review) are due by **9:00 PM** on their due dates. Late submissions will be deducted 10% per day including weekends. Extension requests must be communicated to the instructor *well before the due date*, not after.

All assignments are expected by their due dates. Exceptions will be made only for those who provide a legitimate reason AND can document it. A legitimate reason may include illness, injury, compassionate reasons, etc. This rule applies to all assignments.

In anticipation of last-minute technical problems that might occur, a grace period of about 3 hours will be added to all deadlines except the Forum posts.

Course Website, Submission Format, Citation

1. Course Website:

The course website on [cuLearn](#) is your main resource. There, you will find key updates, announcements, and all necessary information about the course, including the syllabus, instructor’s contact information, and more. All announcements will be sent to your Carleton account ending with [carleton.ca](#). Please, consult this account regularly to stay informed of important updates.

2. File Format and Submission:

Please upload your research papers and their components as Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) only, since it provides better tools for review. If you are a Mac user, convert your file (which most likely has PAGES extension) into WORD. PDF files will be graded but will not receive in-text feedback.

All written assignments must be uploaded in their designated folders on cuLearn. It is your responsibility to submit your assignments on time. Start the process early to avoid last minute technical problems.

3. System of Source Citation:

The citation style used in this course is Chicago Notes and Bibliography. You can access it directly at:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

Protocols and Etiquettes

1. Emailing the Instructor:

Always use your Carleton account and insert the course code followed by a precise title in the subject box (RELI2710: Question about Quiz 2). Emails sent via other operators (gmail, Hotmail, etc.) risk being spammed and not read. I respond to emails within 1-2 business days, but it may take longer under special circumstances. Please, save your questions only for things that you cannot find *easily* in the syllabus and/or cuLearn.

2. Discussion Forum Behavior:

The Discussion Forum on cuLearn is a space where every student should feel safe. Formative dialogue is highly encouraged, and open-mindedness is expected. Respect for each other's differences and different views will be always sustained, and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

3. Sharing Course content:

All lectures and course materials posted on cuLearn or sent to you by email are protected by copyright. As a student registered in this course, you are not permitted to share, reproduce, or distribute course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without my, the exclusive copyright holder, express written consent.

Fall Lectures Schedule

Lectures	Topics	Required Readings	Assignments
Sep. 9-11	Introduction to the course	The syllabus	
Sep. 14-18	The Hebrew Bible (history, genres, structures), ancient Israel (history, religion, exile).	Exodus 12, 21-22, Joshua 6, Psalm 23-26, Lamentations 1-4.	Quiz 1: Sep. 19
Sep. 21-25	The Persian and Hellenistic Eras: return of exiles, canonization, Hellenization, the Maccabean revolts.	Ezra 1-10, Isaiah 40-45, Nehemiah 8-10, (1) Maccabees 1-6.	Forum post 1: Sep. 21 Q 2: Sep. 26
Sep. 28 - Oct. 2	Hasmonean dynasty: institutions, sects (Sadducees, Pharisees), apocalypticism.	Judith 1-7, Daniel 7-16.	P 2: Sep. 28 Q 3: Oct. 3
Oct. 5-9	Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls	Jerimiah 1-5, Daniel 10-15	P 3: Oct. 3 Q 4: Oct. 10
Oct. 13-16	Roman Palestine, fall of Jerusalem	Josephus, Wars (Bk 1, Ch. 1)	P 4: Oct. 13 Q 5: Oct. 17
Oct. 19-23	The Rabbinic Tradition: origin, evolution, texts, Tannaitic and Amoraic work.	TBD	P 5: Oct. 19 Q 6: Nov. 24
Oct. 26-30	No class. Fall Break		

Nov. 2-6	Jesus among the Jews and Hebrew scriptures	Mathew (chapters TBD)	P 6: Nov. 2 Q 7: Nov. 7
Nov. 9-13	Jesus as “son of God,” Messiah, and deliverer.	Mark (chapters TBD)	P 7: Nov. 9 Q 8: Nov. 14
Nov. 16-20	Other Gospels, according to Mary. Review of the Annotated Bibliography	Mary (fragments) Annotated Bibliography Guide	P 8: Nov. 16 Q 9: Nov. 21
Nov. 23-27	The Jewish-Christian Schism	Schiffman, 139-56.	P 9: Nov. 23 Q 10: Nov. 28
Nov. 30 - Dec. 4	The universalizing of Christianity, Paul	Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians.	P 10: Nov. 30 Q 11: Dec. 5
Dec. 7-11	Fall term conclusions, Proposal/Bibliography feedback, Paper outline review.	Paper Outline Guide	Proposal and Bibliography: Dec. 7

Winter Lectures Schedule

Lectures	Topics	Required Readings	Assignments
Jan. 6-8	Introduction to the Winter section	Winter term schedule (in syllabus)	
Jan. 11-15	Theory of Intertextuality, literary criticism, Julia Kristeva	Kristeva, “The Bounded Text”	P 11: Jan. 11 Q 12: Jan. 16
Jan. 18-22	Intertextuality for biblical criticism	Philips, “Sign/Text/Difference”	P 12: Jan. 18 Q 13: Jan. 23
Jan. 25-29	Case studies of intertextuality: the Book of Revelation, the story of Noah	Moyise, “Intertextuality and the Use of Scripture,” and Mitib, “An Intertextuality Perspective.”	P 13: Jan. 25 Q 14: Jan. 30
Feb. 1-5	Islam and The Quran, the historical context, Arabia, Muhammad, the Sunna	Donner, “The historical context,” Study Quran (SQ): chapter 1, 109, 112.	P 14: Feb. 1 Q 15: Feb. 6 Outline: Feb. 1
Feb. 8-12	Abraham, the patriarch, monotheism	SQ: 14 (verses and sections TBD)	P 15: Feb. 8 Q 16: Feb. 13
Feb. 15-19	No class. Winter break.		
Feb. 22-26	Biblical prophets: Abraham, Jonah, Moses, Joseph, Jesus	SQ: 10, 12, 14, 21, 71 (verses and sections TBD)	P 16: Feb. 22 Q 17: Feb. 27
Mar. 1-5	Miracles and prophecies	SQ: 66, 96, 98 (verses and sections TBD)	P 17: Mar. 1 Q 18: Mar. 6 Outline: Mar. 6
Mar. 8-12	Women, Mary the mother of Jesus	SQ: 4, 19, 65 (verses and sections TBD)	Q 19: Mar. 13 Final paper: Mar. 8

Mar. 15-19	The Quran as a source of Islamic law	SQ: 50, 51, 52 (verses and sections TBD)	P 18: Mar. 15 Q 20: Mar. 20
Mar. 22-26	The House of ʻImrān, Jesus	SQ: 3 (verses and sections TBD)	P 19: Mar. 22 Q 21: Mar. 27
Mar.29 - Apr.1	War, politics, tribal alliances,	SQ: 57 (verses and sections TBD)	P 20: Mar. 29 Q 22: Apr. 1
Apr. 5-9	Discussion and final review.		Self-Review: Apr. 9

* This syllabus maybe subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor. A change cannot affect any of the main components that contribute to the students' grade but can affect secondary components such as a reading or film due to, for example, accessibility issues. Students will be notified of any changes well in advance.

* Students must complete all components to obtain credit in this class. No assignment will be reweighed.



University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

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

The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as “*presenting, whether intentionally 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Academic Integrity Process](#)

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Parental Leave: The Student Parental Leave Policy is intended to recognize the need for leave at the time of a pregnancy, birth or adoption and to permit a pause in studies in order to provide full-time care in the first year of parenting a child or for health-related parental responsibilities.

Religious obligation: Carleton University accommodates students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities is available through the [Paul Menton Centre](#) by evaluations that are carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with human rights legislation and University policy, and with the support of relevant, professional/medical documentation.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

Individuals who disclose that they have experienced sexual violence will be provided support services and will be treated with dignity and respect at all times by the University and its representatives. A person affected by sexual violence is not required to report an incident of or make a complaint about sexual violence under the formal complaint process of the Sexual Violence Policy in order to obtain support and services, or in order to receive appropriate accommodation for their needs.

[Supports and services available at the University to obtain information about sexual violence and/or 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. [More information.](#)

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. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

The [system of grades](#) used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion, is listed below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value.

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).

[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

[7 Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

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.

1. 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. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

[More information of deferred Term Work](#)

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.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing 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 [here](#).

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals](#)

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

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](#). 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. You can do this via the [MyCarleton Portal](#). A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load.

Department Contact Information

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