

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program

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

Instructor: Dr. Mourad Laabdi
Email: mourad.laabdi@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Virtually every Tuesday, 9-10 AM, and by appointment.

Lectures: Recorded and posted on cuLearn, in addition to one-hour optional live meet every Thursday, 9-10AM (see 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 (Winter Period)

Quizzes (5 x 4%)	20%
Class Participation (10 posts x 1%)	10%
Research Paper (3 components)	35%

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 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 uploaded to cuLearn. To supplement lectures and give students an opportunity for direct interaction, an optional one-hour live meeting has been scheduled every Thursday 9-10 AM. Office hours have been scheduled every Tuesday, 9-10AM. Meetings are held via zoom (see cuLearn for login details).

Although it will be taught asynchronously, this course has been designed to provide maximum opportunity for engagement. To this end, you will not write exams, but writings assignments that must be completed almost weekly. This includes the quizzes and discussion forum posts. 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.

The general format of class is kept simple. On Monday, the pre-recorded lecture is posted on cuLearn. On Wednesday, the discussion forum post is due (open prior to its deadline). On Saturday, the Quiz is due (open for 48 hours only, from Friday morning to Saturday evening). See details below.

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 (Winter Period)

Feb. 6:	Paper outline due.
Feb. 15-19:	Winter break, no class (University closed on Feb. 15).
Mar. 13	Research paper due.
Apr. 2:	Statutory holiday, University closed.
Apr. 14:	Self-review due.

Course Requirements (Winter Period)

1. Quizzes (20%)

Students are required to write 5/6 quizzes in the Winter semester. If you write all 6, the best 5 will count. Unlike in the Fall where you wrote a quiz every week, now, because there are other writing assignments to complete, you will write a quiz every other week. Each quiz is worth 4%, covers two lectures, consists of 20-30 questions. Also, the quiz is to be completed over two hours, and will be available on cuLearn for 48 hours, all of Friday and Saturday.

Quizzes Schedule:

Jan. 30; Feb. 13; Mar. 6; Mar. 20; Apr. 2; (Apr. 14, optional).

2. Class Participation (10%)

Class participation is measured by your contribution to the Discussion Forum. To earn the full mark (10%) in the Winter period, you need to complete 10 posts. As in the Fall term, 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. Forum posts are graded by principle based on completion only if they show a genuine effort of engaging with the readings and your colleagues'. See "Class Participation Guide" for details.

Discussion Posts Schedule:

Jan. 20; Jan. 27; Feb. 3; Feb. 10; Feb. 24; Mar. 3; Mar. 10; Mar. 17; Mar. 24; Mar. 31

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 steps that need to be fulfilled during the Winter term are:

Stage 2: Paper outline (5%)

Due on Feb. 6. 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 (25%)

Due on Mar. 13. 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. 14. After retrieving you 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: due by 12:00 PM almost every Wednesday. Due to the nature and objective of this assignment, late posts will not be accepted. In case of documented illness, the student may be asked to take an alternative task or submit the missed post.

Quizzes: due by 9:00 PM every other Saturday. 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.

Course Website, Submission Format, Citation

1. Course Website:

The course website on [cuLearn](#) is your main resource. There, you will find updates, announcements, and key information about the course, syllabus, instructor's contact, 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:

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

All written assignments must be uploaded to their designated folders on cuLearn. To avoid last minute technical problems, always start the process early.

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 If you are not familiar with this system, please spend some time to learn it. If you need help, you may contact the Writing Centre or email me.

Protocols and Etiquettes

1. Emailing the Instructor:

Please, 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 external 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 certain circumstances.

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 our differences and different views will always be sustained. Any disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

3. Sharing Course content:

All course material posted on cuLearn or sent to you by email is protected by copyright. Students in this course are not permitted to share, reproduce, or distribute course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without my, as the exclusive copyright holder, express written consent.

Lectures Schedule (Winter Period)

Lectures	Topics	Required Readings	Assignments
Jan. 11-15	Intro to the Winter term: meaning of Islam, Muslims and others, the last messages.	Syllabus: Winter schedule; and Quran 49 (<i>The Parties</i>).	
Jan. 18-22	Approaches to intertextuality, Text vs. intertext, Julia Kristeva.	Kristeva, "The Bounded Text."	Post 1: Jan. 20
Jan. 25-29	Intertextuality for biblical criticism, Jacques Derrida, text, meaning.	Philips, "Sign/Text/Difference."	P 2: Jan. 27 Quiz 1: Jan. 30
Feb. 1-5	Case studies of intertextuality: Book of Revelation, the story of Noah.	Moyise, "Intertextuality and Scripture;" and Mitib, "An Intertextuality."	P 3: Feb. 3 Outline: Feb. 6
Feb. 8-12	Muhammad: pre-Islam Arabia, beginnings of Islam, Muhammad as man, as prophet.	Ibn Ishaq, <i>Sirat</i> , pp. 66-73, 90-98, and 150-55.	P 4: Feb. 10 Q 2: Feb. 13
Feb. 15-19	No class. Winter break.		
Feb. 22-26	<i>Quran</i> : text, revelation, authority, conflicts, the satanic verses, abrogation.	Quran 58 (<i>The Disputer</i> [woman]); and Mattson, "God speaks."	P 5: Feb. 24
Mar. 1-5	<i>Sunna</i> : prophetic tradition, <i>hadith</i> criticism, truth and empiricism.	Nawawi, <i>Forty Hadiths</i>	P 6: Mar. 3 Q 3: Mar. 6
Mar. 8-12	<i>Shari'a</i> : legal controversy, negotiating orthodoxies, Muslims' religious <i>other</i> , the People of the Book.	Ibn Rushd, <i>The Jurist's Primer</i>	P 7: Mar. 10 Final paper: Mar. 13
Mar. 15-19	Creed: monotheism: Abraham, patriarch, circumcision as anti-covenantal practice.	Quran 14 (<i>Abraham</i>); and 37:84-112.	P 8: Mar. 17 Q 4: Mar. 20
Mar. 22-26	Biblical prophets in the Quran: Joseph, plot motifs and dreams in scriptural narrative.	Quran 12 (<i>Joseph</i>); and Kaltner and Mirza, 99-104.	P 9: Mar. 24
Mar. 29 - Apr. 1	Jews and Christians in the Quran: children of Israel, House of 'Imrān, Moses, Jesus.	Kaltner and Mirza, pp. 26-33, 76-88, 125-132.	P 10: Mar. 31 Q 5: Apr. 1
Apr. 5-9	Women in the Quran: Mary the mother of Jesus, Muhammad's wives, marriage, veil.	Quran 19 (<i>Mary</i>); and 33 (<i>The Parties</i>)	Q 6: Apr. 9.
Apr. 12-14	Final review.		Self-Review: Apr. 14

* The syllabus may be subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor. A change may not affect the structure of class, but a secondary component such as a reading material (text, film) that is no longer accessible. Students will always be notified of any change well in advance.

* To obtain credit in this class, students must complete all course components. No assignment will be reweighed or waived.



Humanities

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.

Online Learning Resources

While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. [On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

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 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

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca