

Ancient Jewish History

ANC 1010 / HIS 1010
TR 11:40 AM - 12:55 PM
Kripke, K306
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Goldstone
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Course Description

A history of the Jews and Judaism in antiquity from Cyrus the Great (539 BCE) to the Muslim conquest (7th cen. CE). This course focuses on the varieties of Judaism in antiquity and the emergence of rabbinic Judaism. Special emphasis is on Hellenization, sectarianism and the crisis precipitated by the destruction of the Jerusalem temple.

Course Goals

1. Students will learn about the diversity of Jewish/Judean identity and approaches to “Judaism” in the Second Temple and rabbinic periods
2. Students will learn about the available primary sources for studying this period and the challenges involved in interpreting these sources
3. Students will learn about the diversity of scholarly approaches to studying this period

Course Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify and describe the significance of major figures, dates, events, and works from this period
2. Students will be able to articulate different aspects of the diversity of Judaism during this period in light of our available evidence
3. Students will be able to articulate the different ways in which Judaism and Jewish approaches to scripture changed and developed during this period.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to maintain academic integrity; academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. JTS students are expected to bear sole responsibility for their work, to learn the rules and definitions that underlie the practice of academic integrity and to uphold its ideals. JTS Student Disciplinary Procedures can be found at http://my.jtsa.edu/ICS/Policies/Student_Disciplinary_Procedures.jnz

Disabilities

The JTS policy on disabilities may be found at http://my.jtsa.edu/ICS/Policies/Students_with_Disabilities.jnz

Assignments

For most sessions there are assigned primary and secondary readings that will be posted on Canvas. Please read the assigned primary and secondary readings *by the date they are listed on the syllabus*. For each session with assigned readings, I will post several questions about the readings on Canvas. Students are responsible for posting a response to one of the posted questions in 150-200 words by the beginning of the class session for which they are assigned. After the class session has begun, posting responses to the questions for that session will be closed. Of the 21 sessions with readings, students are only required to post responses for 15 sessions.

Midterm

There will be a midterm examination tentatively scheduled for Tuesday March 27th. The midterm will include several sections: 1) Identification of important terms, dates, works, and figures (these appear as “Key Terms” in the PowerPoints); 2) Short answer questions (1-2 paragraphs each; choice of 2 out of 3); and 3) A long answer question (4-5 paragraphs; choice of 1 out of 2). I will provide you with a study guide that includes all of the possible identifications, as well as sample short and long answer questions.

Final

The take-home final examination is due Friday May 11th. The final exam will consist of 3 short answer questions (1-2 paragraphs each; choice out of 5) and 2 long answer questions (4-5 paragraphs each; choice out of 3). I will provide you with a study guide that includes possible topics for the short and long answer questions. Students are encouraged to collaborate in preparing material addressing the topics on the study guide. However, once the final exam is distributed (tentatively on May 2nd) each student is expected to work individually and to write his/her/their own answers.

Grades

40% - Attendance, Participation, Preparation of Readings, Posted Responses
25% - Midterm
35% - Final Exam

A = 93-100%	B- = 80-82%	D+= 68-69%
A- = 90-92%	C+= 78-79%	D = 63-67%
B+= 88-89%	C = 73-77%	D- = 60-62%
B = 83-87%	C- = 70-72%	F = 59% or lower

Class Schedule

1. Tues. Jan. 16 – Introduction, the syllabus, historical overview
2. Thurs. Jan. 18 – Imagining the Persian Period (539 BCE - 322 BCE)
 - a. Primary Sources: Isaiah 45:1-8, Ezra 1, 9-10:1-11; Esther 1-4, 8-10, Addition to Esther C
 - b. Secondary Readings: Najman, Hindy, “Ezra,” in the *Jewish Study Bible* (Pages 1666-1671); Becking, Bob, “On the Identity of the ‘Foreign’ Women in Ezra 9-10,” in *Exile and Restoration Revisited* (Pages 31-43)

3. Tues. Jan. 23 – Return and Rebuilding (539 BCE - 322 BCE)
 - a. Primary Sources: Ezra 4-5; Neh. 1-2, 5, 8
 - b. Secondary Readings: Nickelsburg, George, “Exile-Return-Dispersion,” in *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah* (Pages 9-18); Collins, John, “Haggai,” in *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* (pages 402-404)

4. Thurs. Jan. 25 – Hellenism in Judea (322 BCE - 63 BCE)
 - a. Primary Sources: 1 Macc. 1:1-3:51, 12:6-23, 14:35-16:24, 2 Macc. 1:1-4:50, 15:1-39
 - b. Secondary Readings: Collins, John, “First Maccabees” and “Second Maccabees,” in *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* (pages 573-579); Gafni, Isaiah, “The Historical Background,” in *Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period* (Pages 1-16)

5. Tues. Jan. 30 – Jews in the Greek Empire (322 BCE - 63 BCE)
 - a. Primary Sources: Excerpt from Philo, *Questions and Answers on Genesis*; Ezekiel, the Tragedian; Letter of Aristeas Par. 1-11, 41-50, 301-322
 - b. Secondary Readings: Satran, David, “Philo of Alexandria,” in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (Pages 572-575); Jacobson, Howard, “Ezekiel, the Tragedian,” in *Outside the Bible* (Pages 730-731); Topchyan and Muradyan, “Questions and Answers on Genesis and Exodus,” in *Outside the Bible* (Pages 807-809); Collins, John, Excerpts from “The Diaspora Setting,” in *Jewish Wisdom in the Hellenistic Age* (Pages 135-140, 150-153); Gruen, Erich, “The Letter of Aristeas,” in *Outside the Bible* (Pages 2711-2715)

6. Thurs. Feb. 1 – Wisdom Literature
 - a. Primary Sources: Job 1-2, Ben Sira. Prologue – 6:13, Wisdom of Solomon 1:1-1:15, 3:1-9, 10:1-21, 13:10-19, 4 Macc. 1:1-4:26
 - b. Secondary Readings: Coggins, Richard, “Introduction” and “Structure and Contents,” in *Sirach* (Pages 13-31); Collins, John, Excerpt from “From Hebrew Wisdom to Greek Philosophy,” in *Jewish Wisdom in the Hellenistic Age* (Pages 222-226)

7. Tues. Feb. 6 – Pseudepigrapha
 - a. Primary Sources: Excerpt from the Life of Adam and Eve, Excerpt from Joseph and Aseneth, Gen. 35:22, The Testament of Reuven
 - b. Secondary Readings: Anderson, Gary, “Life of Adam and Eve,” Ahearne-Kroll, Patricia, “Joseph and Aseneth,” and Kugel, James, “Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs,” in *Outside the Bible* (Pages 1331-1334; 2525-2527; 1697-1703); De Jonge, M. “Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament” An Ill-Defined Category of Writings,” in *Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament as Part of Christian Literature* (Pages 9-17)

8. Thurs. Feb. 8 – Enochic Literature
 - a. Primary Sources: Excerpts from 1 Enoch
 - b. Secondary Readings: Brand, Miryam, “1 Enoch,” in *Outside the Bible* (Pages 1359-1363); Himmelfarb, Martha, “The Book of Watchers and Ascent to Heaven,” in *The Apocalypse: A Brief History* (Pages 15-30)

9. Tues. Feb. 13 – Apocalypse
- Primary Sources: Ezekiel 1, Daniel 2; Rev. 1, 6-7, 15, 22; 2 Baruch 29, 49-52; 4 Ezra 11-13; Apocalypse of Abraham 15-20:5,
 - Secondary Readings: Collins, John, Excerpts from “The Apocalyptic Genre,” in *The Apocalyptic Imagination* (Pages 1-11, 21-29)
10. Thurs. Feb. 15 – The Rise of the Roman Empire (63 BCE – 70 CE)
- Primary Sources: Testament of Moses; Psalms of Solomon 2, 4, 8, 17, and 18
 - Secondary Readings: Excerpts from Murphy, Frederick, “Enter the Romans” and “Roman Rule” in *Early Judaism* (Pages 245-251, 289-305); Atkinson, Kenneth, “Psalms of Solomon,” in *Outside the Bible* (Page 1903)
11. Tues. Feb. 20 – Jewish Sects (63 BCE – 70 CE)
- Primary Sources: Josephus, “Excursus on Jewish Groups,” Excerpt from Philo, “On the Contemplative Life,” mYad. 4:6-8, Matt 3:1-10, Acts 5:17-42
 - Secondary Readings: Pastor, Jack, “Josephus,” in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (Pages 717-721); Hay, David, “On the Contemplative Life,” in *Outside the Bible* (Pages 2481-2483); Baumgarten, Albert, “Jewish War: Excursus on Jewish Groups,” in *Outside the Bible* (Pages 2888-2889); Boring, Eugene, “Sadducees to Sicarii,” in *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Pages 94-99)
12. Thurs. Feb. 22 – The Early Jesus Movement (30 CE – 100 CE)
- Primary Sources: Mark 1-2, Matt 4-5, Luke 22-24
 - Secondary Readings: Setzer, Claudia, “Jewish Responses to Believers in Jesus,” in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (Pages 730-733); Boring, Eugene, “The First Christian Generation,” in *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Pages 134-145); D’Angelo, Mary, “Reconstructing ‘Real’ Women from Gospel Literature, in *Women and Christian Origins* (Pages 105-109)
13. Tues. Feb. 27 – Paul (30 CE – 60 CE)
- Primary Sources: Acts 9, Romans 1-4, 1 Gal 1, 1 Thess. 1-2, Titus 1
 - Secondary Readings: Fredriksen, Paula, “Christians in the Roman Empire in the First Three Centuries CE,” in *A Companion to the Roman Empire* (Pages 587-606); Fredriksen, Paula, “Paul and Judaism,” in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (Pages 633-37)

Thurs. Mar. 1 – No Class - Purim

14. Tues. Mar. 6 – Qumran and The Dead Sea Scrolls (130s? BCE – 68 BCE)
- Primary Sources: Community Rule - 1QS 1:1-15, 3:13-4:8, 6:24-8:16, Damascus Document - CD 9:1-10:23, War Scroll - 1QM 1
 - Secondary Readings: Vanderkam & Flint, “The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls,” in *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Pages 3-11); Schiffman, Lawrence, “The Character of the Community,” in *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Pages 97-112)
15. Thurs. Mar. 8 – Approaches to Scripture
- Primary Sources: Crawford, Sidnie White, “The Harmonized Text of Deuteronomy,” “The Reworked Pentateuch Group as Harmonizing Texts,” “The Book of the Words of Noah,”

and “The ‘Citation Plus Comment’ Section,” in *Rewriting Scripture in Second Temple Times* (Pages 30-32; 40-42; 110-116; 137-141)

- b. Secondary Readings: Crawford, Sidnie White, “Introduction,” in *Rewriting Scripture in Second Temple Times* (Pages 1-15); Tov, Emmanuel, “The Development of the Text of the Torah in Two Major Text Blocks” (Pages 1-5) [NOTE: MT = Masoretic Text; SP = Samaritan Pentateuch; LXX = Septuagint]

Mar. 12 - 16 – No Class - Break

16. Tues. Mar. 20 – The Samaritans

- a. Primary Sources: 2 Macc. 6:1–2; Comparison of MT and SP; Kartveit, Magnar, *The Origins of the Samaritans* 20-23
- b. Secondary Readings: Crawford, Sidnie White, “The Samaritan Pentateuch and Harmonization,” in *Rewriting Scripture in Second Temple Times* (Pages 22-23); Mor, Menachem, “Samaritan History: The Persian, Hellenistic and Hasmonaean Period,” in *The Samaritans* (Pages 1-18)

17. Thurs. Mar. 22 – Destruction of the Temple (70 CE) & the Bar Kokhba Rebellion (135 CE);

- a. Primary Sources: Josephus, *Wars of the Jews* Book 6 chapter 10, Book 7 chapters 1-4, 8; 2 Baruch 1-5
- b. Secondary Readings: Grabbe, Lester, “The Bar Kokhba Revolt,” in *An Introduction to Second Temple Judaism* (Pages 78-80); Mildenberg, Leo, “The cause of the Bar Kokhba War,” in *The Coinage of the Bar Kokhba War* (Pages 102-109)

18. Tues. Mar. 27 – **MIDTERM**

Mar. 29 - Apr. 8 – No Class - Pesach

19. Tues. Apr. 10 – Material Culture

- a. Primary Sources: Videos from the Israel Antiquities Authority Official YouTube Channel
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PoTP3A8VVI>
 - ii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGD5sf885yw>
 - iii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcPp85Svw6A>
- b. Secondary Readings: Excerpts from Hachlili, Rachel, *Jewish Funerary Customs, Practices and Rites in the Second Temple Period* (Pages 127-130, 133-136, 163-166, and 327-330); Excerpts from Magness, Jodi, *The Archaeology of the Holy Land* (Pages 57-61, 70-73, 162-167, 197-199, 267-68, 294-296, and 299-304)

20. Thurs. Apr. 12 – Gnosticism

- a. Primary Sources: “The Prayer of the Apostle Paul”; John 1:1-18; Excerpt from “The Gospel of Truth”; Excerpt from “On the Origin of the World”; Valentinian Exposition with Valentinian Liturgical Readings; Irenaeus, “Against Heresies” Book 1 chapters 1-2
- b. Secondary Readings: King, Karen, “Introduction” and “Why is Gnosticism So Hard to Define?” in *What is Gnosticism?* (Pages 1-19); Grabbe, Lester, “The Basic Gnostic Myth,” in *An Introduction to Second Temple Judaism* (Pages 111-114)

21. Tues. Apr. 17 – The Early Rabbis (70 CE – 200 CE)

- a. Primary Sources: Avot 1:1-12, tPes. 4:11, mDem. 2:2-3, mBrakh. 1:1, mShab. 7:2, mBQ 1:1, mZev. 4:2, *Sifra Qedoshim* 2: 1-4, Baraita de-Rabbi Ishmael
- b. Secondary Readings: Excerpt from Hezser, Catherine, “Origins of the Rabbinic Movement,” in *The Social Structure of the Rabbinic Movement in Roman Palestine* (Pages 55, 63-77, 450); Cohen, Shaye, “What is the Mishnah?,” in *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah* (Pages 212-13); Kahana, Menahem, “Midreshei Halakhah” in *Encyclopedia Judaica* (Pages 193-195)

Thurs. Apr. 19 – No Class - Special Yom Ha’atzmaut Program

22. Tues. Apr. 24 – The Later Rabbis (200 CE – 600 CE)

- a. Primary Sources: Bereishit Rabbah 1:1; primary sources in Hayes, *Emergence* (Pages 134-139 in Secondary Readings)
- b. Secondary Readings: Halivni, David Weiss, “The Amoraic Period,” in *Midrash, Mishnah, and Gemara* (Pages 66-75); Excerpt from Hayes, Christine, *The Emergence of Judaism* (Pages 133-142)

23. Thurs. Apr. 26 – The Byzantine Empire and the Muslim Conquest (4th cen. CE – 7th cen. CE)

- a. Primary Sources: Q2:61-64, 87-91, Q3:1-3
- b. Secondary Readings: Brewer, Catherine, “The Status of the Jews in Roman Legislation: The Reign of Justinian 527-565” (127-139); Gilbert, Martin, “Protection or Persecution?” in *In Ishmael’s House* (Pages 27-38)

May 11 – FINAL EXAM DUE