



## **Jews and Jesus**

### **Religious Studies/History 3DD3**

**Instructor:** Dr. Matthew Thiessen

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**Phone:** 905.525.9140 ext. 24597

**Office:** University Hall 125

**Time:** Monday, 9.30–10.20am; 10.30–11.20am

**Place:** DeGroot School of Business, B105

**Tutorial Time:** Wednesday, 10.30–11.20am

**Tutorial Location:** DeGroot School of Business, Basement 105

**Teaching Assistant:** Martin Runesson Sanfridson ([sanfridson@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sanfridson@mcmaster.ca))

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### **Course Description and Objectives**

The writings that make up the New Testament were composed in the first century CE by Jewish followers of Jesus. As a result, in order to fully appreciate these writings one must be deeply familiar with the Jewish world at the time. In this course, students will be introduced to what scholars refer to as early Judaism, a period running from 538 BCE to 70 CE. Students will learn about major historical events during this time period, as well as important figures, movements, and ideas in Judaism.

## Course Textbooks

- James VanderKam, *An Introduction to Early Judaism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000).
- A good translation of the Bible with deuterocanon or Apocrypha, such as the NRSV
- Various readings to which the instructor will provide access

## Assignments

- *Class Participation*: Students are expected to attend promptly and regularly, having prepared beforehand for each class (especially the tutorial). They will actively participate in a respectful and knowledgeable manner. Tardiness, absences, and disruptions will result in a lowered grade. For **every** class or tutorial that has a required reading, students must write a response, which will consist of 5 observations about the reading and two questions. There are 32 such classes/tutorials, and students must turn in (ONLY in person and to the TA) a minimum of 26 to get full marks on this assignment. (26%)
- *Quizzes*: There will be **four** quizzes scheduled during the semester (see schedule below). For each quiz, students will be given **25** testable terms that they must research on their own. The quiz will have **8** randomly selected terms. Students will be able to choose any **6** of these terms, for which they will provide a **4** sentence summary of the most salient information about each term. (24%)
- *Bibliography Assignment*: In preparation for the final paper, students will construct an annotated bibliography of sources that they will use on the topic of their choice (in consultation with their TA). This bibliography should follow the format of the *SBL Handbook of Style* (see A2L for style sheet) and should consist of ten entries, of 4 to six sentences each. Bibliographies should be uploaded to A2L by 5.00pm on February 27. (20%)
- *Term Paper*: Students will write an essay on a topic that they will choose in consultation with the TA. Papers should be typed in 12 Time New Roman font, double-spaced, with footnotes (size 10 font), and margins no larger than one inch on all sides. They should be between **8** (full) pages and **10** pages in length, followed by a bibliography that improves upon their bibliography assignment. The paper will be due by 11.59pm on April 3, and should be uploaded to A2L. (30%)

## Additional Information

- *Late Policy*: All late assignments will be penalized by one full letter grade (10%) for each day the assignment is late, unless you contact the professor or TA prior to the due date. Any claim of illness or a familial death requires written documentation.
- *MSAF Policy*: the university has an MSAF policy. In this class, any use of an MSAF will not absolve a student from the set requirements of the course.
- *Academic Honesty*: any attempt to represent the work of another as one's own will not be tolerated. All instances of plagiarism will be dealt with according to McMaster University's policy: <https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>. \*\*\*Students turn in their assignments via

Avenue to Learn, where Turn-It-In checks for any issues of plagiarism. This is a powerful system which **will** catch any and all plagiarism.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY LANGUAGE FOR COURSE OUTLINES**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic

credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the *Academic Integrity Policy*, located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION LANGUAGE FOR COURSE OUTLINES**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **LANGUAGE FOR USE IN COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT**

In this course we will be using e-mail and Avenue to Learn (A2L). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Student

Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's *Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities* policy.

### **REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)**

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## **Tentative Schedule**

### *Week One*

Monday, January 7: Introduction and Syllabus

Monday, January 7: Assyrian and Babylonian Conquests of Israel  
Readings: Genesis 12; 2 Kings 24–25; Jeremiah 27

Wednesday, January 9: **No tutorial**

### *Week Two*

Monday, January 14: Persia, Return, and Rebuilding the Temple  
Readings: Ezra 1–3, Ezra 9, VanderKam, 1–10

Monday, January 14: The Land in Jewish Thought  
Readings: Genesis 15; Ezekiel 37

Wednesday, January 16: ATLA Tutorial

### *Week Three*

Monday, January 21: The Torah in early Judaism

Readings: VanderKam, 213–216; *Letter of Aristeas* 1–50, 301–311  
(<http://www.ccel.org/c/charles/otpseudepig/aristeas.htm>)

Monday, January 21: The Hellenistic Period and Antiochus IV

Readings: 1 Maccabees 1; 2 Maccabees 1:1–6:17; VanderKam, 11–24  
Wednesday, January 23: The Maccabean Revolt  
Readings: 2 Maccabees (tutorial discussion)

*Week Four*

Monday, January 28: The Temple(s) in Jewish Thought  
Readings: VanderKam, 193–210; Exodus 25; 1 Kings 6; Josephus, *Jewish War*  
5.184–247 (at <http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/war-5.html>) Chap 5

Monday, January 28: The Hasmonean State  
Readings: VanderKam, 24–32

**QUIZ ONE: first 25 testable terms (1 Enoch – covenantal nomism)**

Wednesday, January 30: Rewritten Bible: *Jubilees* 1–25, 50 (tutorial discussion;  
Readings: <http://www.pseudepigrapha.com/jubilees/index.htm>)

*Week Five*

Monday, February 4: Hellenism and Judaism  
Readings: Shaye Cohen, *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*, second edition,  
27–37 (on google books)

Monday, February 4: The Essenes  
Readings: VanderKam, 191–192, Josephus *Antiquities* 18.18–22  
(<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-18.html>; chapter 1, section 5)

Wednesday, February 6: The Community Rule  
Readings: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/gopher/other/courses/rels/225/Texts/1QS>

*Week Six*

Monday, February 11: The Priests  
Readings: VanderKam, 175–186

Monday, February 11: The Pharisees  
Readings: VanderKam, 187–89; Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.12–15  
(<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-18.html>; chapter 1, section 3)

**QUIZ TWO: Second set of 25 terms (Cyrus the Great - Judith)**

Wednesday, February 13: The Sadducees  
Readings: VanderKam, 189–91; Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.16–17  
(<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-18.html>; chapter 1, section 4);  
Mark 12:18–27

**MID-TERM RECESS: February 18–22**

*Week Seven*

Monday, February 25: The Zealots  
Readings: VanderKam, 192–93; Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.23–25  
(<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-18.html>, chapter 1, section 6)

Monday, February 25: Philo of Alexandria, Interpreter of Judaism and Hellenism  
Readings: VanderKam, 138–42; skim read Philo, *On the Creation*  
(<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/yonge/book1.html>)

Wednesday, February 27: 4 Maccabees

Readings: 4 Maccabees (in your Bible or online)  
**Annotated Bibliography Due by 5.00pm (via A2L)**

*Week Eight*

Monday, March 4: Wisdom Literature

Readings: Wisdom of Solomon; VanderKam, 115–28

**QUIZ THREE: Third set of 25 terms (Kosher Food Laws to Ritual Impurity)**

Monday, March 4: Purity Concerns in Judea

Readings: Leviticus 11–16; Numbers 19

Wednesday, March 6: 4QMMT

Readings: (<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/rak/courses/427/texts/4QMMT.htm>)

*Week Nine*

Monday, March 11: Apocalyptic Literature

Readings: VanderKam, 102–115; The Animal Apocalypse (1 Enoch 85–90;  
<http://wesley.nnu.edu/index.php?id=2126>)

Monday, March 11: Messianic Thought

Readings: Psalms of Solomon, Hymn 17 (<http://wesley.nnu.edu/sermons-essays-books/noncanonical-literature/noncanonical-literature-ot-pseudepigrapha/the-psalms-of-solomon/>)

Wednesday, March 13: The Testament of Moses

Readings: <http://wesley.nnu.edu/index.php?id=2124>)

*Week Ten*

Monday, March 18: The Synagogue

Readings: Susan Haber, “Common Judaism, Common Synagogue?” 63–77  
(google books: *Common Judaism*, by Adele Reinhartz and Wayne McCready)  
**QUIZ FOUR: Fourth set of 25 terms (Roman Empire to Zealots)**

Monday, March 18: The Jewish Jesus

Readings: The Gospel of Mark

Wednesday, March 20: The Gospel of Matthew

Readings: Matt 1–7 (online or in Bible)

*Week Eleven*

Monday, March 25: Early Christ Followers according to Luke-Acts

Readings: Acts of the Apostles

Monday, March 25: The Destruction of the Temple

Readings, VanderKam, 42–49

Wednesday, March 27: Paul the Jew:

Readings: Romans and Galatians (online or in Bible)

*Week Twelve*

Monday, April 1: The Samaritans

Readings: John 4; Luke 10:29–37

Monday, April 1: The Development of Christianity

Wednesday, April 3: The Development of Rabbinic Judaism

Readings: Mishnah, tractate Avot  
(<http://www.angelfire.com/mt/talmud/avot.html>)  
**Papers due by 11.59pm**

*Week Thirteen*  
Monday, April 8: TBD

**1 Enoch**  
**1 Maccabees**  
**2 Baruch**  
**2 Maccabees**  
**3 Maccabees**  
**4 Ezra**  
**4 Maccabees**  
**4QMMT**  
**Abraham**  
**Acts of the Apostles**  
**Alexander the Great**  
**Alexandria**  
**Angels**  
**Animal Apocalypse**  
**Antiochus IV**  
**Epiphanes**  
**Apocalyptic literature**  
**Aqedah**  
**Babylonian Exile**  
**Bar Kochba/Kosiba**  
**Belial**  
**Caligula**  
**Caesarea Maritima**  
**Circumcision**  
**Community Rule**  
**Covenantal nomism**  
Cyrus the Great  
Dead Sea Scrolls  
Decapolis  
Diaspora  
Elephantine  
Eschatology  
Essenes  
Ezra

Gentile  
gymnasium  
Hasmoneans  
Hellenism  
Herod Agrippa I  
Herod Antipas  
Herod the Great  
High priest  
Hillel  
Idumea  
Jerusalem  
Jerusalem Temple  
Jesus  
John the Baptist  
Joseph and Aseneth  
Josephus  
Jubilees  
Judith  
**Kosher Food laws**  
**Letter of Aristeas**  
**Maccabees**  
**Masada**  
**Messiah**  
**Miqvaot**  
**Mishnah**  
**Monotheism (Ancient)**  
**Moses**  
**Nicolaus of Damascus**  
**Ossuaries**  
**Parting of the Ways**  
**Paul**  
**Pentateuch**  
**Pharisees**  
**Phylacteries/Tefillin**

**Philo**  
**Pilate**  
**Pompey the Great**  
**Psalms of Solomon**  
**Pseudepigrapha**  
**Qumran**  
**Rabbis**  
**Ritual Impurity**  
Roman Empire  
Sabbath  
Sadducees  
Samaritans  
Sanhedrin  
Sepphoris  
Septuagint  
Shammai  
Sirach  
Son of God  
Son of Man  
Stone vessels  
Talmud  
Targumim  
Temple Scroll  
Tiberias  
Titus  
Tobit  
Tosefta  
Vespasian  
War Scroll  
Wisdom of Solomon  
Yavneh (Jamnia)  
Yoḥanan ben Zakkai  
Zealots