

Christ the King Seminary  
Summer 2006

**SS 909 / HT 909 Early Judaism**

T/Th 6:30 – 9:30 pm (May 18 – June 29, 2006)

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**DESCRIPTION**

This course will set the context for the emergence of the Christian church by exploring the origins and development of Judaism from the Babylonian Exile to the compilation of the Mishnah, with an examination of historical and cultural influences, major figures, selected writings and their connection to the New Testament and Early Christianity.

**ASSIGNMENTS (Note: Missing assignments may be grounds for failing the course.)**

(See website for instructions and grading criteria.) (see also PLAGIARISM statement below)

Assignment	Date Due	% of Grade
Paper – Lectionary Response	June 2, noon	30
Paper – Jewish Practice	June 16, noon	30
Presentation	June 27, in class	10
Final Paper	June 30, noon	30

**Further Details Will be provided shortly.**

**1) Paper – Lectionary Response (3 pages) – Due June 2, noon (30%)**

An analysis of one week's lectionary readings, considering the messages about Christians and Jews that have been found in them and how our examination of early Judaism and Christianity might challenge those messages.

**2) Paper – Jewish Practice (3 pages) – Due June 16, noon (30%)**

A consideration of a particular ritual, festival, or practice in Jewish tradition in terms of its historical origins, interpretations, and its influence on Christianity.

**3) In-Class Presentation (10-15 minutes) – June 27 (10%)**

A summary and discussion of the research for the final paper (see below).

**4) Final Paper (5-7 pages) – Due June 30, noon (30%)**

A comparative exegesis of a New Testament text that adapts and interprets material from the Hebrew Bible, considering the historical and theological contexts of both passages, what the Christian re-use says about early Christianity and Judaism, and what they mean in our time.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS** (additional readings will be posted online and announced in class)

*Texts and Traditions: Source Reader for the Study of Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism* (Lawrence Schiffman – ISBN: 088125455X)

*An Introduction to Early Judaism* (James C. VanderKam - ISBN: 0-8028-4641-6)

*The Bible, the Jews, and the Death of Jesus* (USCCB - ISBN: 1-57455-618-5)

(A Bible – any translation, as long as it includes Apocrypha)

**POLICIES**

**Grading Scale** – according to the Grading System in the current CKS Catalog.

**Attendance and participation:** Successful completion of the course and assignments depends on regular attendance. If an absence is unavoidable, please notify the professor. Participation in class discussions is expected.

**Due Dates for readings and assignments:** Readings are to be completed before the date for which they are listed.

Papers must be submitted via e-mail by **noon on the day indicated above** to allow prompt and consistent grading. If possible, save papers in MS-Word format and make sure you put your UserID in the file name. Late papers will be graded last and may not be returned in time to prepare for the next assignment. Once on-time papers have been graded and returned, no further papers will be accepted for that unit.

Standard MLA format for citations is expected, see the MLA Handbook (5<sup>th</sup> Edition).

It is your responsibility to make sure that your papers are submitted on-time and in the proper format. If you are having technical problems, make sure you notify the professor immediately or your paper will be considered late.

**Plagiarism:**

Students are expected to abide by the Seminary's standards of Academic Integrity.

All written assignments are meant to be the student's own work and not someone else's. You are encouraged to discuss the texts with your classmates, but the papers must be in your own words. Please do not use someone else's ideas, words, theories, opinions, and/or facts which are not common knowledge without proper citation. (NOTE – the one exception is opinions which were already mentioned in class discussion – these need not be cited in the standard way, but you must indicate that the idea came from class and not from yourself.) You may consult a site like [www.canisius.edu/integrity/](http://www.canisius.edu/integrity/) for further discussion of plagiarism and proper use of sources.

Plagiarism is a serious offence. It is considered wrong because it is *stealing* another person's ideas, theories, methods, etc., and it is *lying* because you are representing something as your own when it is not yours. Plagiarism includes not citing sources (even if re-worded or placed in quotes), improper paraphrasing, and not citing a quote from a source cited elsewhere in your paper.

**Note** – turnitin.com will be used in cases of suspected plagiarism.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with any special instructional needs due to documented learning disabilities or health problems should advise the professor of those needs by the close of the first week of classes.

If there are any other special circumstances which will affect your ability to participate in the class, feel free to discuss them with the professor.

### **SCHEDULE**

**(Additional readings may be posted on website. It's okay to skim the Schiffman readings)**

Thursday 5/18 – Introduction

Tuesday 5/23 – Ancient Near East and Israelite Religion

Read: VanderKam 1-52, Schiffman 1-10, 70-92

Thursday 5/25 – Hellenism I – Philo, Josephus, and Greek Society

Read: VanderKam 53- 101, **Schiffman 125-129, 142-145, 203-230**

Tuesday 5/30 – Hellenism II – Maccabees, Apocalypticism, Pseudepigrapha

Read: VanderKam 102 – 146, **Schiffman 151-171, 306-352, Daniel**

Thursday 6/1 – Scripture and Canonization

Read: **Schiffman 211-220, 517-522**

Tuesday 6/6 – Jewish Groups and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Read: VanderKam 147-192, **Schiffman 266-300, 354-368**

Thursday 6/8 - Liturgy and Ritual

Read: VanderKam 193-218, **Schiffman 192-203, 656-670**

Tuesday 6/13 – Jewish Law I

Read: **Schiffman 682-718**

Thursday 6/15 – Jewish Law II

Read: **Schiffman 719-732**

Tuesday 6/20 – Interpretation

Read: **Schiffman 531-537, 624-627, 638-655**

Thursday 6/22 – Judaism and Christianity

Read: The Bible, The Jews, and The Death of Jesus, **Schiffman 414-428**

Tuesday 6/27 - Presentations

Thursday 6/29 - Conclusion

PAPER DUE JUNE 30 - noon

NOTE – this syllabus is a tentative outline of the course schedule and activities. It may be adjusted over the course of the semester. Any changes to readings or assignments will be discussed in class or by e-mail. I reserve the right to adjust any of these policies according to my professional judgment and the circumstances.