



Jews and Jesus **Religious Studies/History 3DD3**

Contact Information, Times, Locations

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Thiessen

Time: Mondays, 10.30-12.20

Email: matthew.thiessen@mcmaster.ca

Place: John Hodgins Engineering A102

Office: University Hall 119

Tutorial Time: Fridays, 1.30-2.20pm

Tutorial Location: TBD

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/macrelstuds/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/macreligiousstudies/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/macrelstuds?lang=en>

Twitter: @MattThiessenNT

Course Description

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.

Required Reading

- 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. 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 on **February 27**. (20%)
- *Term Paper*: Students will write an essay on a topic that they will choose (see Bibliography assignment) 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 on **April 3**, and should be uploaded to A2L. (30%)

Tentative Schedule

Week One

Monday, September 12: Introduction and Syllabus

Monday, September 12: Assyrian and Babylonian Conquests of Israel

Readings: Genesis 12; 2 Kings 24–25; Jeremiah 27

Friday, September 16: **XXX**

Week Two

Monday, September 19: Persia, Return, and Rebuilding the Temple

Readings: Ezra 1–3, Ezra 9, VanderKam, 1–10

Monday, September 19: The Land in Jewish Thought

Readings: Genesis 15; Ezekiel 37

Friday, September 23: ATLA Tutorial

Week Three

Monday, September 26: 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, September 26: The Hellenistic Period and Antiochus IV

Readings: 1 Maccabees 1; 2 Maccabees 1:1–6:17; VanderKam, 11–24

Friday, September 30: The Maccabean Revolt

Readings: 2 Maccabees (tutorial discussion)

Week Four

Monday, October 3: 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, October 3: The Hasmonean State

Readings: VanderKam, 24–32

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

Friday, October 7: Rewritten Bible: *Jubilees* 1–25, 50 (tutorial discussion;

Readings: <http://www.pseudepigrapha.com/jubilees/index.htm>)

Week Five

MID-TERM RECESS: Monday, October 10 to Sunday, October 16

Week Six

Monday, October 17: Hellenism and Judaism

Readings: Shaye Cohen, *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*, second edition, 27–37 (on google books)

Monday, October 17: The Essenes

Readings: VanderKam, 191–192, Josephus *Antiquities* 18.18–22

(<http://penelope.uchicago.edu/josephus/ant-18.html>; chapter 1, section 5)

Friday, October 21: The Community Rule

Readings:

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/gopher/other/courses/rels/225/Texts/1QS>

Week Seven

Monday, October 24: The Priests

Readings: VanderKam, 175–186

Monday, October 24: 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)

Friday, October 28: 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

Week Eight

Monday, October 31: The Zealots

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

Monday, October 31: 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>)

Friday, November 4: 4 Maccabees

Readings: 4 Maccabees (in your Bible or online)

Annotated Bibliography Due by 5.00pm (via A2L)

Week Nine

Monday, November 7: Wisdom Literature

Readings: Wisdom of Solomon; VanderKam, 115–28

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

Monday, November 7: Purity Concerns in Judea

Readings: Leviticus 11–16; Numbers 19

Friday, November 11: 4QMMT

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

Week Ten

Monday, November 14: Apocalyptic Literature

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

Monday, November 14: Messianic Thought

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

Friday, November 18: No Tutorial (I will be away at a conference)

Week Eleven

Monday, November 21: No Class (I will be away at a conference)

Friday, November 25: The Gospel of Matthew

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

Week Twelve

Monday, November 28: Early Christ Followers according to Luke-Acts

Readings: Acts of the Apostles

Monday, November 28: The Destruction of the Temple

Readings, VanderKam, 42-49

QUIZ FOUR: Fourth set of 25 terms (Roman Empire to Zealots)

Friday, December 2: Paul the Jew:

Readings: Romans and Galatians (online or in Bible)

Week Twelve

Monday, December 5: The Samaritans

Readings: John 4; Luke 10:29-37

Monday, December 5: The Development of Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism

Readings: Mishnah, tractate Avot

(<http://www.angelfire.com/mt/talmud/avot.html>)

Papers due by 11.59pm

[Course Policies](#)

[Submission of Assignments](#)

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments should be submitted electronically and on time on Avenue to Learn.

[Grades](#)

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

[Avenue to Learn](#)

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. 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.

[Turnitin.com](#)

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

[University Policies](#)

[Academic Integrity Statement](#)

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior 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 behavior 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.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

[Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#)

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

[Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy](#)

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

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.