

Eastern Michigan University
Department of History and Philosophy

HIST 304: Early Judaism

Winter 2016

Instructor: Dr. Mark F. Whitters
Office: PH 701E
Office Hours: TR 2-3 pm; also by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the origin and historical development of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman periods.

Webpage: All outlines and handouts found online. **There will generally be no class handouts!! Your course materials will be available via the Canvas course website.**

There are two ways to log on to **Canvas Learning Management System (LMS)**:

- Go to my.emich.edu and log in with your EMU username and password. Click the Canvas LMS box on the right-hand side or bottom of the page to log into your online course materials.
- Go to <http://canvas.emich.edu> and log in with your NetID username and password.

24/7 SUPPORT FOR CANVAS IS OFFERED AT (844) 326-6322.

APPLICABILITY TO DEGREE PROGRAMS

Restricted elective for History Major. Area elective for Area Studies Major in History with concentration in Middle East and North Africa. Elective for Teaching Major and Teaching Minor. Restricted elective for Religious Studies Minor.

PREREQUISITE

HIST 100 Comparative Study of Religion or HIST 101 Western Civilization to 1648 or HIST 109 World History to 1500 or equivalent.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Instructor's Objectives:

- Develop a fund of information concerning the origin and historical development of Judaism.
- Introduce and explain early Jewish biblical history, apocryphal, and pseudepigraphical literature.
- Illustrate the complexity of the first-century CE world.
- Equip the student so that historical and comparative methodologies contribute to a communicative understanding of Early Judaism.

Student's Objectives:

It is anticipated that students will develop varieties of knowledge, skills, and strategies in the class. The following list is a set of categories frequently recognized by educators.

Verbal skills	Learning new words; learning about foreign languages; geographical names; personal names; periods of time; names for theories and methodologies; dates
Intellectual skills	Reading more closely and carefully; encountering unfamiliar modes of thought; researching unfamiliar topics; seeing the familiar as unfamiliar; expressing complex thoughts in speech and writing; discussing and defending your ideas especially in a comparative and cooperative fashion
Cognitive strategies	Developing your own techniques for learning; solving complex problems; thinking historically; memorizing and remembering
Attitudes	Examining your own religious presuppositions; listening sympathetically to those of others; rethinking the relationship between religious beliefs and historical arguments; openness toward collaborative friendships on an intellectual project

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

VanderKam, James C. An Introduction to Early Judaism. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001 (cited as IEJ).

Nickelsburg, George W. E. Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2005 (cited as JLBM).

Cohen, Shaye J. D. From the Maccabees to the Mishnah. 2 ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006 (cited as MM).

Recommended

New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha. New Revised Standard Version. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Vermes, Geza, ed. and trans. The Complete Dead Sea scrolls in English. New York: Penguin, 1997.

The instructor will assign additional readings, documents, and images from the internet and printed sources at various times during the semester.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

No more than half of classroom instruction will involve lecture or other spoken presentation by the instructor. Some classes will be illustrated with images or video recordings. Open discussion with students will be crucial to the success of this class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation. You will be expected to attend and participate in all class sessions. Attendance means being in your seat and ready to participate at the beginning of the class hour, and remaining in the classroom until the end of the class hour. Late arrival disrupts the class, and departing during class is

rude. If medical or other causes may occasionally necessitate your late arrival or early departure, alert the instructor as necessary. Please do not eat or drink in the classroom.

At least 2 hours' study will normally be necessary to prepare for each class session. Assigned readings are to be completed before the class hour to which they pertain. Lectures, presentations, and discussions will presuppose familiarity with the readings. Informed participation in the class is necessary at all times.

Tests. There will be two (2) tests. Each test will entail objective questions (probably 60%) and at least one essay (probably 40%). You will receive a study guide for each test. The first test will cover the history of early Judaism, and the second test will cover its literature.

Essays. You must produce two essays outside of class. The first will be of about 500 words on an assigned topic. The second will be about 1500-2500 words based on the class project, on the last day of the class. Due dates will be announced.

Class Project: Debate. You will be a part of a team that responds to a final question or debate topic that arises from our study of the first century CE.

Participation. Your participation in the class will be cumulatively evaluated for the semester. Late in the semester, I will provide you an opportunity in class to complete an instrument assessing your own participation. I will consider that document in forming my own assessment. Your contributions to class discussion, ability to answer questions or otherwise demonstrate an informed grasp of past and current topics will be significant factors. I will look for evidence of progress in critical thinking, ability to apply and employ theoretical concepts presented, and increased facility in using technical vocabulary appropriate to discussion topics (elocution and eloquence).

Extracurriculars. If circumstances allow, there may be opportunities for outside activities (conferences, museum exhibits, etc.). This will count as extra-credit, unless the class wants to substitute an outside activity of one of the "course requirements" above.

Late tests, essays, and work on team projects will not be accepted. No late exams will be given unless there is a medical excuse. All written assignments are to be handed in (and **not emailed**), typed, stapled, and double-spaced on the due date.

Weighting:

Tests	50%
Essays	20% (10% for Essay 1; 15% for Essay 2)
Team project	15%
Participation	10%
Extracurriculars	1-2%

Grading Scale

100%-94%=A	86%-84% =B	76%-74% =C	66%-64% =D
93%-90% =A-	83%-80% =B-	73%-70% =C-	63%-60%=D-
89%-87% =B+	79%-77% =C+	69%-67% =D+	Below 60%=E

The Writing Center (in Pray Harrold) is a free resource for all EMU students. Writing Center tutors will work with you on papers for your classes. Their assistance includes planning a document, revisions, and all the steps in between. Usually papers with a Writing Center evaluation receive extra credit. See the appendix below for more information about the Writing Center.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, will not be tolerated in this class. Penalties for cheating may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the *Office of Student Judicial Services* for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal.

Cheating on exams or any dishonesty on the assignments is a violation of the educational code of honor and will not be tolerated. Copying and pasting from a website or submitting another's work as your own is cheating. Failure of the course is automatic for such unacceptable conduct.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Reasonable Accommodation

If you require reasonable accommodation to complete the requirements of the course satisfactorily, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your request. The EMU Students with Disabilities Office (SWD) provides accommodations for students with disabilities and assists faculty and staff with the implementation of those accommodations. SWD also provides technical assistance, consultation, and training to departments on campus and organizations in the community regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Disability Awareness, Inclusion and Accessibility. <http://www.emich.edu/disabilites/>

- Please turn off electronic devices and store them away, except the ones that in common use for classroom participation. Do not use the electronic devices for entertainment during in-class sessions.
- Please turn off instant messaging during class time and refrain from playing games on your computer.
- Please turn off mobile phones when you are in the classroom.
- **Religious holidays.** All students have a right to observe religious celebrations, especially Passover/Easter. Students should provide advance notice to the instructor in order to make up work, including examinations, missed as a result of their absence from class for religious reasons. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the instructor, the student may appeal to the department head.

SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Text Reading	Source Reading	Due
<u>Background History</u>				
1/7	Introduction to the Course		Israel's problem: Jer 7:1-15; 26:1-24	
1/12, 1/14	Review of Biblical History; The Persian Empire & Judaism	IEJ 1-11 JLBM 8-15	Israel's punishment: Jer 39-43; Israel's promised restoration: Jer 29-33	
1/19, 1/21	The Hellenistic Period Rm Conquest & Control	IEJ 11-32 JLBM 41-43; 425 IEJ 32-52 JLBM 231-238	Letter of Aristeas, chap. 12	
<u>Jewish Literature before 1st Century CE</u>				
1/26, 1/28	Jewish Languages & Literature Archaeological Discovery: Elephantine frags., Dead Sea Scrolls	IEJ 39-52; 147-166 JLBM 13-14	Community Rule (1 QS); Damascus Document	Test 1
2/2, 2/4	Apocryphal History: 1-2 Maccabees 1 Esdras	IEJ 62-69; 72-75 JLBM 102-110	1 Esdras 3-5	
2/9, 2/11	2 nd Temple Literature: Categories & Genres: Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha; Apocryphal History: Judith	IEJ 53-58 IEJ 59-62 JLBM 27-29	Judith 1-14	
2/16, 2/18	Rewritten Scripture: "Watchers" (1 Enoch 1-36) Jubilees	IEJ 88-94 JLBM 43-53; 114-115; IEJ 97-100 JLBM 67-74	1 Enoch 1-36	Essay 1

	Testaments	IEJ 100-102; 94-97 JLBM 301-315		
2/23, 2/25	BREAK			
3/1, 3/3	Apocalypses: "Weeks" (I Enoch 91-93); "Book of Dreams" (I Enoch 83-90)	IEJ 102-107	I Enoch 91-93 I Enoch 83-90	
3/8, 3/10	Wisdom: Ben Sira	IEJ 115-119 JLBM 53-63 MM 115-117	Sirach 1-34; 44-51; 4QInstruction, esp. 115-118 (Instruction for a Student)	Test 2 Contrast Sirach's ideal student with DSS student
<u>The First Century CE</u>				
3/15, 3/17	1 st C CE: The Sects	IEJ 32-48; 184-193 MM 119-166		
3/22, 3/24	1 st C: Rabbis	MM 205-223		
3/29, 3/31	1 st C: Qumran	IEJ 150-166 JLBM 119-159; 179-181		
4/5, 4/7	1 st C CE: Josephus, Philo, 4 Ezra, 2 Baruch	IEJ 138-146 JLBM 263-300 Whittters article		
4/12, 4/14	Was Jesus a good Jew?	Class Sanhedrin		Debate
Finals Week				Essay 2

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

115 Halle Library

734-487-0694

<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>

WINTER 2016 SYLLABUS TEXT

The **University Writing Center** (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students can make appointments or drop in between the hours of **10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays**. The UWC opens for the Winter 2016 semester on **Monday, January 11** and will close on **Tuesday, April 19**. Students are encouraged to come to the UWC at any stage of the writing process.

The UWC also has several satellite locations across campus (in Owen, Marshall, Pray-Harrold, and Mark Jefferson). These satellites provide drop-in writing support to students in various colleges and programs. **Satellite locations and hours can be found on the UWC web site: <http://www.emich.edu/uwc>.**

UWC writing consultants also work in the **Academic Projects Center** (116 Halle Library), which offers drop-in consulting for students on writing, research, and technology-related issues. The APC is open **11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays**. Additional information about the APC can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/apc>.

Students seeking writing support at any location of the University Writing Center should bring a draft of their writing (along with any relevant instructions or rubrics) to work on during the consultation.