EARLY JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY
MWF 3rd
Little 233

Instructor: James R. Mueller
Office Hours: MWF – 4th period
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W – 2nd period
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Course Description: This course will trace the developments from Ancient Israelite religion to Early Judaism (concentrating on the Hellenistic and Roman periods), and the emergence of Christianity from this Jewish matrix (including both the indebtedness of Early Christianity to Judaism and the Early Christian [and to a lesser extent Jewish] polemic against its sibling). The course does presuppose some background on the part of the student in terms of both course content and critical methodology.

Required Texts:

S. Cohen, From the Maccabees to the Mishnah, 3rd edition (=Cohen)
G. Nickelsburg and M. Stone, Early Judaism: Texts and Documents on Faith and Piety, revised edition (=Nickelsburg/Stone)
R. Stark, The Rise of Christianity (=Stark)

Course Grade:
Quizzes x3 (10% each) 30%
1st Take-home Exam (Early Judaism) 25%
2nd Take-home Exam (Early Christianity - not comprehensive) 25%
Daily Assignment Questions/Attendance 20%
collected intermittently without advance notice
3-5 significant questions or observations which come from the reading assignment

Grading Scale:
Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A 93-100
A- 90-92
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82

C+ 77-79
C 73-76
C- 70-72
D 60-69
E 0-59
For UF policies on grading, please see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Attendance:
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Course Evaluations:
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu.

Classroom Accommodations:
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

ASSIGNMENTS

AUG 24  General Introduction to the Course
          Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 1-8

EARLY JUDAISM

26, 28, 31  Ancient Israel to Early Judaism
            Cohen, pp. 1-26
            Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 18-21

SEP 2, 4, 9  Gentile Political Domination
            Cohen, pp. 26-37
            Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 42-47, 121-150, 159-179

11  QUIZ 1 (10%)

14, 16  Anti-Judaism and Philo-Judaism
        Cohen, pp. 37-51
        Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 47-49

18, 21  Jewish "Religion"
        Cohen, pp. 53-102
        Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 93-109, 201-227
23, 25  Community and Institutions  
Cohen, pp. 103-122  
Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 55-80

28, 30  Sects  
Cohen, pp. 123-142  
Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 9-18

OCT 2, 5, 7  Pharisees, Essenes, Sadducees, Zealots  
Cohen, pp. 142-171  
Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 21-42

9  QUIZ 2 (10%)  

12  Canon  
Cohen, pp. 173-190  
Ehrman, pp. 365-372

14  Implications of Canonization  
Cohen, pp. 190-210

16  Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism  
Cohen, pp. 211-229  
Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 87-89, 116-118, 152-156, 194-196, 228

TAKE-HOME EXAM – DUE OCT 23 (25%)

EARLY JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY  

19  Conversion and Christian Growth  
Stark, pp. 3-27  
Ehrman, pp. 1-25

21  Class Basis of Early Christianity  
Stark, pp. 29-47

23  The Mission to the Jews  
Stark, pp. 49-71  
Cohen, pp. 231-258

26  Anti-Jewish Polemic  
Ehrman, pp. 111-147  
Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 80-87
28 Epidemics, Networks, and Conversion  
Stark, pp. 73-94

30 Role of Women in Christian Growth  
Stark, pp. 95-128  
Ehrman, pp. 475-504

NOV 2 Christianizing the Roman Empire  
Stark, pp. 129-145

4, 9 Early Christian Apologists  
Ehrman, pp. 56-110

13 QUIZ 3 (10%)

16 Urban Chaos and Crisis  
Stark, pp. 147-162

18 The Martyrs  
Stark, pp. 163-189

20, 23 Attacks on Christianity  
Ehrman, pp. 26-55

30 Opportunity and Organization  
Stark, pp. 191-208

DEC 2 Church Offices/Liturgy/Homilies  
Ehrman, pp. 373-474 (selections)

4, 7 Diversity in Early Christianity: Orthodoxy/Heresy  
Ehrman, pp. 148-364 (selections)

9 Stark Reflections/Summary/Conclusions  
Stark, pp. 209-215  
Ehrman, pp. 505-553  
Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 109-111

TAKE-HOME EXAM – DUE DEC 17 (25%)