

Fall 2015  
REL 3321/JST 3938

## EARLY JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY

MWF 3rd  
Little 233

Instructor: James R. Mueller  
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Office Hours: MWF – 4<sup>th</sup> period  
W – 2<sup>nd</sup> period  
or by appointment

**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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)  
B. Ehrman, After the New Testament, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (=Ehrman)

### 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	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D	60-69
B-	80-82	E	0-59



- 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
<b>13</b>	<b>QUIZ 3 (10%)</b>
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%)**