

Fall 2017
REL 3321/JST 3938

EARLY JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY

MWF 4th
Matherly 013

Instructor: James R. Mueller
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Office Hours: M, F – 3rd period
W – 5th 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, 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)
B. Ehrman, After the New Testament, 2nd edition (=Ehrman)

Course Grade:

Quizzes x3 (10% each)	30%
1st Take-home Exam (Early Judaism)	30%
2nd Take-home Exam (Early Christianity - not comprehensive)	30%
Daily Assignment Questions/Attendance	10%
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

For UF policies on grading, please see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

- 27 Epidemics, Networks, and Conversion
Stark, pp. 73-94
- 30 Role of Women in Christian Growth
Stark, pp. 95-128
Ehrman, pp. 475-504
- NOV 1 Christianizing the Roman Empire
Stark, pp. 129-145
- 3, 6 Early Christian Apologists
Ehrman, pp. 56-110
- 8 Urban Chaos and Crisis
Stark, pp. 147-162
- 10 NO CLASS - VETERANS DAY OBSERVED
- 13 **QUIZ 3 (10%) – covers material through Nov 6 assignment**
- 15 The Martyrs
Stark, pp. 163-189
- 17, 20 Attacks on Christianity
Ehrman, pp. 26-55
- 22, 24 NO CLASS _ THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 27 Opportunity and Organization
Stark, pp. 191-208
- 29 Church Offices/Liturgy
Ehrman, pp. 429-446, 454-471
- DEC 1 Biblical Interpretation
Ehrman, pp. 373-389, 394-407
- 4 Winners and Losers: Orthodoxy/Heresy
Ehrman, pp. 148-156, 162-163, 188-196, 211-218, 224-242, 249-262
- 6 Stark Reflections/Summary/Conclusions
Stark, pp. 209-215
Ehrman, pp. 505-553
Nickelsburg/Stone, pp. 109-111

TAKE-HOME EXAM – DUE DEC 14 (25%)