

Spring 2014  
RELIGION 3321

**EARLY JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY**

MWF 4<sup>th</sup>  
Little 233

Instructor: James R. Mueller  
131 Anderson Hall  
Tel. - 392-1625

Office Hours: MWF – 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> periods  
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 (=Cohen)
- R. Stark, The Rise of Christianity (=Stark)
- B. Ehrman, After the New Testament (=Ehrman)
- S. Korb, Life in Year One: What the World Was Like in First-Century Palestine (=Korb)

**Course Grade:**

1st Exam (Early Judaism)	40%
2nd Exam (Early Christianity - not comprehensive)	40%
Daily Assignment Questions	20%
collected intermittently without advance notice	
3-5 significant questions or observations which come from the reading assignment	

Attendance is required at all class meetings. Excessive unexcused absenteeism will result in lowering of the student's grade.

For UF policies on grading, please see:  
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

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

JAN 6                      General Introduction to the Course

## EARLY JUDAISM

8, 10, 13                Ancient Israel to Early Judaism  
                                Cohen, pp. 1-26  
                                Korb, read completely before 1<sup>st</sup> exam

15, 17, 22              Gentile Political Domination  
                                Cohen, pp. 26-37; 1 Maccabees

24, 27                    Anti-Judaism and Philo-Judaism  
                                Cohen, pp. 37-50

29, 31                    Jewish "Religion"  
                                Cohen, pp. 51-98

FEB 3, 5                 Community and Institutions  
                                Cohen, pp. 99-118

7, 10                     Sects  
                                Cohen, pp. 119-138

12, 14, 17              Pharisees, Essenes, Sadducees, Zealots  
                                Cohen, pp. 138-166

19                         Canon  
                                Cohen, pp. 167-184; Ehrman, pp. 309-316

21                         Implications of Canonization  
                                Cohen, pp. 184-204

24                         Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism  
                                Cohen, pp. 205-223

26                         Review for Exam

28                         **1st EXAM**

## **EARLY JUDAISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY**

- 10 Conversion and Christian Growth  
Stark, pp. 3-27; Ehrman, pp. 1-24
- 12 Class Basis of Early Christianity  
Stark, pp. 29-47
- 14 The Mission to the Jews  
Stark, pp. 49-71
- 17 Anti-Jewish Polemic  
Ehrman, pp. 95-130
- 19 Epidemics, Networks, and Conversion  
Stark, pp. 73-94
- 21 Role of Women in Christian Growth  
Stark, pp. 95-128
- 24 Christianizing the Roman Empire  
Stark, pp. 129-145
- 26, 28 Early Christian Apologists  
Ehrman, pp. 51-94
- 31 Urban Chaos and Crisis  
Stark, pp. 147-162
- APR 2 The Martyrs  
Stark, pp. 163-189
- 4, 7 Attacks on Christianity  
Ehrman, 25-50
- 9 Opportunity and Organization  
Stark, pp. 191-208
- 11 Church Offices/Liturgy/Homilies  
Ehrman, pp. 317-382
- 14 Stark Reflections  
Stark, pp. 209-215; Ehrman, pp. 383-404

16, 18

Diversity in Early Christianity: Orthodoxy/Heresy  
Ehrman, pp. 131-308, 405-436 (selections)

21

Review for Exam

23

**2nd EXAM**