

1-1-2001

BS 715 Judaism

M. Robert Mulholland

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Mulholland, M. Robert, "BS 715 Judaism" (2001). *Syllabi*. Book 596.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/596>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the eCommons at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

PERSPECTIVE: "Think not that I came to abolish the Law and the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill"(Mt 5:17). "But now, apart from legalism, God's righteousness has been manifested, being attested by the Law and the Prophets, . . ." (Rom 3:21). God in Jesus as Messiah was born, lived, taught, ministered, died, resurrected, and poured out His Spirit within the perceptual/experiential horizon of first-century Judaism. Earliest Christianity was a thoroughly Jewish phenomenon, and its greatest "missionary" to the Gentiles was a zealous Pharisee. The perceptual/experiential horizon of our life in Christ and our study of His Word may be profoundly enriched through apperception of the perceptual/experiential horizon of first-century Judaism. It is my prayerful intention to seek to be all the Lord purposes for me to be in leading this class so that such an enrichment can be yours in Him; and it is my prayerful hope that you will seek to allow the Lord to so guide your study and participation that His full purpose for your enrichment might be fulfilled in this course.

PURPOSE: We will seek to allow the Lord to actualize His purposes for us in this course through a study of the history and development of Judaism from the Babylonian Captivity (c. 587 B. C.) to the codification of the Mishnah (c. 200 A. D.), with special emphasis upon Palestinian and Diaspora Judaism as the milieu from which Christianity emerged.

PARTICULARS: I prayerfully expect that your faithful stewardship and discipline in this course will be used of the Lord to enable you to acquire the following knowledge and ability:

1. Development of a comprehension of the history of the Jewish people from the time of the Babylonian captivity to the end of the 2nd century A. D.

- a. Palestinian Judaism: Return from Exile; Persian, Ptolemaic and Seleucid periods; Maccabean Revolt; Hasmonean Dynasty; Herodian Dynasty; Roman Period; the Jewish War; the Bar Kokhba Revolt.

- b. Diaspora Judaism: Persian-Hellenistic Period; the Roman Empire.

2. Acquisition of understanding of the development of Judaism from Scribal to Pharisaic to Rabbinic, and to comprehend the inner connections and outer structures of this development as they relate to other aspects of Jewish life: the Temple, the Synagogue, the Sadducees, the Essenes, the Zealots and Sicarii, Apocalypticism, Social-Economic Order, Political-Religious Order.

3. Ability to relate the New Testament to the fabric of Palestinian and Diaspora Judaism from which it emerged.

PROCEDURES: The following will provide some of the scholarly disciplines of loving obedience and stewardship through which I trust the Lord will enable us to actualize His purposes for the course:

1. Texts: E. Ferguson, *Background of Early Christianity*, (2nd ed.)
N. T. Wright, *The New Testament and the People of God*

2. Preparation:

- a. It is hoped that you will enter into a covenant of prayer for the class and the course.
- b. It is urged that each period of individual study be started with prayer, interlaced with prayer, and dedicated to God in prayer at its close.
- c. It is expected that you will be a faithful steward of time in two areas:
 - i. Consistent participation in class sessions
 - ii. Commit at least two hours to the Lord for prayer and study in preparation for each class hour.
- c. It is expected that you will come to class fully prepared through disciplined prayer and study so as to be all God wants you to be in the class session.
- d. It is presumed that you will exhibit graduate level competence in comprehension of reading, integration of learning, and presentation of understanding.

3. Class Sessions:

- a. This course is designed as a research seminar and will combine lectures, reports, and discussion as vehicles of learning.
- b. It is expected that as a member of the seminar you will participate fully in discussion and interaction, contributing insights and knowledge gained from your reading and research.

4. Presentation of Research:

Class presentations: You may be responsible for leading the seminar learning experience either in the area of the history of Judaism or in the area of the dynamics of Judaism. These will consist of: 1) presentation of your research and 2) interaction with the members of the seminar on the topics, keeping in view the significance of the topic for our understanding of the New Testament and Christian experience.

5. Grade Contract:

Regular class attendance, fulfillment of the assignments listed under TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, will be considered "essential achievement of course objectives" and earn a grade of "C" (Cf. Catalog, p. 28). Anyone desiring a higher grade will enter into a contract for the desired grade in which they set forth the additional learning experience(s) they intend to fulfill for the grade desired. Possible options would include (but not be limited to): research papers, additional readings, extended book reviews, exams, lesson plans, charts, etc. This is an opportunity for you to design your own learning experience in an area and a mode which will be of most benefit to you in your life and ministry.

6. PERFORMANCE:

All work will be evaluated on the basis of the grade contract. Any work not measuring up to the level of the contracted grade will be returned for reworking and resubmission. You are urged to consult with me if, at any time, you believe that you have not been fairly or accurately evaluated. Faithful, consistent, obedient stewardship of time and work, in which you seek to be faithful to the Lord's purposes for you in the course, should result in high quality work and corresponding evaluations.

In order to maintain integrity with those who are faithful to the learning covenant, the following actions will govern attendance and submission of work:

Up to 10% unexcused absences -- 1 grade-level reduction (A/A-)

10 to 20% unexcused absences -- 2 grade-level reduction (A/B+) Etc.
Late submission of work --1 grade-level reduction/week

7. The quality of oral and written projects should reflect work done as unto the Lord for they will reflect the cumulative results of the depth and faithfulness of your stewardship of time and study.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: The following list is neither exhaustive nor inclusive. It is merely a starting point for study and research.

General Bibliography:

J. C. Hurd, *A Bibliography of New Testament Bibliographies*, 40-42.
D. M. Scholer, *A Basic Bibliographic Guide for New Testament Exegesis*, Ch. 12:
"Literature, History and Religion of the New Testament World: Jewish."
Paul-Emile Langevin, *Biblical Bibliography*, 2 Vols.

Dictionaries:

Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible
The Jewish Encyclopedia *Encyclopaedia Judaica*

Periodicals:

Hebrew Union College Annual *Judaism*
Jewish Quarterly Review *Revue de Qumran*
Journal of Jewish Studies *New Testament Abstracts*
Journal of Semitic Studies
Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period

Original Sources:

R. H. Charles, *Apocrypha of The Old Testament; Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*
H. Danby, *The Mishnah*
Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews; The Jewish War; Life; Against Apion*
Philo, (His collected works in the Loeb Classical Library Series)
Corpus Papyrorum Judaicarum
G. Vermes, *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*
A. Dupont-Sommer, *The Essene Writings from Qumran*

History:

E. Bickerman, *From Ezra to the Last of the Maccabees*
R. Eisenman, *Macabees, Zadokites, Christians and Qumran*
D. E. Gowan, *Bridge between the Testaments*
J. Klausner, *The History of the Period of the Second Temple*
G. F. Moore, *Judaism in the First Three Centuries of The Christian Era*
F. E. Peters, *The Harvest of Hellenism*
Yonah and Baras, *Society and Religion in the Second Temple Period*

Religion and Culture:

J. Bonsirven, *Palestinian Judaism in the Time of Jesus Christ*
R. H. Charles, *Eschatology*.
S.J.D. Cohen, *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah*.

Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum (2 Vols.)
 W. D. Davies, *Jewish and Pauline Studies; Introduction to Pharisaism*
 W. Farmer, *Maccabees, Zealots and Josephus*
 L. Finkelstein, *The Pharisees; Pharisaism in the Making*
 C. R. Gianotti, *The New Testament and the Mishnah*
 M. Grant, *The Jews in the Roman World*
 J. Gutmann, *Ancient Synagogues*
 Hammerton-Kelly and Scroggs, *Jews, Greeks and Christians*
 P. D. Hanson, *The Dawn of Apocalyptic*
 M. Hengel, *Judaism and Hellenism; Jews, Greeks and Barbarians*
 J. Jeremias, *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*
 H. J. Lyon, *The Jews of Ancient Rome*
 M. McNamara, *Palestinian Judaism and the New Testament*
 E. M. Meyers, *Archaeology, the Rabbis, and Early Christianity*
 J. Neusner, *The Pharisees; From Politics to Piety; Early Rabbinic Judaism; First Century Judaism in Crisis; Judaism in the Beginning of Christianity; Pharisaic Judaism before 70 C. E.; A Rabbi Talks with Jesus*
 Nickelsburg and Stone, *Faith and Piety in Early Judaism*
 R. H. Pfeiffer, *History of New Testament Times*
 E. Rivkin, *A Hidden Revolution: The Pharisees' Search for the Kingdom Within*
 H. H. Rowley, *The Relevance of Apocalyptic*
 D. S. Russell, *The-Method and Message of Jewish Apocalyptic; Between the Testaments*
 M. Safrai, *The Jewish People in the First Century*
 E. P. Sanders, *Paul and Palestinian Judaism; Paul, the Law and the Jewish People: Judaism: Practice and Belief 63 BCE to 66 CE.*
 S. Sandmel, *The First Christian Century in Judaism and Christianity; Society and Religion in the Second Temple Period; Judaism and Christian Beginnings; Herod; A Jewish Understanding of the New Testament*
 E. M. Smallwood, *The Jews under Roman Rule*
 H. L. Strack, *Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash*
 Strack and Billerbeck, *Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch*
 V. Tcherikover, *Hellenistic Civilization and the Jews*
 S. Zeitlin, *Studies in the Early History of Judaism* (3 Vols.); *The Rise and Fall of the Judean State*

Literature:

G. W. E. Nickelsburg, *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah*
 L. Rost, *Judaism Outside the Hebrew Canon*

Web Sites:

General links and bibliographies:

<http://eikon.divinity.yale.edu/links.htm>
<http://www.ntgateway.com/judaica.htm>

Second Temple Judaism:

http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/Dinur/Internetresources/historyresources/second_temple_and_talmudic_era.htm
<http://smu.edu/~dbinder/>

Dead Sea Scrolls:

<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/>

Josephus:

<http://www.uni-muenster.de/Judaicum/english.html>

Women and Gender in the Ancient World:

<http://www.uky.edu/ArtsSciences/Classics/biblio/christianity.html>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
1/2	I. Introduction	
	II. The History of Judaism	
	A. The Exile and its consequences	
	1. Overview	
	2. Ezra --The First Scribe	F377-78
	B. Palestinian Judaism	
	1. Under Persian Rule	
	2. Under Ptolemaic Rule	
1/3	3. Under Seleucid Rule	F373-383, W Ch 6
	4. The Maccabean Revolt	F383-388
1/4	5. The Hasmonean Dynasty "	
1/5	6. The Herodian Dynasty	F388-391-499
1/9	7. Under Roman Rule	F391-396
	8. The Jewish War	F396-400, 456-461
	9. The Bar-Cokeba Revolt	F400-402
1/10	C. Diaspora Judaism	
	1. The Persian Period	F403-406
	2. The Hellenistic Period	
1/11	3. The Roman Period	F450-455, 479-80
1/12	III. The Dynamics of Judaism	
	A. The Cultus	
	1. The Temple/Priests	F521-532, W Ch 7
	2. The Sadducees	F486-7
NO CLASS 1/16-19 – WORK ON YOUR PROJECT		
1/23	B. The Torah	F406-435, W Ch 8-9
	1. The Synagogue	F473-478, 539-546

	2. The Scribes	
	3. The Hasidim/Essenes	F487-490
	4. Apocalyptic Judaism	F436-449, 487-497, W Ch. 10
1/24	5. The Pharisees	F480-485
	a. Schools	F461-470
	b. Social Order	F533-538
1/25	c. Political/Religious Order: Zealots and Sicarii	F497-498
	d. Beliefs	F502-512, 517-521
	e. Life	F512-517
1/26	C. The Aftermath of the Jewish War: The Traditions of Yavneh	
	D. Second Century Judaism to the Mishnah	