

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A survey of the history and literature of the intertestamental period with the aim of understanding more adequately the background and setting of significant New Testament ideas and institutions.

II. COURSE RATIONALE

The faculty of NTS view the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. We believe this view accords with historic Christianity, as well as with the direction of God found in the Bible itself.

Nazarenes and other Wesleyan/holiness people do not assert that the Bible is either first or foremost a book of history. Yet much of God's revelation in the Bible is historically and geographically determined in its form, its focus, and its sequence, if not entirely in its essence. Therefore, if we would understand the intended meaning of the Bible and its enduring import, we must understand the stage upon which, and the human history through which, it was given.

If this is true, then it is extremely important for Christians in professional ministry--leaders and "resident theologians" in and of the Church--to possess and be able to use more than a passing knowledge of the wrongly-so-called "silent years" between the end of Old Testament prophecy and the beginning of the New Testament period. The First-Century faces of Judaism, and the Greco-Hellenistic-Roman world in which Judaism existed and functioned, are incomprehensible without knowledge of this critical period. The development of early Christianity within the Second Temple Judaism of the Holy Land, and its expansion into the various Jewish Diasporas, and beyond into the Gentile world, likewise can be understood and valued properly only with this knowledge.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- A. Name and summarize the content of the most significant Jewish writings of the intertestamental period: the OT Apocrypha, selections from the Dead Sea Scrolls, and a handful of other primary sources.
- B. Name and discuss major persons, places, and events of the intertestamental period, and their importance in and for the New Testament record.
- C. Discuss significant doctrinal developments within the Judaism/Judaisms of the intertestamental period, and their impact on New Testament theology.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS

- A. Any version, any edition of the Old Testament Apocrypha.
- B. Rainey, Anson F., and R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: CARTA Jerusalem, 2006.

V. STUDENT EVALUATION

Your course grade will be determined by the following:

- A. Both class attendance and timely completion of assigned reading will be necessary to earn a grade of "A" for the course.
- B. Ten six-hundred-word essays will be assigned weekly, beginning Sept. 17. On matters of mechanics, etc., NTS uses Turabian's text/manual.
- C. Students desiring to work for a grade of "A" in the course will complete a final paper or other project, according to a proposal submitted by Oct. 29.

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE

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| Sept. | 10 – Syllabus; course organization; the Old Testament background
17 – <i>1 Esdras</i> ; <i>The Sacred Bridge (TSB)</i> , chapter 16
Essay title: The Extent of the Persian Province of Yehud
24 – <i>3 Maccabees</i> ; <i>TSB</i> , chapter 17
Essay title: A Historical "Translation" of Daniel 8 |
| Oct. | 1 – <i>1 Maccabees</i> ; <i>2 Maccabees</i> ; <i>4 Maccabees</i> ; <i>TSB</i> , chapter 18
Essay title: Judah Maccabee: A Profile
8 – <i>1 Maccabees</i> ; <i>2 Maccabees</i> ; <i>4 Maccabees</i> ; <i>TSB</i> , chapter 18
Essay title: "Judah the Hammer" in Handel's <i>Judas Maccabaeus</i>
15 – <i>TSB</i> , chapter 19
Essay title: The Expansion of the Hasmonean Kingdom
22 – No class session (Reading and Research Week)
29 – <i>Tobit</i> , <i>Judith</i>
Essay: Student's choice of issue from <i>Tobit</i> or <i>Judith</i>
Paper/project proposal due |
| Nov. | 5 – <i>Daniel</i> , including <i>Additions</i> ; <i>Esther</i>
From here on, essay topics are each student's choice, from
assigned reading for each week, respectively.
12 – <i>Psalm 151</i> ; <i>Prayer of Manasseh</i> ; <i>Baruch</i> ; <i>The Letter of Jeremiah</i>
19 – <i>Wisdom of Solomon</i> ; <i>Ecclesiasticus</i>
26 – <i>TSB</i> , chapter 20; Selections from and on the Dead Sea Scrolls |
| Dec. | 3 – <i>2 Esdras</i> ; <i>TSB</i> , chapters 21-25
10 – Individual presentations of final papers/projects |

Note: Should you elect to prepare one, a detailed written proposal (content and design) for your final paper/project is due October 29, by class time. The paper/project itself is due December 10, by class time.