

Messianic Jewish Theological Institute

H503 –Medieval Judaism

Instructor: Elliot Klayman

Location: Online

Dates: December 31, 2017– March 4, 2018 (Winter Quarter, 2017-18)

Note: This is an expanded course description and not the syllabus. Students who want to begin reading before the syllabus is posted (usually one month prior to the start of class) should contact the course instructor directly to confirm what required readings will be on the syllabus. For the instructor's contact information, email the SJS registrar at admin@mjti.org.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course studies the development of Judaism from the close of the Talmud to the dawn of the modern era. It focuses on the development of Jewish culture and the life of the Jewish community in Christian and Muslim contexts, with special attention given to the classic texts that emerged from this period – biblical commentaries, legal codes, mystical literature, and philosophical treatises.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRICULUM

This is a Core Course, which is required for the Jewish Studies and Rabbinic Studies programs.

RELEVANCE

This course is essential for the continuation of the historical background of the Jewish people. The historical period for this course starts with the close of the Amoraic period and the rise of Islam in the 7th century, and ends in the beginning of the modern period, circa 1700.

PREREQUISITES

None

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

This is an online course. The student must have a computer and internet access.

COURSE FORMAT

Posted lectures and asynchronous online delivery and discussion (by discussion threads).

REQUIREMENTS

Reading all materials, submitting assignments on time, full participation in all blog discussions, and satisfactory completion of final examination.

REQUIRED TEXTS (The publication dates indicate the required edition of each text.)

- Cohen, Mark R. *Under Crescent & Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2008.
- Frank, Daniel & Matt Goldish, eds. *Rabbinic Culture and its Critics: Jewish Authority, Dissent, and Heresy in Medieval and Early Modern Times*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2008. (Selections)
- Gerber, Jane S. *The Jews of Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience*. New York: The Free Press, 1994.
- Goldish, Matt. *Sabbatean Prophets*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Holtz, Barry W., ed. *Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006. (Selections)