



MESSIANIC JEWISH THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Teaching and living a prophetic vision of Jewish life renewed in Yeshua

Academic Catalog

2020-2021

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Introducing Messianic Jewish Theological Institute

Established in 1997, Messianic Jewish Theological Institute (MJTI) offers quality education at the graduate level, training Messianic Jewish Rabbis (Rabbinic Studies), as well as leaders and laity (Jewish Studies) to function in today's world of Messianic Judaism and to participate in building the Messianic Jewish future. Hashivenu, MJTI's venue for academic forums, and Kesher, MJTI's Messianic Jewish theological journal, are part of the MJTI network.

MJTI offers online Master of Rabbinic Studies and Master of Jewish Studies degrees, as well as Certificate Tracks related to specific fields of concentration, e.g., Biblical Hebrew, Messianic Jewish Studies, and Rabbinic Literature.

MJTI Mission and Core Values

MJTI Core Values

1. MJTI seeks to be a community that models devotion to God through Messiah Yeshua in the Ruach Kodesh (Holy Spirit), Jewish spirituality and practice, ethics embodying the teaching of our sacred texts, and competent and caring spiritual leadership.
2. MJTI supports and promotes dedication to the well-being of the Jewish people, respect for the Christian church and commitment to its welfare, participation in God's redemptive activity in the world, and responsibility to bear witness to Yeshua as good news for all Israel.
3. MJTI commits itself to fidelity to Scripture as God's revelation, continuity with Jewish tradition and scholarship, engagement with Christian tradition and scholarship, and interaction with contemporary culture and current academic thought.
4. MJTI as an organization prizes people, teamwork, learning, and excellence.

Mission

Teaching and living a prophetic vision of Jewish life renewed in Yeshua.

MJTI seeks to be a prophetic sign of Israel's destiny by exemplifying and advancing Jewish life renewed in Yeshua. This foretaste of Israel's destiny in Yeshua is realized as MJTI serves as:

- a theological and prophetic vision center for the Messianic Jewish community;
- a leadership-training center rooted in a contemporary Jewish experience of Yeshua and a Messianic interpretation of Judaism;

- a dialogue center for open and respectful theological encounter between faithful Christians and Jews;
- a Jewish school born in the Diaspora but oriented to Israel.

These core statements give shape to the specific mission of MJTI and are the foundation upon which MJTI's educational outreach is based. The first two are particularly relevant to the Graduate School.

Leadership-Training Center and Messianic Jewish School

At the heart of MJTI is a community of scholars and leaders who teach Jewish followers of Yeshua to live as Jews faithful to Torah and to see Yeshua through the lens of over twenty-five hundred years of Jewish thought and experience (Acts 21:20-24; Acts 7). At the same time, the Judaism through which the community sees Yeshua is transformed by the crucified and risen Messiah whom it finds revealed at its center. This living process manifests the truth that Yeshua is key to understanding Judaism, and that the historical reality of Jewish life through the centuries is key to understanding Yeshua. MJTI works towards this fulfillment of Jewish life and tradition in Yeshua that reaches its end when all Israel acknowledges Messiah Yeshua as the Renewer of Jewish life (Acts 3:21).

A Vision Center

Every Jewish movement has at its heart a center of learning that provides it with both the trained leaders and the theological vision needed to grow and thrive. The scholars, teachers, staff, and students of MJTI seek to express theologically and exemplify communally a creative and faithful vision for the Messianic Jewish community capable of pointing the way through a century filled with promise and challenge. This vision is both theologically rich and prophetically guided, shaped by the past and pulled forward by God's future encountered now through Israel's risen Messiah. The ever-deepening relationship between Israel and her Messiah already signals this new era (Rom. 11:12). (The [MJTI Mission Statement](#) is available in full on the MJTI website.)

UMJC Recognition

MJTI is recognized by the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) and is in harmony with its understanding of Messianic Judaism. The authoritative statements of doctrine, vision, and values adopted by the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) are formative to MJTI. The UMJC *Defining Messianic Judaism Statement* is particularly relevant to the overall shape of the Messianic Judaism that MJTI seeks to promote. Therefore, it is presented in full.

Defining Messianic Judaism Statement

The Basic Statement

The Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) envisions Messianic Judaism as a movement of Jewish congregations and groups committed to Yeshua the Messiah that embrace the covenantal responsibility of Jewish life and identity rooted in Torah, expressed in tradition, and renewed and applied in the context of the New Covenant. Messianic Jewish groups may also include those from non-Jewish backgrounds who have a confirmed call to participate fully in the life and destiny of the Jewish people. We are committed to embodying this definition in our constituent congregations and in our shared institutions.

The Expanded Statement

Jewish life is life in a concrete, historical community. Thus, Messianic Jewish groups must be fully part of the Jewish people, sharing its history and its covenantal responsibility as a people chosen by God. At the same time, faith in Yeshua also has a crucial communal dimension. This faith unites the Messianic Jewish community and the Christian Church, which is the assembly of the faithful from the nations who are joined to Israel through the Messiah. Together the Messianic Jewish community and the Christian Church constitute the ekklesia, the one Body of Messiah, a community of Jews and Gentiles who in their ongoing distinction and mutual blessing anticipate the shalom of the world to come.

For a Messianic Jewish group 1) to fulfill the covenantal responsibility incumbent upon all Jews, 2) to bear witness to Yeshua within the people of Israel, and 3) to serve as an authentic and effective representative of the Jewish people within the body of Messiah, it must place a priority on integration with the wider Jewish world, while sustaining a vital corporate relationship with the Christian Church.

In the Messianic Jewish way of life, we seek to fulfill Israel's covenantal responsibility embodied in the Torah within a New Covenant context. Messianic Jewish halakha is rooted in Scripture (Tanakh and the New Covenant writings), which is of unique sanctity and authority. It also draws upon Jewish tradition, especially those practices and concepts that have won near-universal acceptance by devout Jews through the centuries. Furthermore, as is common within Judaism, Messianic Judaism recognizes that halakha is and must be dynamic, involving the application of the Torah to a wide variety of changing situations and circumstances.

Messianic Judaism embraces the fullness of New Covenant realities available through Yeshua and seeks to express them in forms drawn from Jewish experience and accessible to Jewish people.

Academic Degrees and Certificates

- [Rabbinic Studies](#)
 - [Master of Rabbinic Studies](#)
- [Jewish Studies](#)
 - [Master of Rabbinic Studies](#)
 - [Certificate Tracks](#)
 - [Mature Status Student](#)
- [Panim el Panim](#)

Unique Educational Opportunities

One of the unique qualities about education at MJTI is its various components that emphasize personal development and mentored learning. Each component is crafted to be living, personal and individual. The various opportunities are:

1. **Rabbinic Studies Mentoring Component** encourages students to discover their own learning needs, style, and potential through individually tailored learning tasks that are both didactic and practical (see mentoring manual for details);
2. **Mentored Learning Courses** emphasize one-on-one sessions between the teacher and the student. Students meet weekly with the instructor in tutorial sessions to discuss the reading and related assignment.
3. **Hevruta Learning Courses** are hybrid courses comprised of 2-4 students. They include:
 - group cohort sessions where all students meet with the instructor as in a regular class;
 - student hevruta sessions where students meet together to discuss specific topics;
 - one-on-one sessions where each student meets individually with the instructor.

Core Courses

All MJTI graduate degrees are built upon twelve core courses (see [page 7](#) below for listing and description), which give students an understanding of the theological and historical development of Jewish thought and practice in the light of God's enduring covenantal commitment to the Jewish people, and the mission and teaching of Yeshua the Messiah. Students learn how traditional forms of Yeshua-faith are challenged and reshaped by this understanding, and how traditional Jewish thought and practice are challenged by the mission and teaching of Yeshua and the apostles.

Courses in Tanakh, Apostolic Writings, and classic Jewish writings enable students to articulate

coherent Messianic Jewish interpretations of Scripture. While the Tanakh and Apostolic Writings are taught as fully authoritative texts, classical Jewish writings are taught as essential for understanding the Bible as a body of Jewish texts. Courses in Early Judaism show how Messianic Jews can be engaged appreciatively with these texts as part of our own heritage.

All of these items contribute to the student's ability to articulate the meaning and significance of Messianic Judaism for the Jewish people and the Christian Church in the 21st century.

Scripture

The purpose of the MJTI Core Scripture courses and electives is to grasp the most foundational writings of Judaism, the Scriptures. The writings will be studied on their own terms and within their original contexts, viewing them through Jewish eyes and through the lens of Jewish history and tradition. However, these writings need to be seen not merely as objects of study or theological building blocks, but as dynamic, life-shaping documents with which the students must engage and wrestle as part of an ongoing, lifelong adventure.

Biblical studies are combined with theology when approaching the writings. Our Scripture courses are built on the recognition that we come to the writings with certain communal presuppositions that we should not abandon in the name of objectivity. Those presuppositions, drawn from a rich heritage of Jewish and Christian tradition, are both interpretive and theological. Therefore, MJTI Scripture courses examine the writings of Scripture through a Messianic Jewish interpretive and theological lens.

Rabbinic Writings

The purpose of MJTI core rabbinic writings courses and electives is to familiarize students with the core writings of Rabbinic Judaism and the communities in which they were formed. The writings are studied for their own sake. The purpose is first of all to understand the writings on their own terms and not only as source material for apologetics or to help understand biblical writings. It is only as we grasp rabbinic writings for their inherent meaning that we can legitimately and deeply reflect on their relationship with Scripture and Christian tradition and gain the understanding necessary for the formation of an integrated and mature Messianic Judaism.

Jewish Thought (Theology) and History

The purpose of the Core courses and electives in Jewish Thought (Theology) and History is to enable students to reflect in a disciplined manner on the meaning and significance of God's self-revelation in the Torah and in Messiah, God's covenant relationship with Israel and the Messianic community, and God's purpose for Israel, the nations, and the entire creation. The courses in this division will encourage students to engage in such disciplined reflection through

serious study of Scripture, deferential dialogue with Jewish tradition and contemporary Jewish thought, and respectful consideration of Christian tradition and contemporary Christian thought.

We relate, however, not only to Jewish thought but to Jewish history. The Jewish people are supremely the people of history, who recount the history of God's dealings with them and the purpose of those dealings, and who live in continuity with the Jewish past in a variety of cultural settings. These courses seek to present the Jewish story in its many historical settings. This story enables us to understand our formation as a people, the rich variety of Jewish communities, and the directions and decisions taken, sometimes providential, and sometimes mistaken. It is a story also interwoven with Church history and Islamic history. The study of Jewish history from a Messianic perspective will provide knowledge required for making wise decisions concerning Messianic Jewish life in the twenty-first century and beyond.

From these descriptions, it is clear that Jewish thought and history are intertwined. Text and context are not divorced, and so the unfolding of Jewish History acts to frame theological discussion. Disciplined study of, and reflection on, Jewish thought and history are required if Messianic Jewish leaders are to enter intelligently into conversation with the wider Jewish community on the meaning of Jewish existence in a Messianic context. It is also required if such leaders are to help the Christian church understand the importance of the Jewish people and tradition for its own life and identity.

Spiritual Life

Messianic Jewish spirituality is rooted in Scripture, informed by Jewish tradition, dependent upon Yeshua's creative, redemptive, and intercessory work, and responsive to the Divine Presence. The purpose of Spiritual Life courses and electives is to present and promote the understanding and practice of this spirituality. Religious knowledge and expertise are of limited value apart from a life lived in love and reverence in the presence of the Holy One, blessed be He. Rather, study and practice must be founded on a vital, mature relationship with God, one's religious community, and humanity.

As a Messianic Jewish institution, it is of critical importance that we bring our future rabbis and leaders into a deep engagement with the richness and variety of Jewish spiritual traditions. Therefore, the primary mission of these courses is to emphasize those traditions, while not neglecting the important contributions of our Christian heritage.

List of Core Courses

- S501 Tanakh: The Beginnings of Judaism and the Jewish People
- S502 Apostolic Writings: The Early Messianic Jewish Community
- T501 The Shape of Messianic Jewish Theology
- T601 God and Messiah
- R501 Early Rabbinic Judaism 1
- R502 Early Rabbinic Judaism 2
- H502 Jewish History
- H504 Modern Judaism
- H510 Jewish-Christian Relations in Historical Context
- SL501 Messianic Jewish Spirituality
- SL502 Jewish Practices in Messianic Context
- SL504 Toward a Messianic Jewish Communal Ethic

Rabbinic Studies

The MJTI Rabbinic Studies Degree (MRS) prepares Jewish men and women to serve as rabbis in the maturing Messianic Jewish movement. The successful completion of the Master of Rabbinic Studies (MRS) fulfills the requirements for smicha (ordination) as a rabbi for the UMJC or the MJRC. As a custodian of Israel's revelation and holy tradition, and a disciple of Messiah Yeshua, a Messianic Jewish rabbi teaches and models the ways of God for the Messianic Jewish community in the power and wisdom of the Spirit of God. MRS faculty draw on their rich experience and knowledge to prepare men and women for this holy work.

Rabbis should, first of all, be uncompromising disciples of Messiah Yeshua. Therefore, the Master of Rabbinic Studies degree seeks to establish our students ever more deeply in the character and practices that should mark the life of all who cleave to God through Messiah. We strive to teach them how to walk in the reality of the Spirit, to experience healing, and to grow both spiritually and in their ability to form healthy relationships in every sphere of life.

Upon this foundation, the faculty teaches and mentors students in the necessary perspectives, attitudes, and skills of the effective rabbi. These include the ability to nurture their communities by preaching, teaching, and leading Jewish liturgical services in ways that exalt the Messiah and honor Jewish tradition, build leadership and administrative teams, and care for individuals as they experience the seasons and challenges of life. Also included are skills essential for any

rabbi: being knowledgeable about Messianic Jewish halakha and knowing how to apply it sensitively in congregational life. The degree is relevant for rabbis who serve as congregational leaders or in other roles.

Three unique elements of our Rabbinic Studies Degree are its Mentoring Component, Residential Intensive and Humanitarian Service Project. These three constituents add valuable face-to-face contact and practical experience. The Mentoring Component relates to Congregational Life and Leadership courses and the Residential Intensives consist of interactive seminars in Midrash text study, the activity of God's Spirit, and discerning one's particular calling as a rabbi. Participants get the opportunity to develop personal and professional relationships with their fellow students and visiting Rabbis. Candidates for the Master of Rabbinic Studies degree attend at least two Residential Intensives, as well as the Humanitarian Service Project.

The faculty and staff of the Rabbinic Studies Degree believe that the preparation of men and women to serve as rabbis is essential for the continued growth and maturation of the Messianic Jewish movement. We are honored to be part of the process by which students are prepared to serve as rabbis.

The Mentoring Component

The Mentoring Component is a distinctive element of the Rabbinic Studies Department that emphasizes personal development and guided learning. Utilizing a cohort comprised of rabbinic, lay, and faculty mentors, encourages students to discover their own learning needs, style, and potential. The mentoring component is crafted to be living, personal, and individual.

Guided Learning Contracts are employed to help in the development of spiritual formation and ministerial competencies. Working with their mentors, students are encouraged to determine precise areas of growth needed within the parameters of each course and to articulate clear learning objectives. The students, assisted by their mentors, have the opportunity to individually tailor learning tasks that are both didactic and practical to help achieve the learning objectives. The mentoring component is intended to assist students in acquiring the tools necessary to become life-long learners with the ability to guide and mentor others.

Live, online seminars and webcasts help the mentors and students to become versed in the degree's mentoring method. Mentors will be enabled to interact with other mentors from around the U.S. and abroad. Students integrate their individual learning process into their virtual classrooms through the use of asynchronous blogs and live webcasts.

Most importantly, the mentoring component is designed to help produce rabbis who are servant leaders. Rabbinic candidates are not placed in a sterile academic environment but remain in the congregations where they intern and serve, to be imprinted by the life and

rhythms of their community. The coupling of nurturing synagogues with the emphasis of RSP on academic excellence, engenders a powerful approach to spiritual formation and rabbinic preparation.

Master of Rabbinic Studies Degree Requirements

The Master of Rabbinic Studies degree requires the completion of 30 3-credit courses (*90 credit hours*), including two Residential Intensives, and a Humanitarian Service Project. Biblical Hebrew Proficiency is required for admission to the degree. Applicants who do not meet this requirement may be admitted provisionally on condition that they complete the MJTI Biblical Hebrew Language series (or their equivalent) by the summer following their first full year as a Rabbinic Studies student.

Congregational Life and Leadership courses seek to establish MJTI Rabbinic students more deeply in the character and practices that should mark the life of all who serve God through Messiah. Prospective rabbis need to learn how to walk in the reality of the Spirit, experience healing, and grow spiritually and in their ability to form healthy relationships in every sphere of life.

On this foundation, the faculty teaches and mentors students in the necessary perspectives, attitudes, and skills of an effective rabbi. These include the ability to nurture their communities by preaching, teaching, and leading services in ways that exalt the Messiah, as well as building leadership and administrative teams, and caring for individuals as they experience the seasons and challenges of life. All of this is relevant for rabbis who lead congregations and for those who serve in other leadership roles.

The Messianic Jewish rabbi should be familiar with the primary writings of Rabbinic Judaism for use in personal study and congregational services. The two core courses R501 and R502, Early Rabbinic Judaism 1 and 2, are key contributions to a constructive Messianic Jewish theology. These courses survey the formative period of Judaism in the Land of Israel and Babylonia. Students are introduced to the rabbinic writings in their cultural context and translate passages of the Mishnah and Midrash. In addition to gaining this foundational knowledge of rabbinic writings, students take two further Rabbinic Writings courses in Midrash.

The Sages of the formative period of Judaism (2nd through 7th centuries C.E.) were the only group of their era to study Scripture out of devotion to God, Israel, and the Torah. Their biblical commentary, known as Midrash, embodies their inter-textual biblical interpretation and theological reflection on Scripture. Their theology and study methods set trajectories that have continued in Judaism to the present day. The goal of these courses is to enable students to read the Bible and think theologically, not only in the Jewish context, but as Jews who stand at the intersection of life in Messiah and our Jewish traditions. These courses also examine the presence of Midrash-like writings found in the Tanakh and the Apostolic Writings. Thus, these courses contribute to the ongoing task of shaping Messianic Jewish theology in personal and

communal contexts.

Elective Rabbinic Writing courses are designed to provide students with options for expanding and deepening their study in relation to the core concepts learned in the required courses. Students who desire to serve as Messianic Jewish scholars are advised to take Rabbinic Writings electives.

Midrash and Mishnah texts are studied in their original Hebrew texts, with some Aramaic. Talmudic texts studied in bi-lingual editions.

1. Core – 12 courses (36 credit hours; see page 7 above)
 2. Congregational Life and Leadership – 10 courses (30 credit hours)
 - RS501 The Personal Life of the Spiritual Leader*☆
 - RS502 Key Events in the Jewish Lifecycle*☆
 - RS503 Caregiving through the Changes and Challenges of Life*☆
 - RS601 Sermon Preparation and Delivery
 - RS651 Basics of Synagogue Worship*☆
 - RS652 Leading Shabbat and Weekday Services*☆
 - RS653 Leading High Holiday and Haggim Services*☆
 - RS701 Congregational Growth and Development*☆
 - RS702 The Halakhic Process☆
 - S620 Messianic Jewish Hermeneutics*
 3. Rabbinic Writings – 2 courses (6 credit hours)
 - RW681 – Midrash Song of Songs Rabbah
 - RW682 – Midrash Pesikta deRav Kahana
 4. Residential Intensive — 2 courses (6 credit hours)
 - RS661 Residential Intensive 1☆
 - RS662 Residential Intensive 2☆
 5. Humanitarian Service Project (3 credit hours)
 6. Electives – 3 courses (9 credit hours)
- Total – 30 courses (90 quarter credit hours)

Note: Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are required for UMJC and MJRC ordination.
All courses marked with a star (☆) are limited to MRS students only.

Jewish Studies

- [Master of Jewish Studies](#)
- [Certificate Tracks](#)
 - [Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1](#)
 - [Introduction to Messianic Jewish Studies \(IMJS\)](#)

Master of Jewish Studies Degree

The MJS degree is designed to give the student a broad exposure to Jewish Studies in a Messianic Jewish context. The MJS degree consists of fifty-four credit hours.

- Twelve Core Courses (see page 7) (36 credits)
- Six electives (18 credits)

Note on Course prerequisites:

Students who register for any course(s) requiring prerequisite study will be denied entry if their transcripts do not reflect the appropriate prerequisite(s). Prerequisite(s) may be waived only with written permission from the course instructor delivered directly to the registrar's office.

MJS Degree Objectives

Students who complete the requirements of this degree will be able to:

- Understand the historical development of Jewish religious thought and practice in the light of God's enduring covenantal commitment to the Jewish people and the mission and teaching of Yeshua the Messiah;
- Articulate how traditional formulations of Yeshua-faith are challenged and reshaped by such an understanding of the historical development of Jewish religious thought and practice;
- Study classic Jewish writings in their original languages, to understand their historical context and relevance to Jewish faith and practice, and how they can be engaged appreciatively by Messianic Jews as our own heritage;
- Comprehend the Apostolic Writings as Jewish writings essential for interpreting the history of Jewish life, thought, and practice, and which themselves are rightly interpreted in the light of that history;
- Communicate astutely the meaning and significance of Messianic Judaism for the Jewish people and the Christian Church in the 21st century.

Certificate Tracks

Certificate Tracks are designed for students with or without a bachelor's degree who desire to study Bible, Messianic Jewish theology and related subjects at a graduate level in small increments.

- Each Certificate is a unit consisting of three classes with one tuition cost for the certificate unit. Various certificates, related to specific fields of concentration, will be offered, e.g., Biblical Hebrew, Messianic Jewish Studies, Rabbinic Literature.
- Although a certificate is designed to be completed in one year, a student may choose to complete the individual classes in a certificate within 4 years with no penalties.
- Every student is required to complete the *Introduction to Messianic Jewish Studies* (IMJS) certificate before moving on to other certificates. Note: Students with a bachelor's degree may take the Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Certificate without first completing the IMJS. However, they must successfully complete the IMJS before attempting any further certificates.
- After the successful completion of the IMJS, a student may only be registered for two certificates at one time.
- Certificate courses may not be audited.
- Students with a bachelor's degree apply directly to the Jewish Studies Certificate Tracks. Students without a bachelor's degree must apply as a Mature Status Student. See the requirements on [page 26](#).

Introduction to Messianic Jewish Studies (IMJS)

The Introduction to Messianic Jewish Studies Certificate is of a unit of three foundational classes: S501 Tanakh: The Beginnings of the Jewish People; S502 Apostolic Writings: The Early Messianic Community; T501 The Shape of Messianic Jewish Theology. This seminal certificate must be successfully completed by all certificate students and Mature Status students, before moving forward in Jewish Studies to other certificates. Mature Status Students must successfully complete the IMJS before applying to the MJS. The IMJS Certificate also functions as an introductory year for all new matriculated students.

Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1

Grammar of Biblical Hebrew is one of the special certificates offered in the Certificate Track at MJTI. Students may earn a Grammar of Biblical Hebrew certificate by successfully completing the MJTI one-year Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Series (BH511-BH513) with a grade of 80% or higher and the recommendation of the instructor

Panim el Panim

Panim el Panim is MJTI's new live online short courses. These four-week courses are offered to the general public who would like to continue learning but are unable to join one of our graduate degrees and certificates. Panim el Panim courses require NO reading, preparation, homework, or exams. For more information on the classes being offered this year or for registration go to <https://mjti-panimelpanim.regfox.com/panim-el-panim-2019-2020>.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Key to Course Listings

T	Jewish Thought and Theology
H	Jewish History
S	Scripture
R	Rabbinic Writings
SL	Spiritual Life
RS	Rabbinic Studies Congregational Life and Leadership
RW	Rabbinic Studies Rabbinic Writing

Note: *Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are required for UMJC and MJRC ordination.*

All courses marked with a star (☆) are limited to MRS students only.

Core Courses

S501 Tanakh: The Beginnings of Judaism and the Jewish People*

This course examines the Tanakh as the story of the Jewish people and as the foundation of Jewish thought, life and traditions. The course covers early Jewish history focusing on the role of the Jewish people in the canonical narrative. The function of key writings and events in the formation of religion and culture in ancient Israel, as well as in the ongoing life of the Jewish people, will be addressed. Special emphasis is given to the historical, social and cultural setting of the Tanakh in the Ancient Near East.

S502 Apostolic Writings: The Early Messianic Jewish Community*

This course places the Apostolic Writings in a Jewish context with an emphasis on Yeshua as God's incarnate presence among the Jewish people, the varieties of Jewish expression existing in the 1st-century world and reflected among the first Jewish Yeshua-believers, the meaning of the good news in its original Jewish setting, and the structure and life of the diverse communities of the early Yeshua movement. The course examines the Apostolic Writings from a post-supersessionist perspective. Special emphasis is placed on the understanding the Ekklesia consisting of those from the circumcision and from the non-circumcision as a prolepsis of the eschaton.

T501 The Shape of Messianic Jewish Theology*

This course provides an overview of the fundamental shape of Messianic Jewish theology. All theology stems from a particular context and is rooted in the life of a particular community. Messianic Jewish theology is unique because it draws upon the history and tradition of two religious communities that are generally defined in mutually exclusive terms. Messianic Judaism challenges this paradigm, and Messianic Jewish theology affirms the core tenets of Judaism through the lens of God's self-revelation in Messiah Yeshua. Our goal will be to trace the contours of this theological tradition and the life that characterizes its constituent communities. We will approach theology not as an abstract academic exercise, but as a beacon that guides and grounds our lives, decisions and actions and not as an abstract academic exercise.

T601 God and Messiah

Prerequisite: T501 The Shape of Messianic Jewish Theology

This course addresses the most important issue in the study of theology: the identity of God, and the nature of God's relationship to the created order. The course examines the unity and inner differentiation of the Holy One of Israel, and God's eschatological self-revelation in Messiah Yeshua, in light of relevant Jewish thought. The course demonstrates how the high view of Yeshua of the early Yeshua-movement emerged in the context of Second Temple Judaism and was reinterpreted in a Hellenistic milieu by the Church Fathers and Councils; and offers proposals about the restatement of this teaching in a contemporary Messianic Jewish context.

R501 Early Rabbinic Judaism 1*

Prerequisite: Hebrew Proficiency

R501 introduces Rabbinic Judaism in the context of Jewish history and society in Palestine during the late Roman and early Byzantine Empires. It focuses on the origins, formation, and writings of the early rabbinic movement. We study texts from the Mishnah, which is the foundational work of Jewish practice, and compare them to texts from its companion work, the Tosefta. We also study portions of the midrash collections, which are Judaism's foundational works of biblical commentary and theology.

R502 Early Rabbinic Judaism 2*

Prerequisite: R501 Early Rabbinic Judaism 1

This course builds on R501, exploring the textual and cultural development of Rabbinic Judaism in its two centers: The Land of Israel and Babylonia. We introduce the Jerusalem Talmud (Yerushalim) and the somewhat later Babylonian Talmud (Bavli), comparing their development, structure, content, and modes of halakhic analysis. We also compare cultural characteristics of the network of rabbis in the Land of Israel and the rabbinic class in Babylonia.

H502 Jewish History*

This course takes a stroll through 4000 years of Jewish history, from Abraham to the opening of the American Embassy in Jerusalem. As we stroll through Jewish history will look at the bigger picture stopping along the way to zoom into particular events, to meet influential Jewish people who made significant contributions, to encounter neighbors—both governments and individuals, e.g., Christians and Muslims during the Middle Ages—, to examine issues and problems, and to consider major political and religious events. We will not stroll aimlessly through Jewish history but will follow a specific path that is broken into segments of time covering 6 main periods: the biblical period (Tanakh), the 2nd Temple Period, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and Enlightenment, and modernity. We address specific issues related to Israel's role as the People of God, the early Jewish believers in Yeshua, the birth of Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity and the rupture between the two, the crusades, Medieval literature and false Messiahs of the Middle Ages, the impact of the enlightenment, and the Holocaust followed by the establishment of the State of Israel and the rise of Messianic Judaism. Along the way, the course will touch on the foundation of Jewish thought, life and traditions, and the role of the Jewish people in the canonical narrative. Students will be challenged to think critically and analytically, and to contribute their own ideas.

H504 Modern Judaism*

This course studies the rise of diverse forms of Judaism and Jewish thought in the 19th and 20th centuries, with emphasis on the impact of modernity on the Jewish people. It includes an examination of the impact of the Shoah and the creation of the State of Israel on Jewish religious life and thought, the changing relationship between Judaism and Christianity, and the emergence of the modern Messianic Jewish movement.

H510 Jewish-Christian Relations in Historical Context*

Distinctive to a Messianic Jewish interpretation of Judaism is the conviction that the identities of Judaism and Christianity are inextricably intertwined, and that the fortified barrier dividing them reflects and perpetuates a tragic schism within one two-fold community. In this light, the present course will examine the relationship between these two religious traditions from their origins at the end of the Second Temple period to their new encounter in the modern era. The course will also examine key issues and key points of contact that contributed to generally accepted definitions of Judaism and Christianity and will raise questions about the future of this relationship in view of the new circumstances of the 21st century and the witness of Messianic Judaism.

SL501 Messianic Jewish Spirituality*

The spiritual life of Messianic Judaism shares uniquely in the values and practices of Jewish tradition while also drawing from Christian tradition. This course provides a framework for understanding Messianic Jewish spirituality in terms of its sources in the two traditions, treating major issues and trends in Jewish piety including chassidut, mussar, Talmud, Torah, and liturgical prayer, as well as relevant sources in Christian piety, prayer, devotional writings, and charisma.

SL502 Jewish Practices in Messianic Context*

Jewish practices give structure and meaning to Jewish communal, family, and individual life. This course surveys the calendar and lifecycle events of Judaism. Its purpose is to explore these events as connected elements of a vital Jewish communal, family, and individual life. Distinctive aspects of Messianic Jewish lifecycle and calendar events will be examined.

SL504 Toward a Messianic Jewish Communal Ethic

Messianic Judaism has yet to develop and clearly articulate its own coherent ethical schema. This course will portray ethics as a conceptual framework that integrates and communicates the moral assumptions of a particular community, rooted in historical understandings and tradition, and consistent with the ongoing life of that community in all of its complexities. The future development of Messianic Judaism's communal ethic will be considered in relation of its unique connections to two religious communities with disparate experiences and often competing identities. Students will be challenged to explore "hot button issues" such as social justice, sexual morality, and responses to political authority and reconsider their assumptions regarding these issues in light of revelation and communal identity.

Language Courses

BH511 Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1-1

Note: While there is no prerequisite to take this class, students are required to have the ability to recognize and pronounce the Hebrew aleph-bet (alphabet) and simple Hebrew words before the first day of class.

Knowledge of biblical Hebrew is an essential foundation for in-depth personal and vocational Tanakh study. BH511 is the first of three segments of a comprehensive one-year graduate level introduction to the grammar of biblical Hebrew. In this first segment, students will learn often overlooked rules for the proper reading of biblical Hebrew; skills for transliteration and cursive writing; learn the how, when and why nouns change their form. The surprising characteristics of the participle and its manifold uses are introduced and explored. Most significantly in this segment, students will be trained to search out and identify the triliteral root of Hebrew words.

Looking for a word's three letter root is a key skill for learning to think about word families and the semantic relationship between words. To this end, students will learn the ins and outs of using the BDB Lexicon.

BH512 Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1-2

Prerequisite: BH511 Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1-1 or permission of instructor

BH512 is the second of three segments of MJTI's comprehensive one-year graduate level introduction to the grammar of biblical Hebrew. Building upon the skills taught in BH511 the student is introduced to finite verbs in three of the seven major verb groups. Students learn to parse verbs for their form and function. Distinct from English verbs that indicate tense (i.e. past, present, future), biblical Hebrew verbs are best understood to indicate *aspect*. *Aspect* refers to the perspective being presented by the speaker/writer. Is the perspective that of an outsider looking in at a situation that has already occurred ("perfect"), or is he living through an event as it develops ("imperfect"). Students also become acquainted with the basic syntax (the arrangement of words and phrases that create well-formed sentences) of the verbal clause. Students begin to learn to apply their grammatical knowledge to the translation and interpretation of segments of narrative and poetic texts of the Tanakh.

BH513 Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1-3

Prerequisite: BH512 Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1-2 or permission of instructor

BH513 is the third and final segment of MJTI's comprehensive one-year graduate level introduction to the grammar of biblical Hebrew. As students continue to build upon the skills taught in the earlier course segments (BH511 and BH512), they encounter narrative and infinitive verb forms and the remaining major verb stems. In this course segment students continue to apply their growing body of grammatical knowledge to the translation and interpretation of larger swathes of narrative and poetic texts of the Tanakh. By the end of this course, students will have acquired a broad-based ability to study and engage Hebrew texts of every book of the Tanakh on an introductory level and will be ready for intermediate course work.

Rabbinic Studies Required Courses

Note: Courses marked with an asterisk () are required for UMJC and MJRC ordination.*

All courses marked with a star (☆) are limited to MRS students only.

Congregational Life and Leadership Courses

RS501 The Personal Life of the Spiritual Leader* ☆

Successful spiritual leadership, whether within or outside the synagogue, does not depend solely on leadership gifts and skills, but rests on the quality of personal relationship with God and others. Therefore, like all followers of Messiah, rabbis and other spiritual leaders need to develop their personal life apart from their leadership roles and responsibilities. Consequently, this course focuses on the disciplines, challenges, and opportunities involved in leaders' relationships with God and others. It is a "hands-on" course that develops the practices and strategies that strengthen these relationships and therefore contribute to the inner life. Furthermore, the course addresses the motivations and intentions that nourish a healthy spiritual life, as well as the specific challenges of rabbinic leadership, such as dealing effectively with the disappointments and frustrations experienced by rabbis and handling personal temptations, as well as strategies for physical and emotional well-being.

RS502 Key Events in the Jewish Lifecycle* ☆

Prerequisite: SL502 Jewish Practices in a Messianic Context*

Jewish tradition treats all Jews equally when it comes to commemorating lifecycle events—birth, circumcision, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, marriage/divorce, death/mourning. Each event marks a life passage, and its customs and ceremonies transform the life transition and connect the participants with the Jewish people. Celebrating and observing these key lifecycle events is fundamental to Messianic Jewish life. This course equips the student to commemorate each of these events. The course will familiarize students with traditional Jewish lifecycle events from birth to death and will equip them to officiate at such events. Students will also learn how to lead others into an informed understanding of and participation in these practices.

RS503 Caregiving through the Changes and Challenges of Life* ☆

Prerequisite: SL502 Jewish Practices in a Messianic Context*

The effective Messianic Jewish leader must have skills in spiritual guidance and caregiving, as well as basic skills in providing short-term pastoral counseling for their congregants during times of crisis. The course equips the student to offer such counseling. Further, this course will help Rabbis to provide effective support and resources to congregants as they prepare for and experience the changes and challenges of life. The course is built on the rhythm of the Jewish lifecycle and draws on sources that validate and enhance a Messianic Jewish identity. The course addresses related issues such as mental illness, addiction, and abusive relationships, with a specific focus on when and how to refer congregants to professional help.

RS601 Sermon Preparation and Delivery*

The Messianic Jewish leader is a communicator. This course teaches the skills necessary for effective sermon preparation and delivery, as well as effective communication skills appropriate to other settings. Note: This course is normally conducted in a classroom setting at conferences and other venues.

RS651 Basics of Synagogue Worship*☆

Prerequisite: Basic Hebrew skills or registration in BH511 Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1-1

This course provides students of the Master of Rabbinic Studies degree the basic history and halakhic background of synagogue worship as it has developed from the early rabbinic period into the 21st century. Students will read source materials, study the texts of Jewish prayer for weekdays and Shabbat, actively participate in local synagogue worship, actively pray out of the siddur throughout the course on their own, and share reflections during class discussion. The course focuses on the growth and development of an individual's personal experience in meaningful Jewish prayer.

RS652 Leading Shabbat and Weekday Services*☆

Prerequisite: Hebrew Proficiency; RS651 Basics of Synagogue Worship

In this course, the student will learn how to use the basic structure, flow, and content of traditional Shabbat and daily services learned in RS651 to effectively develop services for their community that reflects both understanding of and devotion to Jewish worship with Messiah Yeshua seamlessly integrated into the matrix. They will learn how to lead traditional Jewish prayer in a way that is creative, infused with Yeshua and deeply respectful of tradition. The focus of this class is learning to lead others into meaningful Jewish prayer, both daily and on Shabbat. CHECK SYLLABUS

RS653 Leading High Holiday and Haggim Services*☆

Prerequisite: Hebrew Proficiency; RS651 Basics of Synagogue Worship and RS652 Leading Shabbat and Weekday Worship Services

This course will familiarize the student with the structure, flow, and content of the High Holiday and Haggim services. It will equip the student to lead these services in a way that is creative, infused with Yeshua, and deeply respectful of tradition. The focus of this class is learning to lead one's community into meaningful Jewish prayer during the High Holidays and Haggim. CHECK AGAINST SYLLABUS

RS701 Congregational Growth and Development* ☆

All Messianic Jewish rabbis should serve within the context of a faith community. This course exposes the future rabbi to practical strategies for developing healthy and maturing Messianic Jewish synagogues, havurot and independent minyanim. Foundational issues such as solid governmental structure, legal compliance, and financial accountability are covered. Other subtle but vitally important skills imparted are how to deal with difficult people, how to handle disappointments, and how to inspire others. All of these can make communal leadership a lifelong joy for the rabbi, his or her family, and the congregation.

RS702 The Halakhic Process* ☆

Prerequisites: R501 and R502 Early Rabbinic Judaism 1 and 2

The Messianic Jewish rabbi will be called upon to work with other rabbis to establish halakhic norms, explain and apply these norms in congregational life, and render opinions on halakhic matters not directly covered by our established norms. This course will familiarize students with the textual sources and the historic and current process of halakhic formation that is required to fulfill these tasks and that incorporates distinctive elements of Messianic Jewish Halakah.

S620 Messianic Jewish Hermeneutics*

This course is a study of basic hermeneutics (defined as the art and science of the interpretation of the Scriptures) from a uniquely Messianic Jewish perspective. The course provides a concise introduction to everything from the definition of hermeneutics and exegesis, to the importance of worldview, critical thinking, nomenclature usage, and sound principles of interpretation. Primacy of place is given to the primary sources from the Tanakh to the Talmudic Literature. Because all Jewish learning is for living, this course upholds the assertion that the task of Messianic Jewish hermeneutics is to interpret sacred Scripture in ways that nurture a God- and Messiah-centered life.

Rabbinic Writings

RW681 Midrash Song of Songs Rabbah

Prerequisite: R501 Early Rabbinic Judaism 1

In this course, we study passages from Song of Songs Rabbah, the Sages' inter-textual biblical interpretation and theological reflection on the Song of Songs. Reading the Song as a parable of the relationship between God and Israel, the Sages expressed a deep and nuanced theology in which mutual love is the primary characteristic. We study portions of the Apostolic Writings in light of the Sages' approach to Scripture. Course goals are to learn, evaluate, and incorporate the Sages' approach in our understanding of the Bible.

[RW682 Midrash Pesikta deRav Kahana](#)

Prerequisite: R501 Early Rabbinic Judaism 1

This course studies passages from the Pesikta deRav Kahana (Chapters of Teacher Kahana), a theological commentary on the prophetic portions assigned to Jewish calendar events such as the High Holidays, Pesach, and special Shabbats. Students are taught to see the deep connection between core Jewish theology and the Tanakh on which it is based, to increase their vocabulary of Jewish theological concepts, and to apply what they learn to selected passages of the Apostolic Writings.

[Intensives and Humanitarian Projects](#)

[RS661 and RS662 Residential Intensive](#) ☆.

Prerequisite: Biblical Hebrew Proficiency

Residential Intensive courses offer students the opportunity to pray, study, and learn about life in the Spirit and rabbinic roles, as well as develop relationships in an intensive environment.

[Mornings: Rabbinic Text Study](#)

Students are introduced to the conceptual framework and practices involved in traditional and academic study of formative writings of Judaism, e.g. the Mishnah, by which we know and commune with God as Jews. Our goal is to establish the basis for meaningful life-long study as an essential part of a well-rounded Messianic Jewish spiritual life and rabbinic service. Selections vary from year to year and are studied in their original languages or bilingual texts.

[Afternoons: Life Together in the Spirit](#)

God's self-disclosure to Israel through the risen Messiah, Yeshua, necessarily brings the rabbi into connection with the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit, the power of the Spirit in healing prayer, prophetic gifts, and the Spirit's other expressions should operate within the overarching framework of Jewish life. This seminar helps the student acquire skills in the realm of the Spirit that are essential for Messianic Jews and vital for the effectiveness of the Messianic Jewish rabbi. The content of these seminars changes from year to year.

[Evenings: The Roles of the Messianic Jewish Rabbi](#)

Rabbis serve numerous roles as leader in their community and a custodian of sacred tradition: teacher, halakhist, preacher, counselor, healer, mentor, and service leader. In informal evening sessions, we explore these roles to give students a framework for understanding their particular calling in light of the many roles of a rabbi.

RS508 Humanitarian Service Project

It is imperative that the Messianic Jewish movement and its leaders empathize and respond to the privation and suffering that are part of the daily life of so many of our fellow human beings. The Service Project puts students into direct contact with this kind of experience, gives them the opportunity to help others in practical ways, and helps to set a lifelong trajectory of care for the disadvantaged.

Electives

Below are suggested electives offered at MJTI for MJS and MRS students. Electives are adjusted yearly to meet the needs of the student body and growing Messianic Jewish Community. Rabbinic Studies required courses that are NOT marked with a (☆) are also available as electives for Jewish Studies Students. Required MJS courses are available as electives for MRS students

H503 Medieval Jewish History

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.

H606 World of the Apostolic Writings

This course is an introduction to the social, political, religious and cultural world of the Second Temple Period and the backgrounds of the Apostolic Writings. The course provides a panoramic view of the topics, methodology, and sources necessary for responsible study of the Apostolic Writings and early Yeshua-believing community. Some of the topics addressed are Temple, Sanhedrin & Synagogue, Greco-Roman Religions & Philosophies, Sects, Rabbinic Literature, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

R603 – Seminar in Midrash

Prerequisite: R501 – Early Rabbinic Judaism 1

This seminar involves close reading of selections (in Hebrew) from the non-halakhic midrash collections produced after the third century C.E. in the Land of Israel such as Genesis Rabbah, Pesikta deRav Kahana, and Song of Songs Rabbah. Students are introduced to the rudiments of Galilean Aramaic.

R607 Midrash and Scripture

Prerequisite: R501 Early Rabbinic Judaism 1

In the centuries following the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E., the Jewish sages expressed their theology and spiritual vision in a form of Tanakh (Old Testament) commentary known as Midrash. In this course, our goal is to understand ways in which midrash, the Tanakh, and the Apostolic Writings relate to one another. We accomplish this objective by studying a series of midrash passages in relation to specific portions of the Tanakh and then how these interpretations shed light on the Apostolic Writings.

R608 – 2nd Temple Jewish Sources

This course presents an overview of the Jewish literature from the Exile to the Mishnah. The many Jewish texts that have survived from late- and post-biblical times exemplify the rich life of the Jewish People from this time and provide vital information for understanding the world from which both Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity emerged. Special attention is devoted to each text's historical and cultural contribution, as well as their references to Hebrew Bible, relationship to other texts, influences on the Apostolic Writings and later Rabbinic and Christian writings, methodological issues and the implications for their study.

S602 Biblical Hebrew Poetry

Prerequisite: Biblical Hebrew Proficiency, or permission from the instructor

Biblical Poetry comprises approximately one-third of the Hebrew Bible and is found throughout the Torah, Prophets and Writings. This course covers a cross-section of those books, coupling biblical poetry appreciation (English) with a close reading practicum and analysis of original texts (Hebrew). By studying the genres and techniques of Hebrew poetry we gain increasing awareness of the heightened and intensified communication that distinguishes biblical poetry from biblical narrative, and the distinct capacity of poetry to convey Scripture's divine message.

S603 Genesis: Advanced Parashah Study

Prerequisite: Biblical Hebrew Proficiency, or permission of instructor

Study of the weekly parashah is a core practice of Messianic Judaism, serving as a means of personal illumination and as a basis to prepare public talks. In this course, we study Parashat Vayera (Genesis 18:1 to 22:24), which includes some of the most moving and significant narratives of the Torah, beginning with the three "men" who visit Abraham and Sarah, and ending with the Akedah, the binding of Isaac. This course models an approach to parashah study that focuses on close reading of the Hebrew text. We also use selections from the Jewish commentary tradition to highlight linguistic nuances of the Hebrew text and to situate the

narratives in the context of Jewish thought.

S608 Apostolic Writings and the Qumran Community

The Dead Sea Scrolls represent a form of Judaism that existed before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE and aid in understanding the Second Temple period. The Qumran community handled material common to the Jewish world of their day in a unique manner and expressed their common doctrines in a unique way. This course will examine the writings, doctrines and practices of the Qumran community in an attempt to broaden our understanding of the Jewish world into which Yeshua came. We will also examine the relationships between Qumran and the Apostolic Writings – culturally, theologically, and historically.

T603 – Israel and Messiah

Prerequisite: T501 The Shape of Messianic Jewish Theology

The God and Father of Messiah Yeshua is the God of Israel. This God has entered into a covenant with the Jewish people and has called it to be a holy people who bear witness to God in the world. The covenant with Israel is as unbreakable as God's promises are irrevocable. This course examines the implications and significance of these truths, and their import for our understanding of God, Messiah, the Jewish people, and the Christian Church, in the 21st century.

Anticipated Rabbinic Studies Electives

- RS602 – Effective Teaching Techniques
- RS703 – Practical Apologetics
- RS704 – Effective Personal Fundraising
- RW781 – Mishnah
- RW783 – Talmud Bavli
- RW789 – Integrative Rabbinic Writings Seminar

ADMISSIONS

Upholding Values

Applicants must affirm MJTI core values and mission statement, as well as the values expressed in the UMJC's *Defining Messianic Judaism Statement*.

Language Proficiency

Proficiency in English

Applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a

Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination to determine English language proficiency. A score of 550 on the TOEFL examination is required for acceptance to MJTI graduate studies. If an applicant whose native language is not English recently earned a baccalaureate or graduate degree from a recognized institution where English was the language of instruction, he or she may submit a written request to the Academic Dean to be excused from taking the TOEFL test.

Proficiency in Biblical Hebrew

All **Rabbinic Studies students** are required to complete the one-year Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Level 1:1–3 (BH511-113) in their first year of studies, unless they can demonstrate proficiency in biblical Hebrew. Proficiency is understood as a functional grasp of the contents of a standard seminary-level introductory biblical Hebrew grammar such as Lambdin, Seow, Kelley, or Kittel. A Hebrew proficiency exam will be given to those who deem themselves to have biblical Hebrew proficiency. A \$50 fee will be assessed for the Hebrew proficiency exam.

While biblical Hebrew proficiency is not required for **Jewish Studies** students, proficiency is required for all courses relating to Rabbinic Literature, except for R501 or R502.

Admissions Requirements

All application and recommendation forms can be accessed via the MJTI website at <http://www.mjti.org/forms>.

Rabbinic Studies

Those applying for admission to the Master of Rabbinic Studies must fulfill the following requirements for admission:

- Completion and submission of the appropriate application to the registrar’s office, along with the non-refundable \$50.00 application fee. Applications for admission are submitted through the MJTI website — <http://www.mjti.org/forms>.
- Graduation from a four-year college with accreditation recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and/or the U.S. Department of Education, or an international equivalent. An official transcript must be submitted for the application to be processed. Transcripts not in English must be evaluated by an appropriate third party and translated into English or a trained transcript evaluator fluent in the language on the transcript. In this case, the evaluator must have expertise in the educational practices of the country of origin and include an English translation of the review.
- Submission of three recommendations
 - Educational recommendation attesting to academic ability.

- Pastoral recommendation by a rabbi or congregational leader attesting to the applicant's character.
- Personal recommendation

Names and contact information of the recommenders are included in the Application for admission. The recommendations are submitted directly to MJTI through the link sent after the application is submitted.

- Completion of an interview.

Jewish Studies

Master of Jewish Studies Degree

Those applying for admission to the Master of Jewish Studies degree must fulfill the following requirements for admission:

- Completion and submission of the appropriate application to the registrar's office, along with the non-refundable \$50.00 application fee. Applications for admission are submitted through the MJTI website — <http://www.mjti.org/forms>.
- Graduation from a four-year college with accreditation recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and/or the U.S. Department of Education, or an international equivalent. An official transcript must be submitted for the application to be processed. Transcripts not in English must be evaluated by an appropriate third party and translated into English or a trained transcript evaluator fluent in the language on the transcript. In this case, the evaluator must have expertise in the educational practices of the country of origin and include an English translation of the review.
- Submission of two recommendations: one written educational recommendation attesting to your academic ability and one personal recommendation attesting to your leadership qualities and/or your dedication to study of Scripture and tradition.
- Recommendation forms are available at <http://www.mjti.org/forms>.

JSP Student-at-Large

Those students with a bachelor's degree wishing to take a course at MJTI without enrolling in as a matriculated student may apply for admission to Jewish Studies as a Student-at-Large. Applicants must fulfill the following requirements for admission as a student in the Master of Jewish Studies degree. See above for requirements.

Students-at-Large will be permitted to take a maximum of six courses in the School of Jewish Studies.

Mature Status Student

Mature status is intended for those students who are at least 30 years old with substantial biblical background and studies, and preferably involved in the Messianic Jewish community but do not have the equivalent of a bachelor's degree.

- Mature status students may apply to the Master of Jewish Studies degree or to one of the Certificate tracks after they have successfully completed the one-year Introduction to Messianic Jewish Studies (IMJS) certificate. .
All mature status students must successfully complete the IMJS certificate before progressing into another certificate or the Master of Jewish Studies.

Those desiring to apply as a Mature Status student must fulfill the following requirements:

- Completion and submission of the appropriate application to the registrar's office, along with the non-refundable \$50.00 application fee. Applications for admission are submitted through the MJTI website — <http://www.mjti.org/forms>.
- Submission of two recommendations:
 - one written educational recommendation attesting to your academic ability; and
 - one personal recommendation attesting to your leadership qualities and/or your dedication to study of Scripture and tradition.
- Completion of an interview

Hebrew Language Students

Students wishing to participate in MJTI's language courses, who are not matriculated in the MRS or MJS degrees, may apply in one of two different categories:

- Student-at-Large Language Student
- Mature Status Language Student

Student-at-Large Language students must fulfill the following requirements:

- Completion and submission of the appropriate application to the registrar's office, along with the non-refundable \$50.00 application fee. Applications for admission are submitted through the MJTI website — <http://www.mjti.org/forms>.
- Graduation from a four-year college with accreditation recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and/or the U.S. Department of Education, or an equivalent. An official transcript must be submitted for the application to be processed. Transcripts not in English must be evaluated by an appropriate third party and translated into English or a trained transcript evaluator fluent in the language on the transcript. In this case, the evaluator must have expertise in the educational practices of the country of origin and include an English translation of the review.

- Submission of three recommendations
 - Educational recommendation attesting to academic ability.
 - Pastoral recommendation by a rabbi or congregational leader attesting to the applicant's character.
 - Personal recommendation

Names and contact information are included in the Application for addition and submitted directly to MJTI from the link provided.

- Admissions interview.

Mature Status Language Students

Mature Status Language students are permitted to enroll in the Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Certificate (BH511, BH512, BH513) after being accepted as Mature Status Student and completing the IMJS certificate (see [page 12](#)). Permission to complete the Biblical Hebrew series (BH512 and BH513) will be contingent on successful completion of BH511 with a grade of 80% or higher.

Those applying for admission for Mature Status student must fulfill the following requirements for admission:

- Completion and submission of the appropriate application to the Registrar's office, along with the non-refundable \$50.00 application fee.
- Submission of three recommendations
 - Educational recommendation attesting to academic ability.
 - Pastoral recommendation by a rabbi or congregational leader attesting to the applicant's character.
 - Personal recommendation

Names and contact information are included in the Application for addition and submitted directly to MJTI from the link provide

- Completion of an interview

Auditing Courses

MJS Students may audit any Jewish Studies course when space is available. Rabbinic Studies students may audit with permission of the instructor and the Academic Dean. All audit students pay audit tuition. Audited courses do not fulfill any degree or certificate track requirements. Auditors have access to all course materials and may participate in online blog discussion if they have completed all reading and other preparations assigned for that unit. Any audit student who wishes to do so, may take the course for credit at a later time by paying full tuition and

completing all the course requirements. Certificate Track classes may NOT be audited.

Nondiscrimination

MJTI does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, nationality or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies and programs.

TUITION AND FEES

Graduate Courses

Tuition for credit courses: \$250 per credit hour (\$750 per 3-credit course)

Tuition for audited courses (no course credit): \$200 per credit hour (\$600 per 3-credit course)

Hevruta Class fee – addition fee of \$100

Mentored Learning Class fee - \$200 in addition to tuition fees

Quarterly Registration fee \$80; \$40 for early registration.

Certificate Tracks

Tuition is \$2,000 for the three classes that comprise each certificate.

Registration fee \$80 for first quarter of the three-course certificate unit or at reinstatement of postponed certificate.

General Fees

Application fee \$50

Hebrew Proficiency Exam \$50

Registration, Dropped Courses, Refunds, and Associated Fees

Students are encouraged to pre-register for the courses they plan to take. Early registration opens two months before the first day of class and continues for thirty days. The Early Registration fee is \$40.00. Students registering after the Early Registration Deadline will be charged the full, non-refundable registration fee of \$80.00. The main purpose of Early Registration is to help MJTI determine the courses for which there will be sufficient enrollment. Courses with insufficient early registration may be cancelled.

Payment of all tuition is due on or before the day the quarter begins unless prior arrangements for a payment plan have been arranged. A student is registered for class only upon payment of all financial obligations. Payment in full must be made prior to attending classes. A late payment fee of \$50.00 will be charged for any student paying for classes after the first day of

the quarter, unless a payment plan has been requested and approved.

Matriculated students desiring to drop or withdraw from courses after registering may do so by submitting a Change of Course Status form to the Registrar. No penalty, except for a \$30.00 drop/withdrawal fee, is incurred for all courses dropped before the quarter begins. If the change is requested after the quarter begins, the following refund policy will apply:

- 75% of the tuition will be refunded if submitted within the **first week** of class;
- 50% if within the **second week** of class;
- 25% if within the **third week** of class;
- No refund from the fourth week to eighth week of class.

All refunds will be returned within 30 days. For more information on payment plans, fees and late payments, see the MJTI Student Handbook.

Certificate Track students do NOT receive a refund of tuition when withdrawing from a certificate as the tuition fee applies to the entire certificate which is a unit of the three classes that comprise the certificate. Certificate students may return within four years to complete the certificate without paying additional tuition fees. Note that quarterly registration fees do apply.

Change from Credit to Audit

A student who has registered to take a course for credit may switch to the status of auditor up to, and including, the fourth week of class by submitting a Change of Course Status form to the Registrar. No tuition will be refunded.

Course Cancellation

MJTI reserves the right to cancel courses that have fewer than five (5) registered students two weeks before the start of the quarter. In the event of cancellation, registration and tuition fees will be returned to the student in full.

Scholarships

Various scholarships are available from MJTI and from outside sources. Check the [MJTI website](#) for more information or contact the MJTI Registrar admin@mjt.org.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Advisors

Each student accepted into MJTI is assigned an academic advisor who will help the student to

construct a coherent program of study toward their degree. Grading System

Grades have been assigned the following numerical values for the purpose of computing grade point average:

A 4.0 | A- 3.7 | B+ 3.3 | B 3.0 | B- 2.7 | C+ 2.3 | C 2.0 | C- 1.7 | F 0.0

The basic letter grades have the following significance:

- A Exemplary
- B Adequate
- C Passing, but requiring substantial improvement
- F Failed (Any student who receives an F has not successfully completed and will not receive credit for the course.)

Request for Incomplete

A student whose work is not completed by the submission deadline at the end of the quarter may request a grade of *Incomplete* from the instructor (see procedure next paragraph). Incompletes are granted only when the student's work in the course has not been completed due to extenuating circumstances, such as personal illness of more than a brief duration; illness in the family that has required the student's attention; death in the family; personal or family crisis of a traumatic nature; or an unexpected increase in job responsibilities.

To request an incomplete, a student must complete and submit a "Request for Incomplete" form found on the MJTI website (<https://www.mjti.org/forms/change-of-course-status-form/>). This form goes first to the instructor and then to the Academic Dean for approval or rejection.

If the incomplete is granted, the default due date of all incomplete course work is eight weeks from the due date of the final assignment for the term in which the course is taught. However, it is important to note that the instructor may set an earlier due date for the incomplete material, but not a later date. If the work is not completed within this time, the instructor determines whether a reduced grade or a grade of F is warranted, based on the amount and quality of the work that has been completed. Further extensions of time, justified by extreme circumstances, can only be granted by the Academic Dean.

Transfer Credit

MJTI will evaluate potential transfer credits with a minimum of "B" grade from accredited graduate institutions to meet requirements for its graduate degrees. Accepting courses for transfer and applying them toward degree requirements are separate considerations. As an institution MJTI seeks to embody its core values and mission as well as the UMJC's *Defining*

Messianic Judaism Statement, therefore all evaluations will include an assessment of how well the course submitted for transfer can be justified under that mandate. Some course credits may transfer as elective credits but not be applicable to specific requirements. All transfer courses must have been completed in the past 10 years. MJTI will transfer a maximum of 50% of the credits required for any of its degrees. No more than four (4) core courses can be transferred from another institution. No transfer credit will be applied to certificates. Only transfer credit that applies to a student's degree will be accepted.

Credits from accredited institutions must be validated prior to awarding transfer credits. A student seeking to transfer coursework from another institution must provide MJTI with an official transcript, the official explanation of the course numbering system, grading system, and the course description from the catalog of the institution. A written petition to transfer a course from another institution should be submitted to Registrar.

Transfer from Semester Hours to Quarter Hours

According to standard academic practice (based on the number of structured course hours), a 3-credit semester course shall equal 4.5 quarter credits.

Probation and Dismissal

For Poor Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing, students must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for all course work at the end of every academic year. In the event that a student fails to maintain the above standards for good academic standing, he or she will be placed on academic probation until the end of the following academic year. Students who have not raised their GPA to 3.0 are subject to academic dismissal. Students in such circumstances may request that they not be dismissed by presenting a written description of their extenuating circumstances and their plan for establishing good academic standing to be reviewed by the Academic Dean. Such students will be advised in writing of the final decision. Students who have taken all the coursework for their degree but do not have a cumulative 3.0 GPA will be ineligible to graduate.

For Improper Conduct

Violations of academic integrity constitute grounds for probation or dismissal from MJTI. Academic integrity is the personal responsibility of students to only present their own work in reports, papers, or examinations. Conduct regarded as violating academic integrity includes:

Dishonesty in an examination by copying from the examination paper of another, allowing one's own examination paper to be copied, reading without the instructor's consent a copy of

the examination prior to the date it is given, giving or receiving illicit aid on a take-home examination, or the submission of the same work product in more than one course without the express permission of the instructor(s).

Plagiarism, which is the passing off of another's ideas or writings as one's own, involves failure to acknowledge material which is copied from others or failure to acknowledge one's indebtedness to others for the gist of important thoughts in a formal statement, written or oral.

MJTI is not only an academic institution. It also stands for a set of basic religious convictions and values and seeks to cultivate an environment where those convictions and values are affirmed and where students and faculty are encouraged to grow as spiritual and ethical men and women. Therefore, violations of basic moral standards – as presented in the Torah and as interpreted by Yeshua, his emissaries, and rabbinic tradition – will likewise constitute grounds for probation or dismissal from MJTI, as will conduct that shows disrespect for the commitments embodied in the MJTI Core Values and Mission Statement.

All alleged violations of academic integrity and basic religious convictions and values must be substantiated to the satisfaction of the Academic Dean. If the allegations are so substantiated, the Dean will have the discretion to determine whether probation or dismissal is appropriate.

Maintaining Student Status

MJTI graduate students are required to make progress in meeting the requirements for his/her degree.

- Students in MRS and MJS degrees must complete at least one course taken for credit per academic year in order to retain their active status as an active student.
- Students who lapse in enrollment for eight (8) or more consecutive quarters will no longer be considered MRS or MJS students. If they desire later to continue toward their degree, they must apply for readmission subject to any admission policies and degree requirements in effect at that time.
- Students who, due to unforeseen and serious circumstances, are unable to take or complete a course during the academic year may submit a Request for a Leave of Absence status to the Registrar's office. Such status is granted at the sole discretion of the Academic Dean.

PERSONNEL

MJTI Board of Directors

Richard Irving, *Board Chair*

Rabbi Walter Lieber, *Treasurer*

Rabbi Richard Nichol, *President MJTI*

Rabbi Russell Resnik, *Secretary*

Jon Cline

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MJTI Administration

Rabbi Rich Nichol, *President*

Rabbi Elliot Klayman, *COO*

Rabbi Vered Hillel, *Academic Dean*

Rabbi Paul Saal, *Dean of Students*

Rabbi Michael Hillel, *Registrar*

Joyce Klayman, *Business Manager*

MJTI Faculty

Rabbi Joshua Brumbach - DHL candidate (Rabbinic Literature, Spertus Institute); MJS (Rabbinic Writings, MJTI)

Rabbi Stuart Dauermann – PhD (Intercultural Studies, Fuller Seminary); MA (Intercultural Studies, Fuller Seminary)

Rabbi Benjamin Ehrenfeld – MA (Rabbinic Literature, MJTI); MA (Social Work, Salem State University)

Rabbi Vered Hillel – PhD (2nd Temple Period Judaism, Hebrew University of Jerusalem); MA (Pseudepigrapha, Hebrew University of Jerusalem); MA (New Testament and Backgrounds to Early Christianity, University of the Holy Land); MA (Messianic Jewish Theology, MJTI)

Rav Carl Kinbar, DLitt et Phil (Judaica, University of South Africa); MS (Jewish Studies, Spertus College of Judaica)

Rabbi Mark S. Kinzer – PhD (Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan)

Rabbi Elliot Klayman - JD (University of Cincinnati); LLM (Harvard Law School); MA (Jewish

History, The Ohio State University); BBA (Accounting, University of Cincinnati)

Rabbi Richard Nichol – DMin (Homiletics, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminar)

Rabbi Russ Resnick —Clinical Mental Health Counselor

Jennifer M. Rosner – PhD (Systematic Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary); MDiv. (Yale University Divinity School)

Rabbi David J. Rudolph – PhD (New Testament, Cambridge University); MA (Old Testament, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary); MA (Biblical Languages, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)

Rabbi Paul Saal – MA (Theological Studies, Bethel Seminary of the East)

Robin Van Riper – Master of Jewish Studies (MJTI)

CONTACT US

For more information about MJTI and its degrees and certificates, contact the registrar.

Further contact information:

MJTI website: www.mjti.org

Registrar: admin@mjti.org

Academic Dean: drvered@mjti.org