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

S502 Apostolic Writings: The Early Messianic Community

Dr. Vered Hillel (drvered@mjti.org)

Jan 12–Mar 15; Winter Quarter 2019–2020

Orbund (server11.orbund.com)

Course Description
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 understanding the Ekklesia consisting of those from the circumcision and from the non-circumcision as a prolepsis of the eschaton.

Relationship to the Curriculum
This is a first-year foundational class for all MJTI degree programs and Certificate Tracks. As such it introduces key theological points and ethos of MJTI.

Relevance
The Apostolic Writings represent the final stage of canon-history. Understanding the development of the Apostolic Writings in relation to the Tanakh, its diversity of voices, and how these texts have been interpreted by Christian and Jewish scholars is essential for solid lay and rabbinical leadership within the Messianic Jewish community.

Prerequisite
None

Technical Requirements
This is an online course. The student must have a computer, headset, and high-speed internet access.

Course Format
Podcast with asynchronous discussion, and video conferencing.

Requirements
- Listen to all podcasts; Complete all readings and reading quizzes; Participate in all discussion threads (posts and responses); Write 3 reflection papers; Complete a final exam
REQUIRED TEXTS


• The ESV, NRSV, or the TLV is recommended for study.

ARTICLES PROVIDED IN THE COURSE PACK (A $25 FEE WILL BE CHARGED TO COVER COPYRIGHT FEES FOR THE ARTICLES THAT CANNOT BE DOWNLOADED DIRECTLY FROM THE INTERNET)


https://books.google.co.il/books?id=5NAOanCwzCFC&pg=PA211&lpg=PA211&dq=The+Apostolic+Decree+and+Obedience+of+Faith&source=b&ots=Vh1BspPpO7&sig=ACfU3U2pauTR_6f15Ga2FV3834Wszj8Hg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiNjOlbB8rbkAhUHYcAKHZfBCB4QEwDHoECACAQ#v=onepage&q=The%20Apostolic%20Decree%20and%20Obedience%20of%20Faith&f=false

https://ejournals.bc.edu/index.php/scjr/article/view/1511


https://www.academia.edu/8939995/The_Epistle_of_James_as_a_Witness_to_Broader_Patterns_of_Jewish_Exegetical_Discourse

http://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/issues.aspx?article_id=1060


https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/7965/a427fa9724989e2335588a613fedd48c3adc.pdf?_ga=2.77899860.1746573012.1567591628-1595197232.1567591628

**RECOMMENDED READING**


**Assignment Instructions and Deadlines**

1. Completion of ALL required readings before responding to the corresponding discussion thread.

2. Complete a weekly quiz over the required reading material for that unit. The quiz will be posted on Orbund on Sunday of the appropriate week and will close on Thursday at 11:55 pm EST. This means that you may take the reading quiz anytime during the week but must have it completed before 11:55 pm on Thursday of that week.

3. Listen to the weekly podcast(s) before answering or entering into the discussion threads for the week. Each week runs from Sunday through Thursday. Podcasts will be available on the Friday before the beginning of a new unit.

4. Regular and timely participation in the discussion threads posted on Orbund.
   a. The instructor will post at least two discussion questions by Sunday of each week. To ensure proper participation, **you are required to post separate answers of at least 250-300 words to each discussion question weekly**. Your first posts are to be made by Monday 11:55 pm EST of each week and the second by Tuesday 11:55pm EST. If a third question is
posted, then a third post will be made no later than Wednesday. In addition, you must respond to at least three of your classmates' posts in each discussion thread weekly. Stress is placed on “timely participation.” Points will be deducted for a lack of timely participation, not only for your posts, but for your responses. The instructor will close off the discussion threads on Thursday evenings at 11:55 pm EST.

b. The "classroom" interaction on Orbund is the heart of the course. It is your opportunity to demonstrate that you have completed and understood the required readings. It is also your opportunity to demonstrate that you are learning from other students, formulating opinions, defending positions, and/or reconsidering your positions when evidence and reason call for it. You should use proper prose and pay attention to grammar and syntax.

c. As graduate students, you should engage in higher-level critical thinking and analysis. While some of the discussion questions will be substantive, others will call for analysis and application. In your analysis, be sure to reference authorities and/or sources. Use parenthetical references when citing articles read in class.

5. Three 800-word Reflection papers (± 10%) are required in weeks 3, 5, and 7. An additional article is assigned for each reflection paper. The student is to reflect on the article, using the accompanying question designed to guide your reflections, and write about how it shapes your understanding of class-related material. These are personal and subjective papers, but they must still maintain a fairly academic tone and be thoroughly and cohesively organized. The grading rubric for reflection papers will be provided to the student during the third week of class. Each reflection paper is due by 11:55 pm EST on Thursday in the week the paper is assigned.

6. A comprehensive Final Exam, covering all lectures, required reading, and class assignments from the beginning of the quarter to the end will be made available on Orbund 12:05 am Friday, March 6. The exam is to be completed and submitted on Orbund by 11:55 pm EST Sunday March 15.

### COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Date</th>
<th>Title of Lesson</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19–23</td>
<td>Torah, Authority, and Traditions of the Elders, Mark 7</td>
<td>Skarsaune, chapters 6-7, 135-162. Klawans, “Moral and Ritual Purity,” 266-284</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 5  | Incarnate Presence of Yeshua Among the Jewish People 1 Cor. 8:5-6 | Rudolph, “Jesus and the Food Laws: A Reassessment of Mark 7:19b,” 291-311.  
**Reflection Paper 2:** Bauckham, Chapter 14, “The Relevance of Extra Canonical Jewish Texts…” 207-220. |
| Week 6  | From Jewish Sect to Gentile Church pt. 1 Galatians 1-2 | Bauckham, *Jesus and the God of Israel* Chapters 1-3, 1-126.  
**Reflection Paper 3:** Eisenbaum, “Is Paul the Father of Misogyny and Antisemitism?” 506-524.  
Skarsaune, Chapters 9-10, 179-223.  
Bockmuehl, “Antioch and James the Just,” 155-192.  
Richardson, “Pauline Inconsistencies,” 347-362.  
Carson, “Pauline Inconsistencies,” 6-45.  
Augustine and Jerome – see links on Orbund  
Rudolph, “Chapter 5: Imitating Christ’s Accommodation and Open Table-Fellowship”  |
Rudolph, “Paul’s ‘Rule in All the Churches’ (1 Cor. 7:17-24) and Torah-Defined Ecclesiological Variegation,” 1-24.  
Runesson, “Paul’s Rule in All the *Ekklēsiai*,” 214-223.  
 |  |
| Week 8  | Jewish/Christian Relations Then and Now 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 |  |

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Discuss the development of the New Testament canon;
- Explain the role of the Ecclesia of the circumcision and of the non-circumcision form the Body of Messiah and is a representation of the eschaton;
- Understanding the development of the Apostolic Writings in relation to the Tanakh and its function in the canonical narrative;
- Detail how study of the Apostolic Writings intersects with contemporary issues in the Messianic Jewish community and the Christian world;
- Demonstrate a familiarity with the diversity of Second Temple Judaism;
- Describe the earliest community of Yeshua-believing Jews in the Land of Israel and the Diaspora.
Grades will be awarded according to the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading and reading quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and quantity of Discussion participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Grading System**

Letter grades and grade point equivalents

- **A** 100-94
- **A-** 93.9-90
- **B+** 89.9-87
- **B** 86.9-83
- **B-** 82.9-80
- **C+** 79.9-78
- **C** 77.9-75
- **C-** 74.9-70
- **F** Below 69.9

**Structured Work Hours**

- 35 hours Podcast & participation in asynchronous online discussions
- 40 hours Reading and Reading Quizzes
- 15 hours Reflection Papers
- 10 hours Final Exam
- 90 hours Total structured hours

**Standard MJTI Assessment Rubrics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Criteria for Asynchronous Online Discussion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Reflection</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence/Support</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Interaction</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a serious attempt to grapple with the Unit material. Analysis is reasonable and gives opportunity for interaction. Asks relevant questions.</td>
<td>Supports discussion points with references to assigned readings, logical analysis, and examples. Gives citations (work, page number) for material quoted or paraphrased.</td>
<td>Interacts with the instructor and other students. Discusses agreement or disagreement with classmates' analytical reflections and provide explanation of logic; and/or respond to questions posed in classmates' analytical reflections, and when appropriate, reference assigned readings, logical analysis, and examples.</td>
<td>Writes in clear, concise, and grammatically acceptable terms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR ESSAYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A (exemplary)</td>
<td>B (adequate)</td>
<td>C (passing)</td>
<td>F (failed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of thought</td>
<td>Fresh or even original</td>
<td>Mostly derivative or clichéd</td>
<td>Fully derivative; clichéd</td>
<td>No evident effort to understand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement with subject</td>
<td>Deeply engaged</td>
<td>Modestly engaged</td>
<td>Superficially Engaged</td>
<td>Disengaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Well organized</td>
<td>Somewhat choppy</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Disorganized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics of writing and documentation</td>
<td>Nearly error-free</td>
<td>Some errors or sloppiness</td>
<td>Many errors and very sloppy</td>
<td>Filled with errors and sloppiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument &amp; support</td>
<td>Well-argued and documented</td>
<td>Reasonable clarity and support</td>
<td>Roughly argued and poorly documented</td>
<td>No clearly supported argument or support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MJTI COURSE POLICIES**

1. **Preparation:** Each student is expected to be prepared for and to participate in the online class discussions.

2. **Dishonesty and plagiarism:** Any form of dishonesty (copying from another student’s work or allowing your work to be copied) or plagiarism (passing off another’s work as your own, not giving appropriate credit to another’s ideas) will not be tolerated. Such misconduct will result in an automatic “F” grade for the class and a permanent notice placed in the student's academic record. If you are unsure whether an action is permissible or not, please check with the instructor.

3. **Incompletes:** Incompletes will only be granted when the instructor and Academic Dean agree that significant extenuating circumstances have prevented a student from finishing the course work by the stipulated due date. Extenuating circumstances are major, unplanned, unanticipated, and unavoidable disruptions in one’s life or work. To request an incomplete, fill out the form “Request for Grade Incomplete” on the MJTI Webpage ([http://www.mjti.org/forms](http://www.mjti.org/forms)). The form will be automatically be sent to the Registrar who will request permission from the Instructor and then the Academic Dean for final approval. If the Incomplete grade is granted, the completed course work is due to the instructor within 8 weeks of the final assignment of that quarter. If the work is not completed within this time, the instructor, based on the amount and quality of the work that has been completed, determines whether a reduced grade or a grade of F is warranted. Further extensions of time, justified by extreme circumstances, are granted only by the Academic Dean.

4. **Leave of Absence/Withdrawal:** MJTI programs are designed to permit students to pursue their studies while managing the many responsibilities they have as adult professionals. MJTI will consider a leave of absence for a student who is experiencing hardships that make effective progress in her/his academic program unusually difficult. Students who, due to unforeseen and serious circumstances (including personal, family emergency, medical, and military service) are unable to take or complete a course during the academic year may submit a Request for a Leave of Absence status to the MJTI Registrar’s office. Such status is granted at the sole discretion of the Academic Dean.

Students desiring to drop or withdraw from courses after registering may do so by submitting a Change of Course Status form to the Registrar. If the course is dropped before the quarter begins, the only financial penalty charged is a $30.00 drop/withdrawal fee. If the change is requested after the quarter begins, the student will be refunded according to the refund policy stated on page 28 of the current
catalog. Non-attendance does not constitute official withdrawal. A student who begins a course and does not officially withdraw will receive the grade earned for the entire course, which will usually be a failing grade. MJTI does not accept unofficial withdrawal from a class. A student who officially withdraws from a class will receive a W on their transcript.

5. **Extensions:** Extensions of the due date for the final assignments are not permitted. Students who do qualify for an Incomplete should submit as much work as possible by the due date so that the instructor has time to grade all work in time to meet the instructor’s deadline for submitting grades to the MJTI office. At the instructor’s discretion, work may be accepted later than the due date, with a deduction of grade for each late day.

6. **Change of Student Status:** A student who has registered to take a course for credit may switch to the status of auditor up to, and including, the last day of the fourth week of class by submitting a Change of Status request form to the Registrar ([http://www.mjti.org/forms](http://www.mjti.org/forms)). The tuition differential will only be refunded if the request form is received by the end of the fourth week of the course.

7. **Discussion privacy:** The course discussion is accessible only to those registered for the class through Orbund. To ensure a positive forum for course interaction, students are asked to refrain from excerpting lessons or thread discussions from the course in any format. This will enable the cultivation of a safe and honest forum for dialogue.

8. **Instructors and Email:** Regardless of the course format, instructors shall be available during the course week for private contact from students via email. Instructors are required to respond within 24 hours of receipt (Sunday – Thursday) of student inquiries made via email. These guidelines apply both to email from students and to student questions asked of the instructor in asynchronous discussion.

9. **Questions:** If you have any questions regarding assignments, feel free to e-mail them to the instructor at drvered@mjti.org.