



MESSIANIC JEWISH

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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

S604 Besorat Matthew in its Jewish Context

Instructor: Dr. Noel Rabinowitz

Spring Quarter 2018-19; March 10-May 19, 2019

Pesach Break April 20-17

Location: Orbund (server11.orbund.com)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will employ a variety of hermeneutical strategies to study the Besorah of Matthew in its Jewish context, emphasizing questions about the book's purpose and structure. The course will focus on the Besorah's presentation of Yeshua as the Messiah-King who has come to inaugurate the eschatological restoration of Israel. To accomplish this task, the course will explore such themes as the end of exile, the geography of restoration, the fulfillment of Torah, the politics of Yeshua, the kingdom of heaven, the mission of the Shepherd-King, the apocalyptic discourse, the messianic banquet, the forgiveness of sin and the purification of Jerusalem.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRICULUM

This is an elective course available to all MJTI students.

RELEVANCE

A proper understanding of Besorat Matthew in its Jewish context is essential for the formation and development of a mature Messianic Judaism. On a historical level Matthew's Besorah anchors Messianic Judaism firmly within its first century national, political and religious context. On a theological level the Besorah shapes our present understanding of Torah, the Kingdom and the Messiahship of Yeshua. On a cultural level, the Besorah of Matthew focuses our attention on a particular community—the Jewish community, and links us to that community, past, present, and future.

PREREQUISITE

None

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Students must have a computer and Internet access.

COURSE FORMAT

Podcast with asynchronous discussion, and video conferencing.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to actively listen to all lectures, complete all assigned reading according to the course schedule, participate fully in all class discussions (discussion thread or webcast), and complete the final exam.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The publication dates indicate the required edition of each text.

- Sigal, Phillip. *The Halakhah of Jesus of Nazareth according to the Gospel of Matthew*. Revised edition. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2007.
- Turner, David L. *Matthew (Baker Exegetical Commentary of the New Testament)*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- Gurtner, Daniel M., Richard A. Burridge and Joel Willits, eds. *Jesus, Matthew's Gospel and Early Christianity: Studies in Memory of Graham N. Stanton*. (The Library of New Testament Studies, 1st ed.) London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2011
- Coursepack-Will include all required articles. Cost: TBA

RECOMMENDED READING

The recommended reading list for this class is extensive. A comprehensive reading list will be provided during the course of the quarter.

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

- **Lecture (Podcast)**
 - Each week students are required to watch (or listen to) a one-hour lecture that focuses on the theme or topic indicated in the course schedule for that week.
 - Lectures will be posted to the blogsite no later than the Sunday morning (7:00 am EST) of the course week.
 - A lecture guide will be included in the course pack or posted to the blogsite in addition to the podcast.
- **Reading and Asynchronous Online Discussion ("The Blog")**

Student participation is an essential component of this course. Reading assignments and the online discussion work together and it is therefore essential that you diligently complete these tasks.

 1. Reading:
 - a. Each student is required to complete all of the required reading (biblical text, books, articles and course pack) before class begins on Sunday of the week they are due.
 - b. Reflection questions and exegetical assignments will be included in the course pack to enrich your understanding of the subject at hand, to promote accountability and to enhance forum discussions.
 - c. Each student is requested to ponder areas where the reading has enhanced your understanding of Matthew's *Besorah*, and any areas that you might disagree with the writer's interpretation of the evidence and why you disagree.
 2. Asynchronous Online Discussion:
 - a. There will be a forum discussion every week that requires your participation.
 - b. Discussion questions will be posted about the readings, which you will be required to answer. You must give a substantive answer that reflects your interaction with and integration of the material. Answers must be a minimum of one paragraph in length.
 - c. Sufficient "participation" is defined by a minimum of 5 posts per week.
 - d. Respond to the discussion question by Monday, 5:00 pm EST. Then read your classmates' postings and respond to at least two classmates no later than the end of the week.

- **Critical Book Review**

A three-page report is to be submitted on the reading of Phillip Sigal, *The Halakhah of Jesus of Nazareth according to the Gospel of Matthew*.

1. Briefly summarize Sigal's main thesis and critically interact with his discussion. What are some of his presuppositions and how have those presuppositions influenced his argument? Assess his interpretation of historical events and his exegesis of key Matthean texts. Is Sigal's thesis sound or in need of correction or modification?
2. Give concrete examples of how the reading illuminates your understanding of Matthew's Besorah and its Jewish context.
3. This report is due on or before **March 30, 11:55 pm EST**.

- **Guided Reading Assignments**

1. Students are required to complete 4 Guided Reading Assignments (GRAs)
2. GRAs will be posted on the student portal in accordance with the **Course Schedule**.
3. Answer all questions to the best of your ability. Answers will be scored on the basis of their completion as well as their content. *This does not mean that content is unimportant.* Assignments that have an excess of incorrect answers will not be scored and assigned a grade of zero.
4. These questions are designed to develop your exegetical skills and challenge your thinking as well as promote accountability and enhance forum discussion. As a consequence, **no late** assignments will be accepted.

- **Final Exam**

1. The final exam will consist of two essay questions.
2. Students will critically engage two articles that challenge the messianic interpretation of subjects discussed in this course in order to demonstrate the students' command of the material and their ability to think holistically about Matthew's Besorah.
3. The final exam will cover lectures, readings, and other material discussed in this course.
4. The final is due on **May 19, 2019** by 11:55pm EST.

If you have any questions regarding assignments, feel free to e-mail them to me at znrabinowitz@gmail.com

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Mar 10 -Mar 16	Introduction Genre Interpretive Strategies Matthew's Community	Read: Turner, pp. 1-51 Read: GBW, pp. 5-92 Read: Harrington, "Matthew's Christian-Jewish Community, pp. 159-167 Read: Runesson, "Behind the Gospel of Matthew," pp. 460-471. Discussion Board
2	Mar 17 -Mar 23	The Arrival of the Messiah-King, The End of Exile and The Restoration of Israel Matthew 1: 1 – 4: 22	Read: Turner, pp. 52-137 Read: Cater, "Evoking Isaiah, pp. 503-520.

			<p>Read: Schreiner, "Matthew's Geographical Overlay: The Return of the Exiled King," 1-10</p> <p>Read: Willits, Zionism in the Gospel of Matthew, pp. 107-140</p> <p>Due: GRA 1</p> <p>Discussion Board</p>
3	Mar 24 -Mar 30	The Halakah of the Messiah-King Matthew 4:23 – 7:29	<p>Read: Turner, pp. 138-225</p> <p>Read: GWB, pp. 102-114</p> <p>Read: Allison, "Jesus and the Torah," pp. 75-94</p> <p>Discussion Board</p> <p>Due: The Halakah of Jesus of Nazareth Review and Critique</p>
4	Mar 31 -Apr 06	The Mission of the Messiah-King in Galilee: To Rescue the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel Matthew 8:1 – 11:30	<p>Read: Turner, pp. 226-306</p> <p>Read: GBW, 166-179</p> <p>Read: Runesson, "Saving the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel" pp. 8-24</p> <p>Read: Willits, "Matthew's Shepherd-King," 365-382</p> <p>Due: GRA 2</p> <p>Discussion Board</p>
5	Apr 07 -Apr 13	The Realm of the Messiah-King: The Kingdom of Heaven versus The Gates of Hades Matthew 12:1 – 18:35	<p>Read: Turner, pp. 307-453</p> <p>Read: Pennington, "The Kingdom of Heaven," 44-51</p> <p>Read: Willits, "Jesus, the Kingdom and the Promised Land: Engaging N.T. Wright on the Question of Kingdom and Land," 347-372</p> <p>Discussion Board</p>
6	Apr 14 -Apr 19	The Mission of the Messiah-King in Judea: The Judgment and Purification of Israel and Jerusalem Matthew 19:1 – 25:46	<p>Read: Turner, 454-611</p> <p>Read: Gurtner, "Interpreting Apocalyptic Symbolism in the Gospel of Matthew," 525-545</p> <p>Read: Carter, "Are There Imperial Texts in the Class? Intertextual Eagles and Matthean Eschatology as 'Light Out' Time for Imperial Rome, 467-487</p> <p>Due: GRA 3</p> <p>Discussion Board</p>
	Apr 20 -Apr 27	Passover Break	

7	Apr 28 -May 04	The Passover, the Messianic Banquet and Blood of the Covenant poured out for The Forgiveness of Sins Matthew 26:1 – 27:66	Read: Turner, 612-678 Read: Ham, “The Last Supper in Read: Matthew,” 53-69 Read: Bock, “Blasphemy and the Jewish Examination of Jesus,” 53-114 Read: Saiman, “The Halakah of Jesus Trial,” 21-23 Discussion Board
8	May 05 -May 11	The Resurrection of the Messiah-King, the Purification of the Holy City, and the Mission to the Nations Matthew 28:1-20	Read: Turner, pp. 679-693 Read: Gurtner, “The Veil of the Temple in History and Legend,” 97-114. Read: Wright, “Jerusalem in the New Testament.” Read: Willitts, “The Friendship of Matthew and Paul,” 150-157. Read: White, “The Eschatological Conversion of All the Nations,” 353-382 Due: GRA 4 Discussion Board
	May 12 -May 19	Final Exam Due -No later than 11:55pm May 19, 2019 Please submit your exam by email as a .doc or as a pdf.	

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course successfully, the student will be able to:

- Situate Matthew’s messianic Jewish community culturally, geographically and theologically in its late-first century Jewish content;
- Explain the Besorah of Matthew’s Deuteronomistic metanarrative and Matthew’s use of geography to demonstrate that the eschatological restoration of Israel has begun;
- Describe Matthew’s bi-referential use of the Hebrew Scriptures;
- Articulate Matthew’s presentation of Yeshua as the authoritative interpreter of the Torah and the role of Torah within the Matthean community;
- Explicate the Promised Land-Kingdom motif that permeates Matthew’s theology of Israel;
- Summarize Matthew’s presentation of Yeshua as the Davidic Messiah and the implications of that fact for the spiritual and territorial restoration of Israel;
- Identify the apocalyptic and eschatological elements of the Besorah of Matthew and assess their function within the narrative;
- Explain Matthew’s theology regarding the judgment and purification of Jerusalem and Israel;
- Comprehend the reliability and credibility of the Besorah of Matthew as a Jewish text;
- Transpose and apply insights gained from a study of Matthew to the present era and the modern messianic community;

ASSESSMENT

Grades will be awarded according to the following criteria:

1. Reading and Asynchronous Online Discussion	50 %
2. Critical Book Review	10 %
3. Guided Reading Assignments	25 %
4. Final Exam	15 %

THE GRADING SYSTEM

The basic letter grades have the following significance:

A Exemplary

B Adequate

C Passing, but requiring substantial improvement

P Passing (for use only if the Pass/Fail option is available and selected)

F Failed

Grades have been assigned the following numerical values for the purpose of computing the 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

Further aspects of the MJTI Grading System can be found on pages 29-30 of the MJTI Catalog.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE DISCUSSION				
ANALYTICAL REFLECTION	EVIDENCE/SUPPORT	INTERACTION	WRITING	TOTAL
30%	30%	30%	10%	100%
<p>Demonstrates a serious attempt to grapple with the Unit material.</p> <p>Analysis is reasonable and gives opportunity for interaction.</p> <p>Asks relevant questions.</p>	<p>Supports discussion points with references to assigned readings, logical analysis, and examples.</p> <p>Gives citations (work, page number) for material quoted or paraphrased.</p>	<p>Interacts with the instructor and other students.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Writes in clear, concise, and grammatically acceptable terms.</p>	

Assessment Criteria for Essays				
	A (exemplary)	B (adequate)	C (passing)	F (failed)
Quality of thought	Fresh or even original	Mostly derivative or clichéd	Fully derivative; clichéd	No evident effort to understand
Engagement with subject	Deeply engaged	Modestly engaged	Superficially Engaged	Disengaged
Organization	Well organized	Somewhat choppy	Poor	Disorganized
Mechanics of writing and documentation	Nearly error-free	Some errors or sloppiness	Many errors and very sloppy	Filled with errors and sloppiness
Argument and support	Well-argued and documented	Reasonable clarity and support	Roughly argued and poorly documented	No clearly supported argument

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>). The form will 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 no later than eight weeks from the assignment due date for the quarter in which the class occurred. 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>). 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 znrabinowitz@gmail.com

STRUCTURED WORK HOURS

8 hours	Lectures (Podcasts)
24 hours	Participation in asynchronous online discussion
4 hours	Guided Reading Assignments
4 hours	Critical Book Review
4 hours	Final Exam
46 hours	Approximately 900 pages of assigned reading
90 hours	Total structured hours