



MESSIANIC JEWISH THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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

T601 God and Messiah

Instructor: Richard Harvey (richardsharvey@gmail.com)

3 October – 21 November 2021—Fall Term 2021-22

Populi: <https://mjti.populiweb.com>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRICULUM

This is a Core Course, required for all students in the Jewish Studies and Rabbinic Studies programs

RELEVANCE

Messianic Jewish leaders need to understand historic Jewish and Christian concerns regarding the nature of God, and to articulate a view of God which is faithful to revelation, respectful of both traditions, and framed in an idiom that is both Jewish and contemporary.

PREREQUISITE

T501 Shape of Messianic Jewish Theology or special permission from the Academic Dean.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The student must have a computer, headset, and high-speed internet access. For assistance with Populi, please contact Rabbi Michael admin@mjti.org or Dr. Hillel drvered@mjti.org.

COURSE FORMAT

Weekly lectures online at 1.30-3.30 EST and asynchronous online discussion (by blog).

REQUIREMENTS

Listening to all lectures, reading all assigned texts, active participation in all discussion threads, and completion of final examination.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the God of Israel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Berger, David. *The Rebbe, The Messiah and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference*. Portland: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2001.
- Boyarin, Daniel. *Border Lines*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

- Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrines*. New York: Continuum, 2000. [Earlier editions are also acceptable.]
- Scholem, Gershom. *On the Kabbalah and Its Symbolism*. New York: Schocken, 1996. [Earlier editions are also acceptable]
- Scholem, Gershom. *On the Mystical Shape of the Godhead*. New York: Schocken, 1991.
- Shapiro, Marc B. *The Limits of Orthodox Theology*. Portland: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2004.

RECOMMENDED READING

- Colins, Adela Yarbro and John J. *King and Messiah as Son of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Gunton, Colin E. *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology*. New York: T&T Clark, 2003.
- Harvey, Richard S. *Mapping Messianic Jewish Theology*. Carlisle, Scotland: Paternoster, 2018.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *Lord Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Idel, Moshe. *Ben: Sonship and Jewish Mysticism*. New York: Continuum, 2007.

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

Participation in the asynchronous online discussion is crucial to learning in the course and to your course grade. Lectures and discussion questions will be posted by the instructor no later than the Sunday morning of the course week. Students are expected to log on to the course blog and respond to the discussion questions no later than the end of the day on Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday will then be devoted to blog discussion of those responses. In a normal week, students are expected to post three or more times with substantive contributions. The final exam will be posted no later than **November 25, 2021**. The exam must be returned to the instructor by **December 5, 2021**.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week & Date	Title of Lesson	Required Reading
Week 1 October 3	The God of Israel – The Witness of Tanakh	Bauckham 1- 17; 60-94
Week 2 October 10	Second Temple Judaism	Bauckham 107-26; 152-72; 221-32; Boyarin 112-27
Week 3 October 17	Formative Rabbinic Judaism	Boyarin 128-47; Scholem (Mystical Shape) 15-55; 140-96
Week 4 October 24	Medieval Judaism	Scholem (Kabbalah) 32-86; Shapiro 1-70; 78-86
Week 5 October 31	Apostolic Writings, A – Besorot & Acts	Bauckham 32-37; 39-40; 46-50; 1046; Boyarin 89-111
Week 6 November 7	Apostolic Writings, B – Letters & Revelation	Bauckham 18-31; 59; 94-104; 17281; 182-221; 233-53
Week 7 November 14	Patristic Teaching	Kelly 83-136; 223-279; Kinzer, “Finding Our Way Through Nicaea”
Week 8 November 21	The Rebbe & Messianic Jews	Berger 1-110; 159-177

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Explain the concept of eschatological, covenantal monotheism and how Yeshua can be understood in this context.
- Describe the paradox of divine infinity and finitude in Tanakh.

- Describe the way the challenge of the paradox of divine infinity and finitude is handled in Second Temple and Rabbinic Jewish thought.
- Articulate the differences between the medieval Jewish mystical and philosophical traditions in their approach to the paradox of divine infinity and finitude.
- Describe the diverse perspectives on the deity of Yeshua found in the various books of the Apostolic Writings, and their connection to the Jewish thought of their time.
- Articulate the diverse perspectives on the unity and differentiation of God found among the Church fathers, and the parallels between the issues they confronted and those encountered by Jewish thinkers in the medieval period.
- Describe the difficulties contemporary Jews have with the deity of Yeshua and formulate ways that Messianic Jews today might fruitfully respond to those difficulties.

ASSESSMENT

Grades will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Quality and quantity of blog participation 50%
- Quality of final examination 50%

STRUCTURED WORK HOURS

- 16 hours Class time (online)
- 24 hours Participation in asynchronous online discussion
- 10 hours Final exam (2,500 words)
- 40 hours 800 pages of assigned reading*
- **90 hours Total structured hours**

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grade and grade point equivalents

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

STANDARD MJTI ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

Assessment Criteria for Asynchronous Online discussion				
<i>Analytical Reflection</i>	<i>Evidence/Support</i>	<i>Interaction</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>Total</i>
30%	30%	30%	10%	100%
Demonstrates a serious attempt to grapple with the Unit material. Reasonable analysis. Gives opportunity for interaction.	Supports discussion points with references to assigned readings, logical analysis, and examples. Gives citations (work, page number) for material quoted or paraphrased.	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	Writes in clear, concise, and grammatically acceptable terms.	

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

MJTI COURSE POLICIES

- Preparation:** Each student is expected to be prepared for and to participate in the online class discussions.
- 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.
- 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 six 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.
- 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 richardsharvey@gmail.com.