



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

H510 Jewish-Christian Relations in Historical Context

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October 15 – December 17, 2023; Fall Term 2023-24

Populi (<https://mjtj.populiweb.com>)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 class 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 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 twenty-first century and the witness of Messianic Judaism.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRICULUM

This is a Core course required course for the Master of Jewish Studies and Master of Rabbinic Studies degrees.

RELEVANCE

For most in the wider Jewish world, the study of Jewish-Christian relations reflects a concern for how Jews relate to the world external to Judaism. In contrast, from a Messianic Jewish perspective, Jewish-Christian relations are integral to the internal identity of Jews and Judaism. Consequently, this course is central to the MJTI Core curriculum, and to the education of every matriculated student.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

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

COURSE FORMAT

Lecture (by podcast) and asynchronous online discussion (by blog).

REQUIREMENTS

Listen to all lectures, read all assigned texts, actively participate in all discussion questions, and complete the final examination.

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

- Boccaccini, Gabriele. "Multiple Judaisms" in *Bible Review* XI:1 (February 1995), pages 38-41.
- Boyarin, Daniel. *Border Lines*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2004.
- Braaten, Carl E. and Robert W. Jenson. *Jews and Christians: People of God*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- *Christianity in Jewish Terms* (ed. Frymer-Kensky, et al). New York: Basic Books, 2002.
- Kinzer, Mark. *Postmissionary Messianic Judaism*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2005.
- Yuval, Israel Jacob. *Two Nations in Your Womb*. Berkeley: University of California, 2006.

RECOMMENDED READING

- Bader-Saye, Scott. *Church and Israel after Christendom*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2005.
- Boccaccini, Gabriele. *Middle Judaism*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.
- Boyarin, Daniel. *Dying for God*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999.
- Fredriksen, Paula. *Augustine and the Jews*. New York: Doubleday, 2008.
- Gillet, Lev. *Communion in the Messiah*. London: Lutterworth, 1942.
- Greenberg, Irving. *For the Sake of Heaven and Earth*. Philadelphia: JPS, 2004.
- Neusner, Jacob. *Judaism in the Matrix of Christianity*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986.
- Novak, David. *Jewish-Christian Dialogue*. New York: Oxford, 1989.
- Rottenberg, Isaac C. *Christian-Jewish Dialogue*. Atlanta: Hebraic Heritage, 2005.
- Schäfer, Peter. *Jesus in the Talmud*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.
- Wyschogrod, Michael. *Abraham's Promise*. Edited by R. Kendall Soulen. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

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 Sunday morning of the course week. Students are expected to log on to Populi and respond to the discussion questions no later than the end of the day on Monday. Tuesday through Friday will then be devoted to 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 on Populi no later than Thursday night, Dec 3, 2023. The exam is to be uploaded on Populi, before 11:55pm EST Sunday, Dec 17, 2023.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week & Date	Title of Lesson	Required Reading
Week 1 Oct 15-19	Jewish-Christian Relations in Historical & Theological Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boccaccini, 38-41• Braaten & Jenson, 65-77• <i>Nostra Aetate</i> (2 pages)• <i>Dabru Emet</i> in Braaten & Jenson, 179-196
Week 2 Oct 22-26	Antiquity -- Religion, Torah, & the Great Partition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyarin, ix-xv; 1-33; 37-73; 74-86; 202-225;• Kinzer, <i>PMJ</i>, 181-212
Week 3 Oct 29-Nov 2	Antiquity -- Logos Theology & the Great Partition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyarin, 89-147; 227-228• Kinzer, <i>Finding our Way Through Nicaea</i>, 1-32

Week 4 Nov 5-9	The Middle Ages – Jacob & Esau, Passover & Easter	• Yuval, 1-91; 205-256
Week 5 Nov 12-16	The Middle Ages – Eschatology, Martyrdom, & Ritual Murder	• Yuval, 92-204; 257-295
Week 6 Nov 19-23	Premodern Halakhic Perspectives	• Frymer-Kensky, chs. 4-9
Week 7 Nov 26-30	Twentieth Century Shifts I	• Braaten & Jenson, 95-113; 148-170 • Kinzer, <i>Lumen Gentium</i> , 156-174
Week 8 Dec 3-7	Twentieth Century Shifts II	• Rosner, <i>Messianic Jews and Jewish-Christian Dialogue</i> , 145-158 • Braaten & Jenson, 1-13, 78-94 • Kinzer, <i>Beginning with the End</i> , 91-125

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Articulate a Messianic Jewish theological perspective on the schism between the Jewish and Christian communities and traditions;
- Describe the process by which this schism occurred in the early centuries of the common era;
- Describe the continued mutual interaction and influence between the two communities and traditions that occurred even in the midst of polemics and violence, and the way this interaction shaped the identities of both parties;
- Explain the momentous changes that have occurred in the relationship between the Jewish and Christian communities in the modern era;
- Describe how the emergence of the Modern Messianic Jewish movement is related to these changes;
- Explain the dynamic interconnection between new historical events (such as the Holocaust), theological developments (such as the Christian rejection of supersessionism), and changes in historiographical paradigms
- Explain the importance of the study of Jewish-Christian relations for the overall core curriculum of the MJTI.

ASSESSMENT

Grades will be awarded according to the following criteria: quality and quantity of discussion thread participation (50%), quality of final examination (50%).

THE 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				
Analytical Reflection	Evidence/Support	Interaction	Writing	Total
30%	30%	30%	10%	100%
Demonstrates a serious attempt to grapple with the Unit material. Reasonable analysis. Gives opportunity for interaction. Asks relevant questions.	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 readings, logical analysis, and examples.	Writes in clear, concise, and grammatically acceptable terms.	

Assessment Criteria for Essays				
	<i>A (exemplary)</i>	<i>B (adequate)</i>	<i>C (passing)</i>	<i>F (failed)</i>
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 or support

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 coursework 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 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 coursework 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 withdrawals 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. **Late Assignments:** Each day or part of a day an assignment is late the grade is to be reduced by 10%. An instructor may adjust this policy to be lenient with a student when their situation warrants being handled with grace.
7. **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.
8. **Discussion privacy:** The course discussion is accessible only to those registered for the class through Populi. 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.
9. **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.
10. **Questions:** If you have any questions regarding assignments, feel free to e-mail them to the instructor at jenmrosner@gmail.com.