



Model of Second Temple in Jerusalem 1

Syracuse University Fall 2024
**The Temple & the
Dead Sea Scrolls**

REL/JSP 307
(Writing Intensive)

Time: TTh 12:30-1:50

Place: Watson 149

Instructor: [JIM WATTS](#) (PhD)

Office: Hall of Languages 501

**Office Hours: T 2-3 pm & by
appointment**

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Phone: 443-5713



Cave 1 at Qumran 1

Audience:

Students interested in the Bible or ancient religions and wanting to fill core requirements, as well as majors and minors in Religion, Jewish Studies, and History. This course fulfills requirements for:

- *Writing Intensive* courses
- SU critical competency in *Critical and Creative Thinking*
- A&S core for classes in *Humanities*

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: None.

Course Description:

The period between the construction of the second Jewish temple in Jerusalem in 515 B.C.E. and its destruction by the Romans in 70 C.E. witnessed major historical upheavals and significant religious changes that would affect all subsequent Western religions. The origins of the authority of scripture, of the centrality of law and morality in religion, of the synagogue and of apocalyptic expectations for the future all developed in the Judaism of this period. This investigation of the history and literature of Second Temple Judaism will train students to analyze and integrate different kinds of historical sources (primary texts from archeological finds, primary texts preserved in Western cultures, and secondary evaluations by modern historians) to understand religious developments in the period and their later influence.

Course Objectives:

The goals of this course goals are to have students:

- Gain the ability to summarize and analyze the literary sources for Second Temple Jewish history;
- Demonstrate skill in historical reasoning by using literary and archeological data for drawing

historical conclusions;

- Use the context of Second Temple Jewish culture to think both critically and imaginatively about the nature of religion as a basic response to and expression of the human condition;
- Demonstrate an understanding of Second Temple Jewish history and literature as an instructive example of human religious phenomena.

This course meets the Writing Intensive requirement of the Liberal Arts Core in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Course Requirements:

The course consists of class discussions, lectures, student projects, and, most of all, readings. This course is a *reading* course, and students' completion of all reading assignments is essential for their success. Assignments, discussions, lectures and tests all presuppose that students have read carefully and on schedule the assigned readings.

Evaluation:

Students are evaluated on the basis of their performance on:

1. Three papers (20% each) of 1500 words each (see due dates and links to paper assignments in schedule below). Students may choose to substitute a 3,000-5,000-word term paper instead of papers 2 and 3. Late papers assignments will not be eligible for an 'A' grade. Papers 1 and 2 can be revised and resubmitted for a higher grade.
2. A group report (20%), built on Paper 1, in the form of a lesson for the rest of the class on October 8, 22, or 29 (see schedule below).
3. Short assignments (10%) on the readings for student-led lessons due at 5 pm on those days.
4. Participation in class discussions and activities (10%).

The grading scale is: A+ = 100, A = 95, A- = 92, B+ = 88, B = 85, B- = 82, C+ = 78, C = 75, C- = 72, D+ = 68, D = 65, D- = 62, F = 55. Student may check their grades online through the [Blackboard Learning System](#). Incidents of plagiarism or cheating result in no credit (0) for the test or assignment and may result in further disciplinary action.

Classroom Behavior:

A successful learning experience depends on students' behavior in class, as much as on the quality of their work and on the teacher's presentations.

- I encourage energetic discussion of relevant topics and expect different opinions among class members, but always express your ideas with respect for those who might disagree with you.
- Arrive on time. If you must be late, enter quietly. Do not leave during class except for an emergency, unless you have informed the instructor in advance.
- Turn off cell phones. Use laptops only for class work. Texting, e-mailing, or web browsing during class are grounds for being dismissed from that day's class.

Academic Integrity:

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds

students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. Syracuse University students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice.

In this course, students found cheating on a test or assignment will receive zero (0) credit for that test or assignment and may result in further disciplinary action. For more information and the complete policy, see the Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS) in Bird Library or at <http://class.syr.edu/>.

Academic Integrity Online:

All academic integrity expectations that apply to in-person quizzes and exams also apply to online quizzes and exams. In this course, all work submitted for quizzes and exams must be yours alone. Discussing quiz or exam questions with anyone during the quiz or exam period violates academic integrity expectations for this course. Using free or paid websites, including AI engines, to obtain exam solutions or assignments completed by others and to present the work as your own violates academic integrity expectations in this course.

This class will use the plagiarism detection and prevention system Turnitin. You will have the option to submit your papers to Turnitin to check that all sources you use have been properly acknowledged and cited before you submit the final paper through Turnitin, which compares submitted documents against documents on the Internet and against student papers submitted to Turnitin at Syracuse University and at other colleges and universities. I will take your knowledge of the subject matter of this course and your writing level and style into account in interpreting the originality report. Keep in mind that all papers you submit for this class will become part of the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Discrimination or Harassment:

The University does not discriminate and prohibits harassment or discrimination related to any protected category including creed, ethnicity, citizenship, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, gender, pregnancy, disability, marital status, age, race, color, veteran status, military status, religion, sexual orientation, domestic violence status, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender. Any complaint of discrimination or harassment related to any of these protected bases should be reported to Sheila Johnson-Willis, the University's Chief Equal Opportunity & Title IX Officer. She is responsible for coordinating compliance efforts under various laws including Titles VI, VII, IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. She can be contacted at Equal Opportunity, Inclusion, and Resolution Services, 005 Steele Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-1120; by email: titleix@syr.edu; or by telephone: 315-443-0211.

Federal and state law, and University policy prohibit discrimination and harassment based on sex or gender (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and

retaliation). If a student has been harassed or assaulted, they can obtain confidential counseling support, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, from the Sexual and Relationship Violence Response Team at the Counseling Center (315-443-4715, 200 Walnut Place, Syracuse, New York 13244-5040). Incidents of sexual violence or harassment can be reported non-confidentially to the University's Title IX Officer (Sheila Johnson Willis, 315-443-0211, titleix@syr.edu, 005 Steele Hall). Reports to law enforcement can be made to the University's Department of Public Safety (315-443-2224, 005 Sims Hall), the Syracuse Police Department (511 South State Street, Syracuse, New York, 911 in case of emergency or 315-435-3016 to speak with the Abused Persons Unit), or the State Police (844-845-7269).

I will seek to keep information you share with me private to the greatest extent possible, but as a professor I have mandatory reporting responsibilities to share information regarding sexual misconduct, harassment, and crimes I learn about to help make our campus a safer place for all.

Religious Observances Policy:

SU religious observances policy, found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to are religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice/StudentServices/Enrollment/MyReligiousObservances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.

Disability-Related Accommodations:

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. My goal as your instructor is to create learning environments that are useable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, I invite you to talk with me to discuss additional strategies beyond accommodations that may be helpful to your success, and to collaborate with the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) in this process.

If you would like to discuss disability-accommodations or register with CDR, please visit Center for Disability Resources. Please call (315) 443-4498 or email disabilityresources@syr.edu for more detailed information. The CDR is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic accommodations and will work with the student to develop an access plan. Since academic accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact CDR as soon as possible to begin this process.

Required Textbooks

- Simkovich, Malka Z. *Discovering Second Temple Literature* (University of Nebraska Press, 2018)

Recommended: *The Jewish Study Bible* (NJPS Tanakh translation, Oxford University Press) **OR** *The New Oxford Annotated Bible = NOAB* (New Revised Standard Version)

Schedule of Topics & Assignments:

Readings from textbooks appear by author and page numbers, readings from biblical books appear as book

title and chapters, World Wide Web assignments are hotlinked. Journal articles (author and "title"; see full citations in course [bibliography](#)) must be retrieved through the [SU Library](#).

Date	<i>Topics & Assignments (due by class on date listed)</i>
T Aug 27	<i>Introductions and Background</i> Bible: Genesis 12, 15; 2 Kings 16-20, 22-23, 25
<i>History of Judea in the Second Temple Period</i>	
Th Aug 29	<i>The Rise of Torah</i> Textbook: Simkovich xiii-xxviii; 59-63 Bible: Ezra 1, 3, 6-10. Nehemiah 1-6, 8-9 Web: Cyrus Cylinder ; Xanthus Inscription
T Sep 3	<i>The Samaritans</i> Bible: 2 Kings 17; Ezra 4:1-5; Blackboard: Rebuilding Temple by Josephus Web: Israelite Samaritan Religion , first four sections.
Th Sep 5	<i>The Rise of Priests</i> Textbook: Simkovich 63-70 Bible (Apocrypha): Sira/Eccl. 50; 1 Maccabees 1-10; 2 Maccabees 3-6 Blackboard: Alexander & the Jews by Josephus; John Hyrcanus by Josephus
T Sep 10	<i>Jews in Egypt</i> Textbook: Simkovich, 91-113. Blackboard: Elephantine Papyri; Jews in Ptolemaic Egypt. Web: The Letter of Aristeas 9-11, 29-33, 46-50, 121-22, 176-79, 308-11.
Th Sep 12	<i>Judea under Rome</i> Textbook: Simkovich, 70-89, 115-125; Blackboard: Jews under Roman rule
T Sep 17	<i>The Jewish Revolts against Rome</i> Blackboard: Jewish revolts against Rome Textbook: Simkovich 189-99 Web: Arch of Titus
<i>Archeology & Literature of the Second Temple Period</i>	
Th Sep 19	<i>Archeology and Religion</i> Textbook: Simkovich 3-4; Web: Archeology of the Bible Blackboard: Granerød, "Canon and Archive"
T Sep 24	8 am: Paper #1 due in Blackboard via Turnitin (see paper instructions)
Th Sep 26	Instructor's Report: <i>The Al-Yahudu texts</i> Blackboard: Deloreme, "The Al-Yahudu Texts"; Abraham, "Judean Brides in Cuneiform Sources," 198-201, 206-211; Alstola, <i>Judeans in Babylonia</i> , 39-43 Web: Ancient tablets displayed in Jerusalem fuel looting debate
T Oct 1	<i>History & Stories of Jews in Diaspora</i> Textbook: Simkovich 108-113, 243-258 Bible: Daniel 3, 6; Esther

Th Oct 3	Instructor's Report: Jerusalem Bible: Ezra 1, 3; Nehemiah 1:1-3, 2:1-20 Web: Ophel Hill ; Lipschits, Persian Period Finds from Jerusalem	
T Oct 8	Group Report: Elephantine Suggestion: start with articles by Granerod and Rosenberg.	
Th Oct 10	<i>Novels about Jewish Life in Judea</i> Bible (Apocrypha): Tobit 6, Judith (all), Susanna (all)	
T Oct 15	Fall Break - No Class	
Th Oct 17	<i>Apocalyptic</i> Textbook: Simkovich 258-269; Bible: Daniel 7, 12; Web: Jubilees 93:1-9; War Scroll 1:1-2:10	
T Oct 22	Group Report: Qumran Suggestion: start with articles by Crawford and Greshko	
Th Oct 24	<i>Commentary & Rewritten Bibles</i> Textbook: Simkovich 173-187, 221-243, 271-273. Bible: 1 Chronicles 28-29; Bible (Apocrypha): Baruch 1-5; Letter of Jeremiah 6:1-7; Web: 1 Enoch 1:1-9, 6:1-5, 7:1-8:2, 10:1-7, 14:1-15:7; 106:1-19; Jubilees 1:1-2:30, 6:32-38; 21:1-24; 48:1-50:4; Habakkuk Peshet , pp. 2-4.	
T Oct 29	Group Report: Bar Kochba caves Suggestion: start with articles by Cotton and Isaac	
Th Oct 31	<i>Wisdom & Hymns</i> Bible: Psalms 1, 130, 137, 150; Blackboard: Apostrophe to Zion from DSS Web: Qumran Hodayot 8	
Religion in the Second Temple Period, and its Legacies		
T Nov 5	<i>Pharisees & Sadducees, Apocalypics & Ascetics</i> Blackboard: Sects in 2T Judaism Term paper topics due (list of possible topics) For term papers, make appointment to discuss topics with Prof. Watts before today	
Th Nov 7	<i>From Sectarianism to 2 Religions, Temple to Synagogue, priests to rabbis and bishops</i> Bible: Exodus 26, 40; Leviticus 1; Mark 1-16; Acts 1-4, 9-10, Galatians 1-2 Blackboard: Hillel and other rabbis	
T Nov 12	Paper #2 (see paper instructions) via Turnitin in Blackboard OR thesis, bibliography & outline of term paper	
Th Nov 14	TBD (to be determined)	TBD
T Nov 19	TBD	TBD
Th Nov 21	TBD	TBD
Thanksgiving Break		
T Dec 3	TBD	TBD
Th Dec 5	TBD	TBD
T Dec 10	TBD	TBD

T Dec 10	Draft of Term Papers due	8 am
M Dec 16 5:00 pm	Paper assignment #3 OR Final Term Papers due via Turnitin in Blackboard drop box	

Bibliography

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