

***HIS 500 Christianity and Judaism in Early Antiquity  
Fall Term 2009***

***Dr. R. G. Leggett***

***Thursdays, 2.00 to 5.00 p.m.***

**Purpose**

“Christianity and Judaism in Early Antiquity” is designed to introduce you to four themes:

- Jewish-Christian apologetics
- Christology
- Ecclesiology and Christian identity
- Trinitarian theology

These themes are central to Jewish-Christian relations and development in the period from 30 to 600 C.E. and continue to play a role in contemporary Christian faith and praxis. In addition to these themes, this course will introduce you to the discipline of historiography.

**Pre-requisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course. This course is required of all Master of Arts in Theological Studies and the Master of Divinity.

**Format**

The course will meet weekly for a three-hour session that will consist of lecture and seminar discussion. The first half of each session will focus on topics arising from the readings from the required texts. The second half of each session will be a seminar session on the reserve readings from primary texts of the period.

**Competencies**

You will be evaluated on your ability to:

- Identify significant historical events, persons and controversies of the period (30 to 600 C.E.)
- Demonstrate a familiarity with the main theological themes within their cultural contexts
- Demonstrate a familiarity with two or three pertinent historiographical approaches
- Demonstrate an awareness of the interaction between emergent Judaism and Christianity during the period (30 to 600 C.E.)

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### **Expectations**

You will be expected to fulfill the following expectations and to complete successfully the following evaluations:

- Completion of weekly reading assignments (50 to 75 pages per week);
- Participation in at least 80% of the scheduled course sessions and
- Complete the written evaluations associated with the course.

### **Evaluations**

You will be required to submit a bi-weekly journal report (2 to 3 pages) that reflects on how the seminar readings for the two-week period offered insights into the four themes noted in the 'Purpose' section of this course description.

You will also be given a take-home final examination (10 to 15 pages) that will give you an opportunity to demonstrate the competencies identified in the 'Competencies' section of this course description.

### **Required Texts**

Burrus, Virginia, ed. *Late Ancient Christianity*. A People's History of Christianity, no. 2. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2005.

Horsley, Richard A., ed. *Christian Origins*. A People's History of Christianity, no. 1. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2005.

Krueger, Derek, ed. *Byzantine Christianity*. A People's History of Christianity, no. 3. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2006.

In addition to these required texts there will be readings on reserve in the Library that are required for the seminar sessions of the course.

A complete syllabus of readings will be available at the first session of the course.