

An Intellectual History of Judaism and Christianity

Syllabus

November 27, 2015 (Version 2)

[This syllabus is a work-in-progress (and will be until the final week!). It's useful for an outline of the course but for actual weekly assignments, please refer to the individual assignment documents on [the course website](#).]

Week 1, Sep 21: Introduction to Modern Bible Scholarship

Reading: Genesis 1-3, 6-8; Proverbs 8; Documentary Hypothesis Summary; Friedman, "Who Wrote the Flood Stories"; Overview Timeline (dates and events); Geller, "The Religion of the Bible"; Lipschits, "History of Israel in the Biblical Period"; The Six Retrojections.

Week 2, Sep 28: Introduction to Modern Bible Scholarship (continued)

Reading: Gospel of Mark; New Testament Canon Timeline; The Synoptic Problem: http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Synoptic_Problem.htm; Ideas Timelines (text of Basic);

Week 3, Oct 5: The Preliterate Mind of Ancient Man

Reading: Ong, *Orality and Literacy*, ch3, part of ch6; Leviticus 16; Frankfort et al. *Before Philosophy*, ch 1, (optional: ch 8); *The Illiad*, Book One;

Topics: Divine-Human Continuum

Week 4, Oct 19: From Polytheism to Monolatry; Covenant

Reading: Smith, *Common Theology of the ANE*; Eerdman's *Covenant* article; The Three Covenants; 1 Kings 18;

Week 5, Oct 26: The Triumph of Monotheism and its Consequences

Reading: Hayes on Kaufmann; The Book of Job; (optional) Ecclesiastes;

Visit from Harvard Prof. Shaye Cohen.

Week 6, Nov 2: Jewish Apocalypticism

Reading: Ehrman, *Jesus: Apocalyptic Prophet of the New Millennium*, pp 105-123; Daniel 7, 11:40-12:3; The War Scroll; 4 Ezra [Second Esdras], ch 13; (optional) The Revelation to John, ch. 4-6, 10, 14, 19-21:8.

Week 7, Nov 9: The Historical Jesus and Eschatological Expectations

Reading: Ehrman, *Jesus: Apocalyptic Prophet*, chapters 9-11; Matthew 24; Kloppenborg, *Q: The Earliest Gospel*, chapter 3; Morton Smith, *Jesus the Magician*, chapter 1, Appendix B.

Week 8, Nov 16: How Jesus Became God (Part 1)

Reading: Ehrman, *How Jesus Became God*, Intro, chapters 1-3.

Week 9, Nov 23: How Jesus Became God (Part 2)

Reading: Ehrman, *How Jesus Became God*, chapters 4-6;

Week 10, Nov 30: How Jesus Became God (Part 3)

Reading: Ehrman, *How Jesus Became God*, chapters 6-8, Epilogue;

Week 11: Three "Other" Christianities: The Ebionites, Marcionites, and Gnosticism

Reading: Acts 15:1-31 and Galatians 2; Ehrman, *Lost Christianities*, chapter 5, Early Christian Ebionites and Marcionites; chapter 3, The Coptic Gospel of Thomas; chapter 6, Early Christian Gnosticism; the Gospel of Thomas (in part)

Week 12, Dec 14: Original Sin and Asceticism; the Secret Gospel of Mark

Reading: Roman Catholic *Catechism*, The Fall; Brown, *Body and Society*; Mishnah;