

IPT5/720 – Jews and Christians: A Theological Journey

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Office hours during term: T, W 1:00-5:00 pm & by appointment

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Office hours during term: W, Th 9:00 am -12:00 noon & by appointment

Purpose: Jews and Christians have often done theology as rivals. In this course, we will explore a different approach: talking about God as curious friends with a common goal of being a blessing to the world. We will study both traditions' core Biblical narratives of faith (Exodus and Resurrection), examine prominent modern declarations of common ground, read inter-faith writings from contemporary theologians, discuss multiple approaches to interfaith engagement.

Competence Objectives: Students will be expected to learn and demonstrate the ability to:

- Summarize content of the Exodus and Resurrection narratives
- Articulate spiritual interpretations of these narratives
- Describe how and why Jews and Christians tend to read Bible differently
- Articulate representative Christian and Jewish perspectives on key shared concepts, e.g., God, covenant, and messiah
- Articulate and evaluate multiple approaches to interfaith work
- Engage in respectful, curious interfaith dialogue

Format: Spring term 2016, Thursdays 2:00-5:00 pm, January 9, 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6. Course activities include lecture, discussion, small group activities, and two field trips.

Field Trips:

- Saturday date TBA, 10:00 am – 2:30 pm: Field trip to Or Shalom Synagogue, 710 E. 10th Avenue, for service, potluck vegetarian lunch, and interfaith discussion.
- Sunday date TBA, 10:15 am – 12:30 pm: Field trip to Tenth Church-Kitsilano, 1805 Larch Street, for service, coffee, and interfaith discussion.

Identification of the levels at which the course can be taken: Certificate, Basic (Diploma/MA/M.Div) or Advanced (Th.M).

Required texts:

Goldberg, Michael. *Jews and Christians: Getting Our Stories Straight* (Wipf & Stock), 2001.

Greenberg, Irving (Yitz). *For the Sake of Heaven and Earth: The New Encounter Between Judaism and Christianity* (Jewish Publication Society), 2004

Wyschogrod, Michael. *Abraham's Promise: Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations*. Ed. Kendall Soulen (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

Assignments: For all students:

- Attendance in accordance with VST policies
- Thoughtful, engaged participation in class discussion and activities
- Completion of assigned readings
- Two 750-word reflection papers demonstrating personal engagement, and mastery of relevant content
- One in-class presentation on a relevant article from www.stateofformation.org, details and assignments on the first day of class.

Additional for Basic-level students (MATS, M.Div, MAPPL, MAIIS):

- A 3000-word final paper on a topic of the student's choice, demonstrating course competencies, and involving research (5 sources) beyond the assigned course readings.

Additional for Advanced-level students (Th.M.):

- A 4000-word final paper on a topic of the student's choice, demonstrating course competencies, and involving significant research (10 sources) beyond the course readings.

Prerequisites: None.

Selected bibliography:

"A Symposium on Dabru Emet: A Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity" *Pro Ecclesia* 11 no 1 (Winter 2002), 5-19.

Anderson, Gary. *The Genesis of Perfection: Adam and Eve in Jewish and Christian Imagination* (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster, 2002).

Armstrong, Karen. *The Bible: A Biography* (Grove Press), 2008.

Bader-Saye, Scott. *Church and Israel After Christendom: The Politics of Election* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview, 1999).

Berlin, Adele. *The Jewish Study Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2004.

Braaten, Carl and Robert Jenson, eds. *Jews and Christians: People of God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003).

Brettler, Marc Zvi. *How to Read the Jewish Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2005.

Brill, Alan. *Judaism and Other Religions: Models of Understanding* (Palgrave MacMillan), 2014.

Brown, Brian Arthur. *Three Testaments: Torah, Gospel, and Quran* (New York: Rowman and Littlefield), 2012.

Byassee, Jason. "Allegory and the Jews," in *Praise Seeking Understanding* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007).

Byassee, Jason. "Can a Jew be a Christian?" *Christian Century* (May 3, 2005), 22-27.

Dawson, John David. *Christian Figural Reading and the Fashioning of Identity* (Berkeley: University of California, 2002).

Ehrman, Bart D. *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, 4th edn. (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2007.

Fredriksen, Paula. *Augustine and the Jews: A Christian Defense of Jews and Judaism* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2010).

Frymer-Kensky, Tikva; Peter Ochs, David Novak, Michael Singer, David Sandmel and Brice Marshall. *Christianity in Jewish Terms* (Basic Books), 2000.

Gopin, Marc. *To Make the Earth Whole: The Art of Citizen Diplomacy in an Age of Religious Militancy* (Rowman & Littlefield), 2009.

Gotstein, Alon Goshen and Eugene Korn. *Jewish Theology and World Religions* (Littman), 2016.

Hays, Richard. "Anti-Judaism and Ethnic Conflict," in *The Moral Vision of the New Testament* (San Francisco: Harper, 1996), 407-443.

Heschel, Susannah. "Anti-Judaism in Christian Feminist Theology," *Tikkun* Vol 5 No 3 (1990), 25-28 & 95-97.

Jennings, Willie James. *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2010).

Kaplan, Edward K and Beatrice Bruteau, eds. *Merton & Judaism: Holiness in Words: Recognition, Repentance, and Renewal* (Fons Vitae), 2003.

Kinzer, Mark. *Searching Her Own Mystery: Nostra Aetate, The Jewish People, and the Identity of the Church* (Eugene, Oreg.: Wipf & Stock, 2015).

Korn, Eugene B. and John T. Pawlikowski. *Two Faiths, One Covenant? Jewish and Christian Identity in the Presence of the Other* (Sheed & Ward), 2004

Levenson, Jon. *The Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament, and Historical Criticism* (Louisville: Westminster, 1993).

Levine, Amy-Jill. *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* (HarperOne), 2007

Levine, Amy Jill and Marc Brettler. *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2011.

- Lindbeck, George. "Confession and Community: An Israel-like View of the Church" in *The Church in a Postliberal Age*, ed. James J. Buckley (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002), 1-9.
- Mackenzie, Don; Ted Falcon; Jamal Rahman. *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi & an Imam* (Skylight Paths), 2009.
- Madigan, Kevin and Jon Levenson. *Resurrection: The Power of God for Christians and Jews* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2008).
- McBride, James. *The Color of Water* (Riverhead, 2006).
- Novak, David. *Jewish-Christian Dialogue: A Jewish Justification* (Oxford University Press), 1989.
- Novak, David. *Talking with Christians: Musings of a Jewish Theologian* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005).
- Ochs, Peter. *Another Reformation* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011).
- Ochs, Peter. "Judaism and Christian Theology," in *The Modern Theologians*, ed. David Ford, 3rd ed (Wiley-Blackwell), 2005.
- Panikkar, Raimon. *The Intra-Religious Dialogue*. (Paulist Press), 1999.
- Peters, F.E. *The Voice, The Word, The Books: The Sacred Scripture of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), 2007.
- Plaskow, Judith. "Anti-Judaism in Feminist Christian Interpretation," in *Searching the Scriptures Vol. One: A Feminist Introduction*, ed. Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza (New York: Crossroad, 1993), 117-129.
- Pregeant, Russell. *Engaging the New Testament: An Interdisciplinary Introduction* (Minneapolis: Fortress), 1998.
- Prothero, Stephen. *God is Not One* (New York: HarperOne), 2011.
- Rudin, James. *Christians & Jews—Faith to Faith: Tragic History, Promising Present, Fragile Future* (Jewish Lights), 2010
- Soloveitchik, Joseph. G. *Confrontation and Other Essays* (Maggid), 2016
- Soloveitchek, Meir. "No Friend in Jesus," *First Things* (January 2008):
<https://www.firstthings.com/article/2008/01/002-no-friend-in-jesus>
- Soulen, Kendall. *The God of Israel and Christian Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996).
- Wilken, Robert. "Not a Solitary God: The Triune God of the Bible" in *Remembering the Christian Past* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995), 63-94.

Wyschogrod, Michael. *Abraham's Promise: Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations*. Ed. Kendall Soulen (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

Wyschogrod, Michael. "Christianity and Mosaic Law," *Pro Ecclesia* II/2 (1993): 451-459.

Wyschogrod, Michael. "Incarnation." *Pro Ecclesia* 2 (1993): 208-215.

Wyschogrod, Michael. "Resurrection," *Pro Ecclesia* 1 (1992), 104-112.

Yoder, John Howard *The Jewish-Christian Schism Revisited*, ed. Peter Ochs and Michael Cartwright (Harrisonburg, Va.: Herald 2008)

Zetterholm, Karin Hedner. *Jewish Interpretation of the Bible: Ancient and Contemporary*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press), 2012.

Journals

Studies in Jewish-Christian Relations, <http://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/scjr>

Journal of Inter-Religious Studies, <http://irstudies.org>

Journal of Scriptural Reasoning, <http://jsr.shanti.virginia.edu>