



## History 240 - Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Intertestamental History: The World Just Before Jesus (*3 Credits*)

**Course Description:** This course surveys the historical, geographical, literary, and cultural context of the Jewish world during the Second Temple period (516 BC - AD 70). It surveys a linear history of the return from exile, the Persian Empire, the Greek Empire including the Ptolemy and Seleucid empires, the Maccabean Revolt and the Hasmonean dynasty, the Roman Empire, and the Jewish revolt. The course also weaves in many topics such as Jewish religious structure, religious sects, the Qumran community, messianic expectations, and apocryphal literature. Through all of this history, the sovereign hand of God, the connection between the Old and New Testaments, and the hermeneutical context and relevance of each of the topics covered will be emphasized. Students will learn from engaging lectures, assigned readings, and engaging projects. There will also be weekly quizzes, a midterm exam and final project.

**Prerequisites:** None

### Instructors:

- Professor: Rick Deitering
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- Teaching Staff: Ashley Dyer
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### Course Materials:

- The Bible: Unless otherwise specified, you may use the Bible version of your choice as your primary source of scripture, however in this class you will be required to compare your primary translation against other translations.
- Surburg Raymond F., Introduction to the Intertestamental Period. St Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1975. ISBN: 0-7586-1852-2
- Cohen Shaye J.D., From the Maccabees to the Mishnah (Third edition). Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-664-23904-6

**Class Time:** Class will meet once weekly on Mondays from 7pm-10pm. Class will take place in Room 105 at Hope Community Church, located at 2100 Ellsworth Rd. Ypsilanti, MI, 48197.

## Assignments:

- **Reading and Class Participation** - Each week students will be expected to keep up with the given reading assignments from the course textbooks: "Introduction to the Intertestamental period" and "From the Maccabees to the Mishnah." Regular attendance is also expected in class and students who miss a given class time are expected to watch the lecture recording. More than two excused absences or any unexcused absences will affect this grade. The final grade for this assignment will be based on your attestation to your reading and the instructor's discretion based on class attendance and participation.
- **Quizzes** - There will be 13 quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will generally take place at the beginning of class time each week and will cover the previous week's study materials. The quiz format will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer-style questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to provide the students with regular graded feedback on their understanding of the course material. The quizzes will be based on the reading assignments, handouts, and the prior week's lecture. The quizzes also ensure a student's regular and on-time attendance for the weekly class time. The single lowest quiz score for each student will be dropped.
- **Discussion Boards** - Discussion boards are, by nature, the interaction between students and peers to be completed during the week for which they are assigned. When students do not participate in discussion boards, they essentially rob not only themselves but their peers of the learning opportunity. This is a disservice to everyone. No credit will be granted for late discussion board posting unless otherwise approved by the instructor. You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. If not specified, post your initial response to the discussion question by mid-week (Wednesday, 11:59 pm EST [Eastern Standard Time]). Then read all other threads and respond to at least two (2) other student initial threads by the end of the week (Friday, 11:59 pm EST). The discussion boards will be based on weekly readings articles, documentaries or videos regarding the Intertestamental period, the scope of the discussion will be decided by the instructor. The original post is NOT to exceed 250 words and the responses are NOT to exceed 150 words. To receive a grade for each discussion board, post your original post AND provide at least (2) responses to other's original postings.
- **Midterm Exam** – Week 8 there **will** be a written Midterm exam. The exam format will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer-style questions and essay questions. The purpose of this exam is to provide the students with regular graded feedback on their understanding of the course material provided in the first seven weeks of course material. The exam will be based on the reading assignments, homework assignments, and the weekly lectures.
- **Final Project** – The first part of the final project will be a paper that will be due on week 14 of the semester and will be a minimum of 8 pages, double spaced, not including your bibliography (Turabian) and Title page. You must include a title page, Bibliography as well as your references must be cited in Turabian footnote style. The topic of the paper, will be to use the information you have learned throughout the semester and apply to Daniel's Vision on Daniel chapter 2. The paper must be turned in at the beginning class

as well as a copy attached in Canvas prior to the start of week 12 class. The second part of the final project will be to give a 5-to-10-minute presentation on the vision in Daniel 2. You may utilize any medium (with one exception) as you would like, as long as it is yours. The exception, you may not read your paper. The grade for this will be based on an accumulative grade of both parts of the project.

**Canvas:** Canvas is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of assignments and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents. Further details on how to set up a Canvas account and access this course can be found in the appendix to this document.

**Assessment:** Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Reading/Class Participation	23%	Submission of an attestation to completed readings and regular attendance. Due 12/11/2023
13 Quizzes	12%	Drop your lowest quiz grade
Midterm	25%	This is a written Exam on week 8
Final project	30%	The paper must be turned in on week 14 as a paper copy and a copy attached to Canvas prior to the class. Presentation will be on week 15.
Discussion Boards	10%	

We will use the following thresholds to convert raw scores in the course into letter grades:

- A+:  $\geq 98\%$
- A:  $\geq 92\%$
- A-:  $\geq 90\%$
- B+:  $\geq 88\%$
- B:  $\geq 82\%$
- B-:  $\geq 80\%$
- C+:  $\geq 78\%$
- C:  $\geq 72\%$
- C-:  $\geq 70\%$
- D+:  $\geq 68\%$
- D:  $\geq 62\%$
- D-:  $\geq 60\%$
- F:  $< 60\%$

Depending on the distribution of raw scores at the end of the semester, these thresholds may change; however the final thresholds will be no stricter than the current thresholds. For example, if you receive a raw score of 85% in the course, you will be guaranteed a letter grade of at least B; however, it may happen that you receive a higher letter grade depending on the overall distribution of raw scores.

**Class Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Study Material</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
01/08/2024	Course introduction and syllabus.  Introduction to the intertestamental period	Read: Daniel 1-12, Chapter 1 Surburg  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
01/15/2024	Quiz 1  Chronological overview  The return from exile  Nehemiah, Ezra	Read: Chapter 2 Surburg  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
01/22/2024	Quiz 2  Overview of the Persian period	Read: Cohen Ch 1,  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
01/29/2024	Quiz 3  History of Alexander the Great and the Greek Empire	Read: Chapter 3 Surburg  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
02/05/2024	Quiz 4  Overview of the Ptolemaic Empire  Religious Practices and Beliefs of Intertestamental Judaism	Read: Chapter 4 Surburg, Cohen Chapter 3  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
02/12/2024	<i>Fur Rendezvous Break!</i>		
02/19/2024	Quiz 5  Overview of the Seleucid Empire; History and Impact of Jewish Hellenization	Read: Chapter 5 Surburg, pp. 26-37 Cohen  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
02/26/2024	Quiz 6  Maccabean Revolt; Jewish	Read; Chapter 6 Surburg, Cohen (p,22) (pp. 103-115)	Canvas discussions and responses

	Religious Structure	Review handouts from class	
03/4/2024	Midterm Exam Overview of the Hasmonean Period	Read: Chapter 7 Surburg Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
03/11/2024	Quiz 7 Religious Sects of Judaism; The Qumran Community	Read: Chapters 11 and 12 Surburg, Cohen pp. 142-165  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
03/18/2024	Quiz 8 Introduction to the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha	Read: Chapters 13-16 Surburg  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
03/25/2024	Quiz 9 Overview of the Roman Period  Archaeological Evidence and Historical Sources	Read: Surburg Chapter 8 Chapters 17 and 18  Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
04/01/2024	Quiz 10 Herod the Great  2 <sup>nd</sup> Temple Jewish Messianic Expectations	Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
04/08/2024	Quiz 11 New Testament Context	Review handouts from class	Canvas discussions and responses
04/15/2024	Quiz 12 Jewish Revolts Rabbinic Judaism	Read: Cohen Chapter 7	Final papers must be turned in during class as well as a copy posted on Canvas Before start of class

			Canvas discussions and responses
04/22/2024	Quiz 13 Project Presentations		

**Late Policy:**

Assignments are expected to be submitted prior to the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances outside of the student's control, they may request an extension from the teaching staff.

Additionally, it is often the case that due to any number of other circumstances, a student finds that they are unable to adequately complete a given assignment. In such cases, the student is welcome to submit the assignment after the due date, up to the end of the semester; however, a late penalty will be given for such a late assignment. The standard late penalty is a 20% flat reduction in grade for the given assignment. This late penalty is meant to penalize late submissions and encourage timeliness, while still allowing the student to still finish the given assignment to the best of their ability even if they are unable to complete the assignment for some time due to any extended circumstances.

This late policy is subject to instructor discretion. The 20% late penalty policy is intended to allow for unique or difficult but not extraordinary circumstances. Any student who abuses this policy, per the instructor's discretion, is liable to have this policy revoked and the grade revert to either a zero or that based on any submission prior to the due date.

## **Appendix: How to set up your Canvas Account**

This course will use the free version of Canvas. This means that you will be able to set up a Canvas account with your regular email and will be able to access the course on Canvas with a simple course invitation sent to your email. Please perform the following steps to set up your Canvas account:

- Check your email for a course invitation to Canvas.
- Click the “Get Started” button, which should redirect you to a Canvas page.
- Accept the course invitation. Upon accepting, it should redirect you to a page that will allow you to either set up a new Canvas account or link a current Canvas account.
- If you do not already have a free Canvas account, proceed to create a new account. To create a new account, it will set your login to be your email, you simply need to set your password and accurate time zone.

Your new account should be all set. To log in to Canvas in the future, go to the following URL: <https://canvas.instructure.com/login/canvas>

Use your email and password to log in. Then click on your History 240 course.

To use the mobile Canvas app, you’ll want to download the Canvas app. Upon downloading and opening the app for the first time, it will prompt you to “Find my School.” Select this option and put in “Free Canvas Accounts.” Select this option and proceed to log in with your email and password associated with your free Canvas account.

## **Appendix: How to submit assignments on Canvas**

From the course’s Canvas home page, navigate to the assignments tab. Select the specific assignment from the list of assignments. Follow the instructions for the different cases of typed and handwritten submissions.

*For typed documents:*

- Click “Start Assignment” (“Submit Assignment” in the mobile app)
- Click “Upload File” (“Files” in the mobile app)
- Click “Choose File” (simply select the file in the mobile app)
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by selecting “Add Another File”

*For handwritten documents:*

You may use a scanner, scanner app, or simply take photos of your work and submit the files by following the same steps outlined for typed documents. The best option may be to use the Canvas mobile app to submit the assignment and use the scanner feature as an option after selecting “Submit Assignment.”

Please note, you may submit as many times as you would like prior to the assignment deadline. The most recent submission will count as your graded submission.

## **Appendix: Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to hold themselves to a Christian standard of ethics in all matters. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from any forms of plagiarism, cheating, sharing or acquiring any materials that would give a student an unfair advantage, or any dishonest representation of one's work. Below are outlined the consequences for an infringement of academic integrity for a given assignment:

- First offense – A grade of zero is given for the assignment; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file.
- Second offense – A grade of F is assigned for the course; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file. The Dean of Students and/or Registrar will notify faculty of students who incur a second offense in this area.
- Third offense – The professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file and the student may be suspended or dismissed from this institution.

## **Appendix: Policy on Use of Generative Language Models For Written Assignments**

The use of generative language models, such as ChatGPT, is not strictly prohibited and in some cases is very much encouraged as a research and brainstorming tool. However, all written assignments submitted as your own work should reflect your own personal writing. This prohibits copy and paste use of such tools, however, you may feel free to quote such tools provided that you make clear it is a quotation.

In general, you should treat generative language models as equivalent to speaking to another person. You may gain insight from them and be able to improve your value and productivity, but you should not misrepresent someone else's work as your own. These tools may also be treated somewhat like calculators in a math class. You may use them when appropriate and assignments may even assume their use in some ways, but all submitted work must be your own unless specified otherwise.