

BS3060P

The In-between Books: Jewish Apocrypha and the Pseudepigrapha

Semester 2: Classroom-based (BS3060P)

Description

This course focuses on the Jewish Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha and the history of the period known as the Intertestamental period, which saw important and noteworthy events and changes in thought over a span of 300 years before the Christian era. These developments molded the Jewish faith of the first century and saw the beginning of Christianity within that milieu. This course will familiarize students to the broad contours of the history of the period, the challenges of the time and the manner in which Judaism was responding to these theological, religious and social developments. The unit will also introduce the student to the literature of this period and attend to the ways in which Hebrew thought and faith changed and adapted to changed needs and how they influenced the shaping of early Christian faith, ethics and piety and continue to sway influence on us today.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Exhibit an understanding and advanced knowledge of the Intertestamental period and the literature of the time.
2. Display critical awareness of the cultural, social, historical, literary, religious, and theological issues pertaining to the period and the literature of the time.
3. Gain competency in exegesis of the Bible and in an understanding of the development of Scriptural theology and ethics
4. Recognize the relevance of the messages of this literature to the contemporary context of church and society.

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Essay – 2500 words	50%
Essay – on a book in the Apocrypha – 2500 words	50%

Pre-requisite: a foundational unit in the Hebrew Bible or in the New Testament

Lecturer: Monica Melanchthon

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Boyarin, Daniel. *Border Lines: The Partition of Judaea-Christianity*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Charlesworth, James H., ed., *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*. 2 vols.; Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1983-85.

*deSilva, David A. and James Charlesworth (Foreward). *Introducing the Apocrypha: Message, Context, and Significance*. 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academics, 2018.

_____. *The Apocrypha*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012.

Docherty, Susan. *The Jewish Pseudepigrapha: An Introduction to the Literature of the Second Temple Period*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.

Feldman, Louis H., Kugel, James L., and Schiffman, Lawrence H., eds., *Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture*. 3 vols. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2013.

Metzger, Bruce M. *An Introduction to the Apocrypha*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Nickelsburg, George W. E., *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah: A Historical and Literary Introduction*. Philadelphia, 1981; 2d ed., Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

Oesterley, W O E. *An Introduction to the Books of the Apocrypha*. Reprint. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2011.

Sparks, H. F. D., ed., *The Apocryphal Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984.

Semester 2: Classroom-based (BS9060P)

Description

This course focuses on the Jewish Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha and the history of the period known as the Intertestamental period, which saw important and noteworthy events and changes in thought over a span of 300 years before the Christian era. These developments molded the Jewish faith of the first century and saw the beginning of Christianity within that milieu. This course will familiarize students to the broad contours of the history of the period, the challenges of the time and the manner in which Judaism was responding to these theological, religious and social developments. The unit will also introduce the student to the literature of this period and attend to the ways in which Hebrew thought and faith changed and adapted to changed needs and how they influenced the shaping of early Christian faith, ethics and piety and continue to sway influence on us today.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Exhibit an understanding and advanced knowledge of the Intertestamental period and the literature of the time.
2. Demonstrate critical awareness of the cultural, social, historical, literary, religious, and theological issues pertaining to the period and the literature of the time.
3. Practice methodological skills in Scriptural interpretation
4. Gain competency in exegesis of the Bible and in an understanding of the development of Scriptural theology and ethics
5. Discern, and assess the relevance of the messages of this literature to the contemporary context of church and society

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Essay – 3500 words	50%
Essay – on a book in the Apocrypha – 3500 words	50%

Pre-requisite: a foundational unit in the Hebrew Bible or in the New Testament

Lecturer: Monica Melanchthon

Recommended reading

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Boyarin, Daniel. *Border Lines: The Partition of Judaeo-Christianity*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Charlesworth, James H., ed., *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*. 2 vols.; Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1983-85.

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_____. *The Apocrypha*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2012.

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