

The Emergence of Judaism, Christianity and Islam (10 ECTS)

Syllabus

Course content

The focus of this course is the formative periods of rabbinic Judaism, Christianity and Islam—phases, which played a crucial role for their subsequent developments and manifestations. The course covers the emergence of Christianity, rabbinic Judaism and Islam, focusing in particular on the role that interaction between them has played for their respective formation and development. We will study the major developments and concepts within each tradition during its formative period, addressing in particular the complex identity formation processes—from the “partings of the ways” between Judaism and Christianity to the emergence of Islam—and the role that interaction of various kinds played in these processes.

Time Period

Teaching: weeks 43–51 2015

Responsible instructors and institution

Samuel Rubenson (Samuel.Rubenson@teol.lu.se)

Karin Zetterholm (Karin.Zetterholm@teol.lu.se)

Henrik Rydell Johnsén (Henrik.Rydell_Johnsen@teol.lu.se)

Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University

Compact seminar: Lund, November 2–4, 2015

Form of Teaching; Course Activities

Instruction is provided via the internet and through a compact seminar and supported by tutorials at the student’s home university. Participation in the course forum on the internet is a requirement, as well as the submission of an essay. Students are provided with a reading list to be read independently aided by introductions and weekly assignments on the internet through Blackboard. The students may be asked to prepare some additional material for the compact seminar.

Exam

The course is examined through a fixed written exam in which the student will be given 7 days to write a paper of 8–10 pages on a topic or questions provided by the instructor (fixed exam). The exam should be submitted by

Monday January 11 (midnight). The exam will be distributed on Monday January 4.

As part of the requirements for the course the student is required to submit weekly assignments. The total number of assignments is 10 and the student must complete a minimum of 8. The assignments should be submitted weekly, but a student can make up for missed assignments prior to the exam. By the exam date they must be submitted.

Re-exam

There are two opportunities to do a re-exam, 1) mid-term 2016, or 2) the end of the spring semester of 2016 (beginning of June). The student must register for those exams by sending an e-mail to one of the instructors three weeks prior to the exam date.

Learning Outcomes:

- To acquire basic knowledge of the historic, cultural and social milieus in which Judaism, Christianity and Islam emerged and developed.
- To gain familiarity with each religion's holy texts and their reception history
- To acquire basic knowledge of the interaction between the three religions and the impact this interaction had for the development of each tradition.
- To acquire the ability to compare important concepts and characteristics of the three religions.

Prerequisites

The same as for the programme in general

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	
Week 43	<i>Assignment 1</i> The World of Late Antiquity	Brown, <i>World</i>	HRJ
Week 44	<i>Assignment 2</i> The Early Jesus Movement and the Partings of the Ways	Hayes, <i>Emergence</i> , 1–88; Zetterholm, <i>Formation</i> 178–224; Wilken, <i>First Thousand</i> , 1–46.	KZ
Week 45	<i>Compact Seminar</i> 1. Jewish Scripture and Interpretation 2. Christian Scripture and Interpretation 3. Islamic Scripture and Interpretation 4. “Jewish Christianity” and the Quran (guest work shop)		KZ HRJ SR Holger Zellentin

	<i>See separate schedule for details</i>		
Week 46	<i>Assignment 3</i> The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism	Reed and Becker, 1–24 in <i>The Ways</i> ; Hayes, <i>Emergence</i> , 89–143.	KZ
Week 47	<i>Assignment 4</i> The Emergence of Christianity	Wilken, <i>First Thousand</i> , 47-237, 246-287, 297–306, 333–343.	HRJ
Week 48	<i>Assignment 5</i> Jews and Christians in the Byzantine Empire	Irshai, “Confronting, a Christian Empire,” 17–64; Fonrobert, “Jewish Christians,” 234–254; Hirshman, <i>Rivalry</i> , 1–30, 109–118.	KZ
Week 49	<i>Assignment 6</i> The Emergence of Islam	Brown, <i>New Introduction</i> , 3–216; Shoemaker, “Muhammed,” 1078-1108.	HRJ
Week 50	<i>Assignment 7 + 8</i> 7. Judaism and Islam: Interaction, Comparison 8. Christianity and Islam: Interaction, Comparison	Cohen, “Medieval Jewry,” 193–214; Firestone, “Jewish Culture,” 267–302. Wilken, <i>First Thousand</i> , 288-296, 307-333; Griffith, “Apocalypse,” 23–44; Thomas, “Christian Theologians,” 257–276.	KZ HRJ
Week 51	<i>Assignment 9 + 10</i> 9. Developments of a Common Heritage in the Three Religions 10. The Practice of Prayer in the Three Religions	Talgam, “Constructing Identity, 399–454; Zellentin, <i>Quran’s Legal Culture</i> , 1–53, 175–202. Mintz, <i>Back to the Sources</i> , 403–426; Holmes Katz, “Canonical Prayer,” 10-43; Philips, “Prayer,” 31–58.	KZ HRJ
Week 52	Reading Week		
Week 1	Reading Week		
Week 2	Exam Week		

Required Reading

Books to be obtained by the student

Brown, Daniel, W., *A New Introduction to Islam* (2nd edition). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Brown, Peter, *The World of Late Antiquity: AD 150–750*. New York: Norton, 1989/ London: Hudson and Thames, 1989.

Hayes, Christine, *The Emergence of Judaism: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.

Wilken, Robert L., *The First Thousand Years: A Global history of Christianity*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.

Articles or Book Sections (made available as pdf-files)

Cohen, Mark, R., “Medieval Jewry in the World of Islam.” Pp. 193–214 in *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Firestone, Reuven, “Jewish Culture in the Formative Period of Islam.” Pp. 267–302 in *Cultures of the Jews: A New History*. Edited by D. Biale. New York: Schocken, 2002.

Fonrobert, Charlotte, E. “Jewish Christians, Judaizers, and Christian Anti-Judaism.” Pages 234–254 in *Late Ancient Christianity* Edited by V. Burrus. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

Griffith, Sydney, “Apocalypse and the Arabs: The First Christian responses to the Challenge of Islam.” Pp. 23-44 in *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque: Christians and Muslims in the World of Islam*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Hirshman, Marc, *A Rivalry of Genius: Jewish and Christian Biblical Interpretation in Late Antiquity*. State University of New York Press, 1996 (pp. 1–30).

Holmes Katz, Marion, in “Canonical Prayer (salāt) and supplication (du‘ā`): Development and Rules.” Pp. 10-43 in *Prayer in Islamic Thought and Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Irshai, Oded, “Confronting a Christian Empire: Jewish Life and Culture in the World of Early Byzantium.” Pp. 17–64 in *Jews in Byzantium: Dialectics of Minority and Majority Cultures*. Edited by R. Bonfil et al. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

Mintz, Alan, “Prayer and the Prayerbook.” Pp. 403–426 in *Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts*. Edited by B. Holtz. New York: Summit Books, 1984.

Philips, Edward, L., “Prayer in the first four centuries AD.” Pp. 31-58 in Roy Hammerling (ed.), *A History of Prayer: The First to the Fifteenth Century*. Leiden: Brill, 2008.

Reed Yoshiko, Annette and Adam Becker, H “Introduction: Traditional Models and New Directions.” Pages 1–33 in *The Ways That Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*. Edited by A. H. Becker and A. Y. Reed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.

Shoemaker, Steven, J., “Muhammed and the Qur’ān.” Pp. 1078-1108 in *Oxford Handbook of Late Antiquity*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Talgam, Rina, “Constructing Identity Through Art: Jewish Art as a Minority Culture in Byzantium.” Pp. 455–499 in *Jews in Byzantium: Dialectics of Minority and Majority Cultures*. Edited by R. Bonfil et al. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

Thomas, David, “Christian Theologians and New Questions.” Pp. 257-276 in E. Grypeou, M.N. Swanson & D. Thomas, (eds.), *The Encounter of Eastern Christianity with Early Islam*. Leiden: Brill, 2006.

Zellentin, Holger, *The Quran’s Legal Culture: The Didascalía Apostolorum as a Point of Departure*. Mohr Siebeck, 2013 (Pp. 1–53, 175–202).

Zetterholm, Magnus, *The Formation of Christianity in Antioch: A Social Scientific Approach to the Separation Between Judaism and Christianity*. London: Routledge, 2003 (Pp.178–244).

The student may also be asked to read additional articles in connection with the compact seminar.