

CLAS 3375.26478

Roman, Jew and Christian: the politics and sociology of religion in the first century a.d.

The first century A.D. was a time of significant transformation for the Roman Empire for adherents of the Jewish religion everywhere around the Mediterranean world and for the earliest Christian communities.

This class will focus on the religious and administrative framework of the Eastern Roman Empire as a way of understanding how religious, social, political and historical differences conditioned the interactions between the Romans, their Jewish subjects and the emergent Jesus movement. A major focal point will be the First Jewish-Roman War (66-73CE), including what led up to it and its aftermath.

The course readings will comprise both original historical sources, such as Josephus, Tacitus, Cassius Dio, Qumrān texts, the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and other early Christian writings and secondary scholarly literature.

Booklist:

- J. Rives, "Religion in the Roman Empire" (Blackwell, 2007) ISBN-13 978-1-4051-0656-6
- V. Warrior, "Roman Religion: A Sourcebook" (Focus, 2002) ISBN-10 1-58510-030-7
- Josephus, "The Jewish War," tr. by G. A. Williamson (Penguin) ISBN-10 0-140-44420-3
- J. Hayes and S. Mandell, "The Jewish People in Classical Antiquity" (Westminster, 1998) ISBN-10 0-664-25727-5
- S. Cohen, "From the Maccabees to the Mishnah" (2nd edition: Westminster, 2006) ISBN-13 978-0-664-22743-2
- B. Ehrman, ed., "The New Testament and Other Early Christian Writings" (2nd edition, Oxford, 2004) ISBN-10 0-19-515464-9
- R. Horsely, "Jesus and Empire" (Augsburg Fortress, 2003), ISBN-10 0-8006-3490-X