GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2011
Instructor: Joshua Ezra Burns
Course #: THEO 8126
Course Title: Judaism in the Hellenistic Era

Content:

The purpose of this course is to explore the intellectual and social history of the Jews during the Hellenistic period, ca. fourth century B.C.E. to first century C.E. The focus of the course will be on the pivotal questions of what defined Jewish identity in the Hellenistic world and how the cultural distance between the Jews and Greeks gave rise to the major conflicts that arose between them during the period under consideration, particularly the struggle in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabees and the skirmish in Alexandria in 38 C.E.

Format:

The course will follow a seminar format. Each class session will be devoted to exploring a specific topic and/or set of texts. Students will be asked to prepare synopses of the day’s assignments and to present said synopses to the class in order to facilitate general discussion.

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Regular attendance and participation will be expected of all enrolled students.
- Each student will be expected to write an original research paper approximately twenty (20) double-spaced pages in length by the end of the semester.

Language Pre-requisites:

- Although all assignments will be in English, reading knowledge of classical Greek is strongly advised.