

Within the Marquette University Department of Theology graduate curriculum, the specialization *Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity* (JCA) is grounded in the study of the Sacred Scriptures, the Old Testament and New Testament. It has the following characteristics:

(1) Languages:

Advanced level instruction in both biblical and non-biblical languages. In addition to Hebrew and Greek, students have the opportunity to acquire competency in Latin and Aramaic (including Syriac). Coptic, Ethiopic, Slavonic, and Classical Arabic are offered occasionally, as courses and as directed study.

(2) Methods:

All students writing dissertations in JCA will have a solid grounding in the standard historical-critical approaches to the Bible, such as textual, source, form, and redaction criticism. Newer methods, especially narrative criticism and the intertextual reading of canonical and non-canonical texts, are also reflected in our faculty's research and in the advanced work of some of our doctoral students.

(3) Traditions of interpretation:

Because of the significance of the continuing life of texts, the JCA faculty is attentive to the variety of interpretive traditions of the Bible in Jewish and Christian antiquity. This interest is exemplified in the continuing seminar "Maqom: The Jewish Roots of Christian Mysticism."

(4) Theology:

Especially distinctive of Marquette's JCA specialization is an appreciation of the theological and religious dimensions of ancient texts and artifacts. The recently established Marquette Scripture Project seeks to bring together the study of ancient texts and modern theological concerns. Likewise, dissertation topics regularly reflect not only the quest for the meaning of texts in their contexts of origin and transmission but also an interest in making a contribution to the life of communities of faith today.