FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

FACULTY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

Course Regulations for the Master of Philosophy in Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World 2016-2017
Foreword

This handbook applies to students starting the MPhil in Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World course in Michaelmas term 2016. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mopijacit-romaworl/.

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations.

If you have any concerns please contact Penny Rodgers, Graduate Studies Administrator, Faculty of Theology and Religion graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk.

**Version Purpose/Change Date**

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Disclaimer:

The information in this handbook is accurate as at 12th October 2016, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.
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Master of Philosophy in Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World

1. Introduction

1.1 Course Information

The course requirements presented in this handbook are based on the Examination Regulations which can be found online at

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mopijacitg-romaworl/

The regulations for the course are made by the Boards of the Faculties of Theology and Religion and Oriental Studies.

The Examination Regulations remain the definitive regulations for all courses, although this handbook is designed to present them in an accessible format and to add further details for clarification. If in any doubt, please always consult the Examination Regulations.

Copies of all handbooks and forms can be found on the Theology and Religion Faculty’s WebLearn site.

Other key sources of information are the Faculty of Theology and Religion website, the Faculty of Oriental Studies website and the University’s Oxford Students website. Please be aware that the colleges have their own handbooks, which are available on college websites.

1.2 Key Contacts

Course Coordinators

All students are assigned a supervisor, and in most cases this will be the course coordinator for the course that you are enrolled on. Your supervisor may arrange for some or all of the teaching to be undertaken by other members of academic staff, but your supervisor will still retain overall responsibility for your progress. The course coordinators are:

- Faculty of Theology and Religion: Professor Markus Bockmuehl, Keble College (email: markus.bockmuehl@theology.ox.ac.uk)
- Faculty of Oriental Studies: Professor Martin Goodman, Wolfson College (email: martin.goodman@orinst.ox.ac.uk)
Other useful contacts:

**Graduate Studies Administrator (Theology and Religion Faculty Office):** Miss Penny Rodgers (phone: 01865 270714, email: graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk).

**Graduate Studies Assistant (Humanities Division Graduate Office):** Mr Nick Fowler (phone: 01865 270048, email: nick.fowler@humanities.ox.ac.uk).

For queries regarding the examinations and assessments process, please contact your supervisor or, if it concerns an administrative matter, your college office, or email: grad_exams.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk.

**Director of Graduate Studies (Michaelmas term 2016):** Professor Graham Ward (email: graham.ward@theology.ox.ac.uk)

**Director of Graduate Studies (Hilary and Trinity terms 2017):** Professor Anna Sapir Abulafia (email: anna.sapirabulafia@theology.ox.ac.uk)

1.3 Important dates

**Dates of full term 2016/17 (not including 0th week)**

Michaelmas 2016: Sunday, 9 October to Saturday, 3 December

Hilary 2017: Sunday, 15 January to Saturday, 11 March

Trinity 2017: Sunday, 23 April to Saturday, 17 June

**Deadline for submitting proposals for thesis title:** Monday of Week 0 of Michaelmas Term of Year 2 of the course.

**Deadline for submitting the thesis:** No later than fourteen days before the first day of the written examination

**Graduate Studies Committee:** Meets on Tuesdays of Weeks 1 and 6 each term.

**Graduate Joint Consultative Committee:** Meets on Tuesday of Week 4 each term.
2. Course Content and Structure

2.1 Overview

Title of award: Master of Philosophy in Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World.

FHEQ level 7

Length of course: 21 months

2.2 Course Aims

The aims of the course are:

1. To develop the practice of analytical enquiry in the study of the early history of Christianity and of Judaism in the first two centuries CE in the context of the Graeco-Roman World.
2. To enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of foundational material and current developments in the area.
3. To develop the ability to identify, understand and apply key concepts and principles.
4. To enable students to reflect on relevant issues of method.
5. To enable students to gain a critical knowledge of the scholarly literature relevant to their course.
6. To develop skills in written and oral communication and to enable students to achieve a high standard in presenting an academic dissertation, displaying sustained argument, independent thought and lucid structure and content.
7. To prepare students for further research in the field.

2.3 Intended Learning Outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course, students will have

• acquired a broad understanding of the field of study;
• acquired specialist knowledge of relevant primary and secondary literature.
B. Skills and other attributes

I. Intellectual skills
On completion of the course, students will have:
• gained substantial specialist knowledge of a particular discipline and/or historical period, as a basis for more detailed research or as a foundation for teaching
• developed independent research skills
• written a substantial thesis, which may be extended subsequently into a thesis at doctoral level.

II. Transferable skills
On completion of the course, students will be able to:
(i) find information, organise and deploy it, including through the use of libraries and information technology;
(ii) use such information critically and analytically;
(iii) consider and solve complex problems;
(iv) work well independently and in co-operation with others;
(v) effectively structure and communicate their ideas in a variety of written and oral formats;
(vi) plan and organise the use of time effectively;
(vii) make appropriate use of language skills.

Languages

Students who intend to apply to pursue doctoral studies should begin learning the necessary languages to pursue doctoral research as early as the MSt level. The Oxford University Language Centre (OULC) at 12 Woodstock Road offers excellent facilities and free courses to members of the University who wish to learn or improve a foreign language relevant to their academic work. Courses are offered in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Georgian, Modern Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Welsh, and English as a Foreign Language. Most courses consist of two single fifty-minute classes each week or one double class. Courses begin in October and continue throughout the academic year. If a course is required for study or research, there is a priority enrolment scheme. Students should make sure to discuss their language needs with supervisors at the start of the Michaelmas Term.

2.4 Course Description

The MPhil degree is a course designed to offer extensive postgraduate education in a specialist field of Theology and Religion for very able students. Candidates who are successful in the MPhil may be allowed to expand the MPhil thesis for a DPhil.

The course is studied over 21 months full time.
2.5 Course Regulations

The regulations made by the Boards of the Faculties of Oriental Studies and Theology are as follows:

Candidates will be admitted to take the examination as defined below in a specific year. In exceptional circumstances candidates may be allowed to take an examination later than one to which they were admitted. Permission for this must be sought from the Faculty Board not later than Monday of the week before the first week of the Trinity Term in which the examination was to have been taken. The application must have the support of the candidate’s college and be accompanied by a statement from the supervisor.

I. All candidates shall be required:

(a) To satisfy the boards that they possess the necessary knowledge of Hebrew and Greek to profit by the course.

(b) To present themselves for a written examination and to offer a thesis, as specified below.

(c) To present themselves for viva voce examination unless individually dispensed by the examiners. (No candidate will be failed without a viva.)

II. Candidates shall offer four papers and a thesis, not to exceed 20,000 words. Two papers must be taken on Judaism and two papers must be taken on Christianity, and A(1) and B(1) must be included, unless the boards shall otherwise determine.

A. Judaism.

1. Judaism from 200 BCE to 200 CE.

2. Jewish historiography (with prescribed texts).

3. Jewish Bible interpretation (with prescribed texts).

4. Jewish eschatology (with prescribed texts).

5. Jewish wisdom literature (with prescribed texts).

Teaching

Lectures: For lectures on set texts (generally the same as those for the M. Phil. and M. St. in Jewish Studies in the Graeco-Roman Period), consult lecture list for Oriental Studies.

Graduate seminars:
"Jewish History and Literature in the Graeco-Roman Period"
"New Testament Seminar".
"Religions of the Mediterranean World" (occasional).

Tutorials: 8 per paper.
B. Christianity

1. Christianity to 200 CE.

2. The Gospels and the historical Jesus (with prescribed texts).

3. Acts and the Pauline corpus (with prescribed texts).

4. The Apostolic Fathers (with prescribed texts).

5. The Apologists (with prescribed texts).

Teaching
Lectures: to be chosen from Theology and Religion lecture list, according to the needs and interests of the student.

Graduate seminars, Tutorials: as above.

Note. Texts will be reported to the Faculty Board’s second meeting in the eighth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the first year of the course.

III. Examiners may award a Distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

3. Assessment

3.1 Examination entry and examination dates

Guidance and advice on examination entry and how to ensure that you are entered for the correct examinations and assessments is available at http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry

Information on alternative examination arrangements is available at http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/arrangements

Examination timetables are published as early as possible and no later than five weeks before the start of the examination. Provisional start dates are provided on the University’s website: http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/exams/timetables/, but these must be taken as a guide only. A personal timetable showing the dates, times and location of your examinations will be sent to you at your college at least two weeks before the examination starts.
3.2 Guidance for the submission of proposals for thesis titles

Students should complete the online Graduate submitted work title approval form, which is located in the Graduate area of the Theology and Religion Faculty’s WebLearn site. All proposals must have the prior approval of the person responsible for supervising the work. Please note that supervisors will be contacted by the Graduate Studies Assistant (Theology and Religion) for verification.

In certain circumstances you may wish to make minor changes to the title of your dissertation as your research evolves. If you wish to make a change to an essay or dissertation title once it has been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee, you should agree any such changes with the subject co-ordinator and your supervisor in the first instance. Details of the change must then be submitted via an online form (accessible from the Graduate area of the Theology and Religion Faculty’s WebLearn site) for checking by the Graduate Studies Committee no later than Monday of 0th week (Trinity Term). This is the final deadline for alterations to essay/dissertation titles. If you submit an essay or dissertation with a different title to the one approved, your final mark may be subject to a penalty. Exact details of the penalties will be outlined in the Examination Conventions for each course.

3.3 Guidance for the submission of written work for examination

- TWO copies of each thesis must be submitted. All submitted work should be double-spaced in font-size 12.

- All submitted theses must be accompanied by a ‘Graduate submitted work coversheet’ (found at the back of the Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students and on the Theology and Religion Faculty’s WebLearn site), which must include a clear statement of the all-inclusive word count for text and footnotes (but excluding bibliography). Candidates are not permitted to exceed the stated word limit.

- Theses must be securely fastened or bound.

- All submitted work must be anonymous, and identified by CANDIDATE NUMBER ONLY; the student’s name or any other identifying information (such as dedications containing names) should not appear.

- Penalties will be imposed for over-length theses, for unapproved changes to the title, and for work which is not securely bound or which bears the candidate’s name.

- Each piece of submitted work must be accompanied by a declaration (the ‘Graduate submitted work declaration’ found at the back of the Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students and on the Theology and Religion Faculty’s WebLearn site), signed by the supervisor of that piece of work, that it is the candidate’s own work and that no part has been submitted for any other degree at Oxford or another institution.
More information about the presentation of written work can be found in the Faculty of Theology and Religion’s *Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students*.

### 3.4 Conduct in examinations

Information on (a) the standards of conduct expected in examinations and (b) what to do if you would like examiners to be aware of any factors that may have affected your performance before or during an examination (such as illness, accident or bereavement) are available on the Oxford Students website ([www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance)).

If you have any difficulty in interpreting the Examination Regulations, or finding out about subject options, dates, deadlines, etc. ask for advice from your supervisor or the Theology and Religion Faculty Office.

### 3.5 Examination conventions and grade descriptors

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work.

The examination conventions and descriptors for allocating marks issued in 2015/16 can be found on the Theology and Religion Faculty’s [Weblearn site](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance). Any modifications will be published not less than one whole term before the examination takes place or, where assessment takes place in the first term of a course, at the beginning of that term. Up-to-date conventions will be sent to all students before the examination and published on the Theology and Religion Faculty’s [Weblearn site](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance).

### 3.6 Weightings

Exact details are to be found in the Examination Conventions for the course.

### 3.7 External Examiner and Examiners’ Reports

The External Examiner for the Master of Philosophy in Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World is Dr. James Aitken, Lecturer in Hebrew, Old Testament and Second Temple Studies, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge.

Students are strictly prohibited from contacting external examiners directly. If you are unhappy with an aspect of your assessment you may make a complaint or appeal (see *Handbook for Postgraduate Taught Students*).
You can access the Examiners’ reports (including the external examiner’s reports) in Weblearn at https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/humdiv/theology/theo_grad.