60013 Understanding Early Judaism
3 semester hours

Instructor: Ariel Feldman

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content: This course introduces students to the histories and literatures of Second Temple Judaism. Through a close study of key events and texts of this period, it explores the development of a vibrant and diverse religious system that saw an emergence of nascent Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism. Analyzing a selection of texts written in different times, languages, and geographical locations, this course highlights the changes in beliefs and practices of Second Temple Jewry as it negotiated religious, cultural, political, and economic effects of Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman rule.

Class Procedures: lectures, discussions, students’ presentations.

Requirements:
1. Class attendance and informed participation in the class sessions.
2. Weekly written assignments.
2. One in-class presentation with a write-up (credit/non-credit).
3. Public lecture attendance and a written report (credit/non-credit).
4. Two in-class quizzes.
5. Two short papers (~6 pages each).

Required Texts:

Grading Procedures:
Weekly written assignment: 20%
In-class presentation with a write-up: 5%
Public lecture attendance and a written report: 5%
In-class quiz: 10% x 2
Paper 1: 25%
Paper 2: 25%