

NELC 7880/History 7881

JUDAISM IN THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD

Professor Michael Swartz



When the Greeks conquered the land of Israel (Judea) in 333 BCE, human history was changed forever. The centuries that followed saw the growth of apocalyptic communities, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jewish philosophers who synthesized biblical teaching with Greek thought, the life of Jesus and the beginnings of Christianity, the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, and the rise of the Rabbis as Jewish leaders. This course will be a seminar on the sources and events that shaped ancient Judaism in this crucial place and time, from the fourth century BCE to the sixth century CE. We will pay particular attention to the Greco-Roman environment in which ancient Judaism flourished. The course will draw on several disciplines, such as history, archaeology, literary studies, and religious and cultural studies.

If you have any questions about this course, please contact Professor Michael Swartz at swartz.69@osu.edu or 292-9967.