GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2014
Instructor: Dr. 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 histories of the Jews during the Hellenistic period, circa the fourth century B.C.E. through the first century C.E. The course will survey pivotal persons and events that help which helped to define the idea of Jewish identity in the Greco-Roman world during the age of the second Jewish commonwealth and the birth of Christianity. Special attention will be paid to conflicts which arose between Greeks and Jews in Jerusalem and Alexandria.

Format:

The course will follow a seminar format. Each class session will be devoted to exploring a specific topic and/or set of texts.

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Students will be asked to prepare synopses of the day’s assignments and to present said synopses to the class in order to facilitate discussion.

Language Pre-requisites:

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