GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2016  
Instructor: Dr. Michael Cover  
Course #: THEO 8310  
Course Title: Hellenistic Backgrounds to the New Testament

Content:
This course will introduce students to the life, career, and writings of Philo of Alexandria (ca. 20 BCE–50 CE), the Jewish exegete, philosopher, and statesman. Texts from the four major divisions of Philo’s corpus will be studied, with a special focus on Philo’s Roman context, his Platonizing Judaism, and his three commentary series on the Pentateuch: the Questions and Answers on Genesis and Exodus, the Allegorical Commentary, and the Exposition of the Law. The course will conclude with a consideration of Philo’s reception in later Jewish and Christian thought, including (inter alia) his retrieval in the writings of the sixteenth-century Italian Jewish scholar Azariah de’ Rossi as well as in the thought of Hegel.

Format:
Weekly seminar meetings and a Greek reading group for JCA and Historical students.

Assignments and/or Examinations:
- Final research paper, two exegetical structure analyses, class presentation, book review.

Language Pre-requisites:
- None. JCA students will be required to meet for an additional one-hour Greek reading session.