

The Biblical Holy Days

CE 459 Fall, 2008 Wed 7:00-8:50 PM BGC 253



Professor: Dr. Donald Ratcliff
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-4:00 PM
Email for appointment

Office: BGC 243 Phone: 630-752-5282
Email & Web Page: don.ratcliff@wheaton.edu
www.don.ratcliffs.net/classes

Textbooks and Readings

Kasden, Barney. *God's appointed times: A practical guide for understanding and celebrating the biblical holidays*, new edition. Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1993/2007.

Zimmerman, Martha. *Celebrating biblical feasts in your home or church*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2004.

Ferguson, Nancy. *Christian educator's guide to evaluating and developing curriculum*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2008.

Recommended but optional:

Strassfeld, Michael. *The Jewish holidays: A guide and commentary*. San Francisco: Collins, 1993 (or Harper, 1985).

Ratcliff, Donald. E. *Experiencing God and spiritual growth with your child*. Available online at: <http://childspirituality.org/experience/> [no charge], 2006

Course Description

The significance of the Old Testament feasts and festivals will be considered in this current issues class. The goals are to explore, experience, and creatively convey the importance of these holy days. Mentoring and curriculum development are part of the experience. Enrollment is limited.

Objectives

The competencies described below are reflected in student activities and products, as assessed by the instructor. Thus students can expect assignments that foster:

1. Research of one or more of the major biblical holidays using Jewish, messianic, and Christian sources, reflected in a major paper. This will be completed individually.
2. Development of curriculum related to an online schematic and drawing from course textbooks, research materials (see objective 1), and other sources. Curriculum may be traditional, internet-based, and/or video-based. This is expected to be a small group activity, but with special permission (one month in advance) may be an individual project.
3. Celebration of the Fall holidays, with somewhat less emphasis upon the Spring holiday celebration. This will be a whole-class assignment, and may include guests.
4. Participation in a messianic (or equivalent) Shabbat service, either as a leader or in a supportive role, on at least one and preferably several occasions.

Course Requirements

Because of the possibility of lost assignments sent by email, all assignments shall be personally turned in during class time; email must not be used for this purpose. The student is expected to keep a second copy of every assignment on paper (or in the case of video, on a DVD, or Powerpoint, a copy on CD). If the student has not received the graded assignment within a week, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for clarification of the delay. Students are encouraged to complete assignments well in advance of deadlines—computer or printer malfunction are not acceptable excuses for late work.

Written assignments should be completed following the Turabian style, 7th edition, reference style. They should be typed, double spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins, and carefully proofread. Proper spelling and grammar can contribute to a positive grade for these assignments; carelessness can result in significant grade reduction.

Basic Requirements:

1. A major paper reflecting extensive research of one major Jewish/Old Testament holiday. Jewish, messianic, and Christian sources shall be used. Suggested length: 10 pages with 20 sources (one chapter of a book is considered a source). Due the last regular class period
2. Curriculum will be developed that is traditional or multimedia (video, web pages), building upon (and not limited to), online schematics available. Guidelines in the Nancy Ferguson text will be followed in the completion of the curriculum. Due November 5.
3. Celebration of the Fall holidays, and to a lesser extent the Spring holidays, will occur, with each student playing a leadership role that fits with their personal characteristics. These are likely to be hosted events, with selected guests from outside the class.
4. Participation in one or more Shabbat services at a messianic congregation (or equivalent, as determined by your instructor). The student will make notes of what occurs, as well as reactions.

Assignment 1 is the designated assignment that can be part of your degree portfolio. This portfolio—a representation of work from all CE core classes—will be collected in its entirety during Senior Seminar (CE 494). As a way to keep from losing these assignments, you may email a copy as an attachment to the following address: cfm.portfolio@gmail.com . Place your name and the name of the assignment in the subject heading of the email.
--

Grades

A contract grade approach will be used. All students are expected to complete all of the assignments unless the contract for the class clearly states otherwise. All contracts must be approved by the instructor before they are considered valid. Contract is due the second class. At least three times during the semester the instructor will contact the student regarding their current progress towards the desired grade. Students may ask for more frequent evaluations, if desired.

1. To achieve a B course grade, most assignments must be superior quality work.
2. To achieve a B+ course grade, all assignments must be superior quality work.
3. For an A- course grade, all assignments must be superior quality, and most assignments must be distinctive and exemplary.

4. To achieve an A final grade, all assignments must be superior quality, and also will be distinctive and exemplary.

Students who desire a final grade of A or A- will not turn in late work, unless there is significant illness or emergency (as defined by the instructor).

Excused late work shall be so noted at the top of the assignment. Such assignments must be turned in by the class period following the day the student returns to class. After that point assignments will be penalized 10% each day and not accepted after ten days, unless special permission is provided by the instructor.

Late work due to unexcused absences may not be accepted for grading if there are more than three such absences. If accepted, the 10% daily penalty will apply.

A [distinctive]	B- [acceptable]	D+ [inadequate]
A- [superior]	C+ [acceptable]	D [inadequate]
B+ [superior]	C [acceptable]	D-
B [superior]	C- [inadequate]	F

Topics and Related Readings

Date	Topic	Reading Due
Aug 27	Overview of the class	Syllabus
Sept 3	Summary of holidays and relevant theology (guests)	Kas Intro; Zimm Preface, Intro, S.H.
10	Sabbath & New Moon	Kas 1; Zimm 1
17	Preparation for high holy days	Ferguson chapters 1 & 2
24	Celebrate Rosh Hashanah (Trumpets) (30th)	Kas 5; Zimm 5
Oct 1	Curriculum Refinement and Development	Ferguson chapters 5-7
8	Celebrate Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) (9th)	Kas 6; Zimm 6
15	Celebrate Sukkot (14th-20th)/Simchat Torah (22nd)	Kas 7; Zimm 7
22	Curriculum Refinement and Development	Ferguson chapters 8-9
29	Purim / update on the major paper progress	Kas 9
Nov 5	Pesach (Passover) / curriculum due	Kas 2
12	Passover and Unleavened Bread	Zimm 2
19	Sfirat HaOmer (First Fruits) / update on major paper	Kas 3; Zimm 3
Dec 3	Shavuot (Pentecost)	Kas 4; Zimm 4
10	Hanukkah / major paper due	Kas 8
Finals	Review and Feedback	Kas Concl, append; Zimm Last Word

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of others as one's own. This and other forms of academic dishonesty are subject to strict disciplinary action, according to the following policy and procedure.

1. Students must avoid unauthorized collaboration, fabrication of data, unauthorized use of computer data, and excessive revision by someone other than the student.
2. Students are responsible to report to their instructor any dishonest behavior of which they are aware, or any circumstances that tend to encourage dishonesty.
3. If there are mitigating circumstances, lesser sanctions than those listed below may be applied with the concurrence of the instructor's superior (i.e. chair or dean).

Suspicion of Dishonesty

1. Students suspected of dishonesty will be confronted discretely and a response solicited.
2. If the student admits to dishonesty, appropriate disciplinary action (as described below) will be applied and a report made to the Student Development Office. The student will also be informed of his or her right of appeal.
3. If the student denies dishonesty, but not to the satisfaction of the instructor, the matter will be referred to the petitions subcommittee of the Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee, who with the Dean of Students will hear both parties and submit their recommendations to the Vice President for Student Development, who shall make a determination.
4. Any further appeals will follow the College process of appeals.

Conformation of Dishonesty

1. A grade of zero will be assigned to any individual assignment or test on which a student has been dishonest.
2. In the case of inadvertent plagiarism, the instructor may at his discretion require that the assignment or examination be rewritten, and may assign a grade one letter grade lower than it otherwise would have been.
3. In the case of a second instance of dishonesty in a course, a student will be dropped from that course with a grade of F and placed on disciplinary probation.
4. Successive acts of dishonesty may result in expulsion from the College, subject to standard procedures of the Student Development Office.
5. A Student who knowingly assists another student in dishonest behavior is equally guilty and subject to the same degrees of sanctions.

--Adapted from the Wheaton College faculty handbook (section 3.1.16)

The information in this syllabus is subject to revision, as announced in regular class periods. Students are responsible for course content and any announcements made when absent, regardless of the reason for missing the class.

