

Bloy House, ETSC
Spring Semester 2012
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Course Title:

Jesus, Judaism, and Christianity

Course Description:

Jesus was a Jew. Jesus' first followers were Jews. We cannot understand the person and work of Jesus or Christianity as a community of faith without taking into account Christianity's relation to Judaism. But how must we understand this relationship? This course will consider and reject one conventional view of this relationship: that Christianity corrects, perfects, or supplants Judaism. The term used by theologians to designate this viewpoint is supersessionism. In its place we will reconsider the complex historical process by which Christianity emerged from Judaism: by describing the Judaism of Jesus' day to see what role Jesus played in this religious world; by considering the question that to this day haunts Jewish-Christian relations which concerns who killed Jesus and why he was killed; by considering how the Jewish renewal movement led by Jesus became Christianity; and finally by considering when and how Judaism and Christianity separated as distinct communities of faith. The goal of the course is to gain insight into the person and work of Jesus, but also to envision Jews and Christians in today's world as partners in God's economy of salvation in their witness and in their work.

Texts:

Mary C. Boys, *Has God Only One Blessing? Judaism as a Source of Christian Self-understanding* (Paulist Press, 2000)

Paula Fredriksen, *From Jesus to Christ: The Origins of the New Testament Images of Jesus*, Second Edition (Yale University Press, 2000)

Paula Fredriksen, *Jesus of Nazareth: King of the Jews* (Vintage Books, 2000)