

mini
course

ROBERT HARRIS



MEDIEVAL JEWS AND CHRISTIANS READ SCRIPTURE

This course explores the commonalities as well as the differences between Jews and Christians in medieval biblical study. The lectures focus on the relationships and mutual influences that rabbis and churchmen had on one another, including the polemics through which they frequently interacted.

In the ways they engaged the Bible during the High Middle Ages, Christians and Jews experienced many of the same developments. Christians evolved from accessing the Bible through *auctoritas*, the authoritative understanding envisioned and endorsed by the Church in patristics literature, to *ad litteram*, the “plain reading” of biblical text. Jews moved in an analogous way from *derash* to *peshat*. We will examine both Jewish and Christian exegetical texts (in translation) from the “Renaissance of the 12th century” (roughly from the middle of the 11th to the middle of the 13th centuries).

Professor Robert A. Harris is long-time Chair of the Bible Department at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, teaching courses in biblical literature and commentary. His most recent book was entitled, *Rabbi Eliezer of Beaugency: Commentaries on Amos and Jonah (with Selections from Isaiah and Ezekiel)*. He has also authored, *Discerning Parallelism: A Study in Northern French Medieval Jewish Biblical Exegesis*. In addition, he has published many articles and reviews in both American and Israeli journals, most recently one entitled, “Sexual Orientation in the Presentation of Joseph’s Character in Biblical and Rabbinic Literature,” to appear in *AJS Review* (Spring, 2019).

The mini course
will take place
in **May 2019**

13 Monday	15:00
14 Tuesday	11:40
15 Wednesday	11:40
16 Thursday	16:30
17 Friday	10:00

Office of the NaUKMA
Jewish Studies programs
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Building 5, basement