

SS 909 / HT 909 – Early Judaism – Summer 2006

Jewish Practice Paper (3 pages) (30% of final grade)

Due June 16, noon (fax 716-888-3137)

Description: A consideration of a particular ritual, festival, or practice in Jewish tradition in terms of its historical origins, interpretations, and its influence on Christianity.

Contents:

- 1) Introduction – What is the ritual, festival, or practice? At what time during the year (or life) is it observed? How is it observed? i.e. what actions, prayers, etc. are involved? Who participates?
- 2) Historical origins – is it described in the Hebrew Bible? In which texts (Biblical or non-biblical, and when were they (assumed to be) written? What was the historical setting for these texts and this observance?
- 3) Interpretations – in what ways has it been understood in Jewish tradition, both ancient and modern?
- 4) Reflection – How has this tradition been used / interpreted / and/or altered in Christianity? (How) does an understanding of the Jewish background for this practice affect your understanding of the Christian parallels?

Grading:

This assignment will be graded on how well it answers the above questions and the degree of detail and analysis. Vague answers and ones which do not discuss the significance of the details given will not receive full credit.

(see instructor for further information.)

6/6/06