

Jews and Christians Throughout History

Final Paper

The final paper is a commentary either on Dabru Emet or A Sacred Combination. The purpose of this assignment is to provide an opportunity for you to summarize the main themes of the course in your own words as they relate to the issues in these two pioneering documents. Remember, neither document has "authority," but both of them are efforts to help communities move the dialogue ahead while not abandoning core ideas of Judaism or Christianity.

Therefore, your paper should NOT just be an emotional catharsis on how you feel about either of these two documents. Either document can provide you with a way to structure the major themes of the course and to suggest where they started and what future directions they might take.

So, what SHOULD you do?

1. You can offer a line by line commentary on selected sections of either or both documents as the basis for your thematic discussions

2. You should point out where Dabru Emet and A Sacred Obligation are informed by other documents or readings that you have done in this course. I will be looking for those themes that begin in the NT, are developed in the Early Church and Middle Ages, and find new directions after Nostrae Aetate.

3. You should, wherever possible, focus on lecture material or readings from the course packet and books.

4. You MAY be somewhat creative. For example, if you want to create a conversation between a "Jew" and a "Christian" about some of the themes in the documents under consideration, then go ahead and do that. What I want you to AVOID is simply saying the obvious about Dabru Emet and A Sacred Obligation. I KNOW what they say....this question is designed for you to write about what they mean about re-thinking the past, and what they might mean in the future.