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CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU  
Department of Religious Studies  
RE 2155 New Testament Times and Literature

Fall Evening Session 1998  
Barber's Point  
Monday 1730-2130

Instructor: Stephen Coffey  
Phone: 739-7777X868  
732-0440

*COURSE SYLLABUS*

**Course Description:** Historical-Critical Method: late Judaism and the Hellenistic political and religious movement; literary analysis of the Gospels; and theological development of the identity of Christ, the end of the world, salvation, the Church.

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

1. To learn the historical-critical method as it is applied to the New Testament text.
2. To gain exposure to other methods of Gospel study: form and redaction criticism.
3. To develop an appreciation for the different genres of the New Testament books.
4. To gain insight into the similarities and dissimilarities between the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John.
5. To become acquainted with the geographical spread of early Christianity, predicated upon the New Testament text.
6. To understand the person and mission of Jesus of Nazareth as articulated by the New Testament authors.
7. To gain insight into Judaic and Greco-Roman political and religious milieu, and the effects of such on the emergence of Christianity.
8. To examine the socio-economic and cultural diversity of early Christians, and their endeavor to harmonize mission and thought.
9. To gain an understanding of the Christian theologies (Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology) contained in the New Testament literature.
10. To provide the student with learning tools to encourage independent and cooperative study.

### **Course Textbooks and Materials:**

1. Pheme Perkins, Reading the New Testament, New York: Paulist Press, 1988.
2. An English New Testament with critical apparatus. Recommended: New Revised Standard Translation.
3. Handouts on specific topics will be distributed throughout the course.

### **Course Requirements:**

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| 1. Assigned Readings and Class Participation | 30% |
| 2. Research Paper                            | 20% |
| 3. Mid-Term Examination                      | 25% |
| 4. Final Examination                         | 25% |

#### **1. Assigned Reading and Class Participation:**

All assigned readings have been scheduled into the course calendar. The student is encouraged to follow the reading guide. Class participation is expected.

#### **2. Research Paper:**

To cultivate research and analytical skills in order to gain deeper understanding over a specific area in this vast study, the student will write a 7-10 page paper. Select a passage of the New Testament; explain the passage in its original setting and then provide a contemporary interpretation. This project will be due by mutual agreement of instructor and student.

#### **3. Mid Term Exam:**

The exam will be 90 minutes, and is scheduled for November 2.

#### **4. Final Exam:**

The exam will be 90 minutes, and is scheduled for December 7.

Examinations will consist of objective questions, short answers, and essays for synthesis.

#### **5. Course Attendance:**

The student is expected to attend all classes. For extenuating circumstances instructor must be notified.



## **6. Class Procedure and Participation:**

To facilitate different learning styles, general lecture, seminar, and small group dynamics will be employed at different intervals throughout the course. The student is encouraged to actively participate by completing assigned readings prior to class, ready to enter into discussion during small groups, interacting and presenting questions pertinent to the subject matter during general lectures.

### **Course Schedule**

October 5	Course Introduction (Chapter 1:1-22) Old Testament Background Textual Criticism The Bible as a Literary Work History of Jesus (Chapters 2 and 3)
October 12	Preaching of Jesus (Chapter 4:78-90) Death and Resurrection of Jesus (Chapter 5:91-97) Faith and Christology (Chapter 6:98-114)
October 19	The Gospel of Mark (Chapter 12:203-213) The Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 13:214-228)
October 26	The Gospel of Luke (Chapter 14:229-241) The Gospel of John (Chapter 15:242-253)
November 2	Mid-Term Exam (90 minutes) Emergence of Christianity (Chapter 7:114-134) Paul's Life and Writings (Chapter 8: 135-159)
November 9	Galatians and Romans (Chapter 9:160-174) Corinthian Letters (Chapter 10:175-190)
November 16	Deutero-Pauline Letters (Chapter 11:191-202) Letter to the Hebrews (Chapter 17:270-280)
November 23	Pastoral Letters (Chapter 18:281-292) Catholic Letters (Chapter 19: 293-303)
November 30	Johannine Epistles (Chapter 20:304-311) Book of Revelation (Chapter 21:312-328)
December 7	Course Summary Final Exam