

HISTORICAL-CRITICAL METHOD; LATE JUDAISM & THE HELLENTISTIC POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT; LITERARY ANALYSIS OF THE GOSPELS; AND THEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE IDENTITY OF CHRIST, THE END OF THE WORLD, SALVATION AND THE CHURCH.

GOAL: To provide insight into (and invite appreciation for) the person and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, as found in the Books of the New Testament. Within scope of early Christianity's belief & praxis, evidenced in diverse communities and moments with both unity & pluriformity, this course aims to present New Testament times and literature as a rich mosaic of Christianity's primal era. This course provides a base for and suggests a key to evaluating all church history that follows upon the Jesus event.

Objectives:

- 1) to survey the varied body of literature and school of authors of the New Testament with a view toward highlighting their value & function as enduring foundational documents for church and civilization
- 2) to contrast the different images of Jesus as the Christ contained in the documents, and to discern both their common and their particular features for inviting and directing humankind to faith
- 3) to articulate the essential beliefs and values of New Testament writings, which emerged out of Judaism & the Graeco-Roman world, in a way that accords with historical critical methods used in contemporary biblical scholarship for the sake of securing mature faith and advancing Tradition
- 4) to note the theo-moral concerns and struggles of the earliest Christians from antiquity in hopes of arousing concerns of similar or greater value in a world that knows the same or greater struggles
- 5) to acknowledge the New Testament Way of holiness as one linking Christians of all ages and correlative with other religious ways & traditions, peoples & movements in history

Requirements:

- 1) presence & participation in all scheduled classes for the course
- 2) completion of all assignments/projects as given throughout the course
 - a) assigned readings in text
 - b) paper: select 5 passages from the New Testament writings and make a one page reflection on the challenge of the text for a person living in the modern world [the 5 typed page research-reflection paper is due on Monday, April 27th]
- 3) satisfactory completion of all examinations during the semester

Recommendations:

- 1) notebook for recording information during class presentations and assigned readings
- 2) research & reading of extra materials relevant to the course
- 3) attentive & participative class presence to foster learning attitude & aptitude

Grading: 20% class presence & participation
20% course project: 5 page paper
40% course exams
20% final

Date	Day	Class	Presentation	RE#215	New Testament
1/12	M	1	Introduction		
1/14	W	2	Christianity & Scripture (ch 1/pgs 1-12)		
1/16	F	3	The Pre-History of Jesus I		
1/19	M		No Class (Martin Luther King Holiday)		
1/21	W	4	The Pre-History of Jesus II (ch 2/pgs 23-49)		
1/23	F	5	The Jesus of History (ch 3/pgs 51-76)		
1/26	M	6	The Preaching of Jesus I		
1/28	W	7	The Preaching of Jesus II (ch 4/pgs 78-89)		
1/30	F	8	The Death of Jesus I (ch 5/pgs 91-96)		
2/2	M	9	The Death of Jesus II		
2/4	W	10	The Resurrection of Jesus I		
2/6	F	11	The Resurrection of Jesus II		
2/9	M	12	Review		
2/11	W	13	* Exam I		
2/13	F	14	The Christ of Faith (ch 6/pgs 98-112)		
2/16	M		No Class (President's Day)		
2/18	W	15	The Church of Jesus		
2/20	F	16	The World of Paul (ch 7/pgs 114-133)		
2/23	M	17	The Life of Paul (ch 8/pgs 135-158)		
2/25	W	18	The Writings of Paul I		
2/27	F	19	The Writings of Paul II (ch 9/pgs 160-173)		
3/2	M	20	The Writings of Paul III (ch 10/pgs 175-189)		
3/4	W	21	Universalizing Paul's Message (ch 11/pgs 191-201)		
3/6	F	22	Introduction to the Gospels		
3/9	M	23	The Gospel of Mark (ch 12/pgs 203-212)		
3/11	W	24	Review		
3/13	F	25	* Exam II		
3/16	M	26	The Gospel of Matthew (ch 13/pgs 214-228)		
3/18	W	27	The Gospel of Luke (ch 14/pgs 229-240)		
3/20	F	28	The Infancy Narratives		
3/23-27	M-W-F		No Class (Spring Recess)		
3/30	M	29	The Gospel of John (ch 15/pgs 242-253)		
4/1	W	30	The Acts of the Apostles I (ch 16/pgs 255-268)		
4/3	F	31	The Acts of the Apostles II		
4/6	M	32	The Epistle to the Hebrews (ch 17/pgs 270-279)		
4/8	W	33	The Pastoral Epistles (ch 18/pgs 281-291)		
4/10	F		No Class (Good Friday)		
4/13	M	34	The Catholic Epistles (ch 19/pgs 293-302)		
4/15	W	35	The Johannine Epistles (ch 20/pgs 304-310)		
4/17	F	36	The Book of Revelation I (ch 21/pgs 312-327)		
4/20	M	37	The Book of Revelation II		
4/22	W	38	Early Christianity		
4/24	F	39	Review		
4/27	M	40	* Exam III		
4/29	W	41	The New Testament Today		
5/1	F	42	Semester: Overview & Evaluation		

- 1) The schedule may be amended as deemed necessary during the semester. Please be advised.
- 2) Course Text: Reading the New Testament by Pheme Perkins/New York: Paulist Press, 1988.
- 3) Prof. David Anderson (Humanities Department)/Phone: 926-5162
- 4) Final Exam: