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Chaminade University of Honolulu
Discipline of Religious Studies
RE 215 New Testament Times and Literature

Christmas Interim 1998 - 1999
Dec 18- Jan 8, 1998/99 5:30-9:40/8:00-12:10
Kaneohe Marine Base Hawaii

Instructor: M. Cruthers, M.A.
Phone: 735-4827

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Historical-Critical Method: late Judaism and the Hellenistic political and religious movement; literary analysis of the Gospels; and the theological development of the identity of Christ, the end of the world, salvation, and 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.
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. How the gospels relate to the Pauline corpus and other New Testament writings.
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 New Testament authors.
7. To gain insight into the distinctives of Judaic and Graeco-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 in mission and thought.
9. To gain understanding of biblical literature and theology (Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology) regardless of religious persuasion.

Course Textbooks and Materials

1. Perkins, Pheme. Reading the New Testament. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1988. (2nd Edition)
2. An English New Testament. Bring to all Classes!

Course Requirements

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Class Attendance and Participation | 10% |
| 2. Assigned Papers from Readings | 20% |
| 3. Final Paper | 30% |
| 4. Comprehensive Final Examination | 40% |

1. Class Attendance and Participation. 10%

It is expected that the student will attend all classes prepared and ready for discussion. Class will include lecture and where possible class discussion and small group discussion. Also as part of classroom participation you will be required to informally present your papers. If the student misses four classes or more an automatic incomplete will be given to the student which can be made up by retaking the class. Make sure you bring your Bible!

2. Assigned Papers from Readings. 20%

Students are expected to read all assigned text material and to write a small one page paper in accordance with the requirements of the course schedule. Each paper is worth 5% of the overall grade for a total of 20%. See course schedule.

3. Final Paper. 30%

To cultivate analytical skills the student is required to prepare a 5 page paper.

A: Select a Synoptic Gospel passage. Compare and contrast with the other two Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John. The student needs to check with the instructor to insure the selected passage will be sufficient for the student to write an adequate comparison.

B: Select a political or religious element(s) in the first century that you find interesting either from class or your own study and analyze further how it might have affected early Christianity. This paper is due on January 6, 1999

4. Comprehensive Final Exam. (100 pts) 40%

The examination will encompass all material covered in class including assigned readings and lectures. The examination will be approximately 90 minutes. The Final exam will be on January 8, 1999.

Dec. 18
5:30 - 9:40p

Course Introduction
Old Testament -
Precursor to the New Testament
History, Culture, Scripture, Language

Read pgs. 1 - 77

Dec. 21
5:30-9:40p

Examination of the Text
New Testament and its World
History of Jesus I

Ch 1 pgs 1 - 22
Ch 2 pgs 23 - 50
Ch 3 pgs 51 - 77

Paper I 1 pg - Discuss the world Jesus was born in.

Read pgs. 78 - 114

Dec 23
5:30-9:40p

Turn in Paper I

History of Jesus II
His Message
History of Jesus III
His Death and Resurrection
Faith and the Beginning of Christology

Ch 4 pgs 78 - 90
Ch 5 pgs 91 - 97
Ch 6 pgs 98 - 114

Paper II 1 pg - Summarize the message of Jesus with what you have learned so far and according to your own understanding.

Read pgs. 203 - 228

Dec. 26
8:00-12:10a

Turn in Paper II

The Gospels - The Synoptics and John
The Synoptics
Mark's account (syn)
Matthew's account (syn)

Ch 12 pgs 203 - 213
Ch 13 pgs 214 - 227

Read pgs. 229 - 253

Dec. 28
5:30-9:40p

Luke's account (syn)
John's account

Ch 14 pgs 229 - 241
Ch 15 pgs 242 - 253

Paper III 1 pg - Discuss briefly the audience and characteristics of each of the Gospel writers.

Read pgs 114 - 174

Dec. 30

5:30-9:40p

Turn in Paper III

Emergence of Christianity I

Ch 7 pgs 114 - 134

The World of Paul

Emergence of Christianity II

Ch 8 pgs 135 - 159

Paul's Life - Phil., 1 & 2 Thes., Philip.

Emergence of Christianity III

Ch 9 pgs 160 - 174

Gal. & Rom.

Paper IV 1 pg - Discuss what you have learned

concerning Paul and the driving force behind his mission.

Read pgs. 175 - 202

Jan. 2

8:00-12:10a

Turn in Paper IV

Emergence of Christianity IV

Ch 10 pgs 175 - 190

1 & 2 Corinth.

Emergence of Christianity V

Ch 11 pgs 191 - 202

Col. & Eph.

Read pgs 255 - 292

Jan. 4

5:30-9:40p

Mission - Gospel to the Nations

Ch 16 pgs 255 - 268

Acts

High Priest

Ch 17 pgs 270 - 280

Hebrews

Pastoral Leadership

Ch 18 pgs 281 - 292

1 & 2 Tim. & Titus

Finish paper

Read pgs. 293 - 328

Jan. 6

5:30-9:40p

Paper Due (5 pgs)

General Epistles

Ch 19 pgs 293 - 303

1 & 2 Pet., James & Jude

Johannine Epistles

Ch 20 pgs 304 - 311

1, 2, 3 John

Eschatology

Ch 21 pgs 312 - 328

Revelation

Study for the Final

Jan. 8

5:30-9:40p

Final Exam (100pts)