

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

Discipline of Religious Studies

RE 215 ⁶²New Testament Times and Literature

Winter Evening 1999 (1/11-3/24)

Friday, 1645-2055, Pearl Harbor, Bldg. 679 2nd Flr.

Instructor: Achilles S.C. Gacis MA, M.Div.

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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 and the Church.

Goal: To provide insight (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 & diversity, 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 examining all church history that follows upon the Jesus event.

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: textual, literary, source, form, redaction, etc.
- 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. And 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 the New Testament authors.
- 7) To gain insight into Judaic and Greco-Roman political and religious milieu, and the effects of such an 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 understanding of biblical literature and theology (Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology) regardless of religious persuasion.
- 10) To provide the student with learning tools to encourage independent and cooperative study.

Course Textbook:

Perkins, Pheme. Reading the New Testament. New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1988(2nd ed.)

A New Testament. Recommended: The Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha.

Course Requirements:

Assigned readings, attendance, and class participation.....	50 pts.
Research Paper.....	25 pts.
Presentation.....	25 pts.

Assigned readings, attendance, and class participation:

All assigned readings have been scheduled into the course calendar. The student must do the readings and be prepared to fully answer and discuss (verbally, in class) any of the questions at the end of the reading.

Research Paper:

To cultivate research and analytical skills in order to gain a deeper understanding over a specific area in this vast study. Select 5 passages from the New Testament writings and make a one to two page reflection (involving reflective critical inquiry, not mere sermonizing...) on each passage on the challenge of the text for a person living in the modern world. Explain the relationship of the passages chosen. Word processed, APA format is to be used.

Presentation:

Each student is required to present their findings in their research paper to the class at the end of the semester. Any form may be utilized (overhead, video clips, sound, charts, in-class assignments, etc. etc.). Be creative! It's your time to share with your fellow students the findings you've painstakingly discovered!

Class Procedure and Participation:

To facilitate different learning styles, general lecture, semi-seminar, and small group dynamics may 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:

JAN	15	Course Introduction.....	Ch. 1
		VIDEO: Riddle of the Dead Sea Scrolls	
	22	The World of Jesus.....	Ch 2,3
		VIDEO: Jesus	
	29	Jesus (cont'd).....	Ch. 4
FEB	05	Paul.....	Ch. 7, 8
		VIDEO: Paul's Journeys	
	12	Mark, Matthew.....	Ch. 12, 13
	19	Luke, John.....	Ch. 14, 15
	26	Revelation.....	Ch. 21
		VIDEO: The Apocalypse	
MAR	05	<i>Presentations</i>	
	12	<i>Presentations</i>	
	19	<i>Presentations</i> (Papers Due with SASE for return)	

NOTES: