

WE '00
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RE 215^L New Testament Times and Literature
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Winter 2000

Instructor: Regina Pfeiffer

Day: 735-4700

Voice Mail: 256-8859

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the New Testament literature within its socio-historical context. Students will examine the literature of the New Testament in relationship with the context in which was written, the late Judaism, Hellenistic and Roman periods and the intent of the authors in corresponding with their respective audiences. Previous biblical study is not required.

Textbooks

A Bible - - preferably the New American Bible or other version such as New Revised Standard Version or New Jerusalem Bible

Not acceptable: The Way

Branick, Vincent. *Understanding the New Testament and Its Message: An Introduction*. Paulist Press. Mahwah, NY: 1998.

Handouts may be given in class if required.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

1. Class attendance and participation (10% of grade);

You are expected to attend all 10 sessions. Classes will consist of lecture and discussion. If you miss a class, you are responsible for the material, which will include a written response to the required readings.

2. Two Quizzes (10% each of grade = 20% of grade);

The quizzes will be based on the material covered in class and in the readings. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, fill-in the blank, and definitions. Quizzes and final exam are not cumulative.

3. Textual study paper and presentation (30% of grade);

The textual paper and presentation will be on a topic of your choice. You are expected to read the primary source (the scripture pericope(s)), your text, and a commentary or two on the scripture, or concordance if required. Suggested topics will be provided to you or you may choose one of your own with permission from the instructor. The paper will be a minimum of three pages (not including bibliography) and not to exceed 10 pages, with proper citations if you are quoting any source. Citations may be done one of three ways but must be consistent throughout the paper. (Footnotes, endnotes, in-text citation with Works Cited notation as an individual page). You will need to include a bibliography listing your sources.

4. Final exam: 2 parts

- a. take-home exam (20% of grade);
- b. in-class exam (20% of grade).

Final examination will be in two parts. The take-home portion will consist of essay questions. The in-class portion will include multiple choice questions, identify, and fill-in the blank – similar in style to the quizzes. It will not take the entire class period so we will have a lecture.

Course Outline

Jan. 10 Introduction to the course
Forms of Biblical Interpretation
Historical background
First Century World – Context of the Christian Scriptures

Required readings: Branick -- Chpts. 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11 & 12

Christian Scriptures: Letters of Paul

1 Thessalonians (Thess); 1 & 2 Corinthians (Cor); Galatians (Gal);
Romans (Rom); Philippians (Phil); Philemon (Phlm); Colossians (Col)

Jan. 17 Holiday: Martin Luther King
no class

Jan. 24 Letters of Paul
Hellenistic world of Paul
Paul, apostle to the Gentiles
Literary style of letters

Jan. 31 First quiz – Letters of Paul
Gospels: Synoptic Problem
Purpose of Gospels
Literary style in general

Required readings: Branick – Chpts. 3, 4, 9

Christian Scriptures: Gospel of Mark

Feb. 7 Gospel of Mark
Image of Jesus in Mark

Required readings: Branick – Chpt. 7

Christian Scriptures: Gospel of Matthew

Feb. 14 Gospel of Matthew
Jesus as new Moses and Prophet

Required readings: Branick – Chapt. 8

Christian Scriptures: Gospel of Luke
Acts of the Apostles

Feb. 21 Holiday: Presidents' Day

Feb. 28 Gospel of Luke
 Women in the Gospel of Luke
 Class presentations

Required readings: Branick – Chapters 13 & 14
Christian Scriptures: Gospel of John and letters of John

March 6 Quiz on the Synoptic Gospels
 Gospel of John
 Letters of John
 Class presentations

Required readings: Branick – Chapters 15, 16 & 17
Christian Scriptures: Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, 2 Thessalonians, Hebrews

March 13 Deutero-Pauline Letters
 Hebrews
 Class presentations

Required Readings: Branick – Chapters 18
Christian Scriptures: 1 & 2 James, 1 & 2 Peter

March 20 Letters of James and Peter
 Class presentations

Required readings: Branick – Chapter 19 & Conclusion
Christian Scriptures: Book of Revelation

March 22 Final exam (will not take the entire class period).
 Apocalyptic literature and Revelation
 Conclusion