

SD 02

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Discipline of Religious Studies
RE315-01 New Testament Times and Literature

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236-7749

Course Syllabus

Course Description: Historical/Critical Method: literary analysis of the Gospels, and the other books of the New Testament, theological development of the identity of Jesus Christ, the end of the world, salvation history.

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 in to the similarities and dissimilarities between the synoptic gospels and the Gospel of John.
5. To become acquainted with the spread of Christianity via Paul.
6. To understand the person and the mission of Jesus of Nazareth as articulated by the New Testament authors.
7. To gain insight into the Judaic and Roman political/religious milieu.
8. To gain understanding of the biblical literature and theology (Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology).
9. To provide the student with learning tools and to encourage independent and cooperative study.

Course Textbooks and Materials:

1. Perkins, Pheme: Reading the New Testament New York/Mahwah:Paulist Press, 1988
2. The Bible - recommended: New American Bible
2. Handouts on specific topics will be distributed throughout the course.

Course Requirements:

1. Assigned readings and participation in class.....25%
2. Research Paper.....25%
3. Midterm Examination.....25%
5. Final Examination.....25%

Assigned Readings and Class Participation:

All assigned readings have been scheduled into the course calendar. Class participation is expected. Periodic tests will be announced well in advance. Make up for test by explicit request only, and not more than one week after scheduled test.

Research Paper:

To cultivate research and analytical skills in order to gain a deeper understanding over a specific area in this vast study; the student will write a 5-7 page term paper. Select a passage from the New Testament, be prepared to explain the text, and apply it to everyday life. The instructor will announce a due date for this project.

Midterm and Final Exam:

Dates for these Exams will be announced to give the student sufficient time for preparation. Examination questions are a compilation of those presented in the text book and those formulated by the instructor. They will consist of: a) objective answers, b) short answers, and c) essays.

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 the assigned readings prior to the class, ready to enter into discussion during the small group discussion, interacting and presenting questions pertinent to the subject matter during general lectures.

Course Schedule:

Week of:	Topic and Text:
Jan. 16	Course Introduction Understanding the Bible as a literary work Jewish Scriptures/Christian Scriptures / Gospel-Pre-test
Jan. 23	History of Jesus of Nazareth Chapters 1-3
Jan. 30	His message - Death and Resurrection, and Faith The beginning of Christology - Chapters 4-6
Feb. 6	The Gospel of Mark - Chapter 12
Feb. 13	The Gospel of Matthew - Chapter 13
Feb. 20	The Gospel of Luke - Chapter 14
Feb. 27	The Gospel of John - Chapter 15
March 6	Mid-term Exam Acts of the Apostles-Gospel to the Nations - Chapter 16
March 13	Emergence of Christianity I - Chapter 7
March 20	Emergence of Christianity II and III - Chapters 8,9
March 27	Spring Break
April 3	Emergence of Christianity IV and V - Chapters 10,11
April 10	High Priest - Chapter 17
April 17	Christian Directives II - Leadership - Chapter 18
April 24	Christian Directives III - General Epistles - Chapter 19
May 1	Christian Directives IV - Johannine Epistles - Chapter 20
May 8	Christian Directives V - Eschatology - The Book of Revelation Chapter 21 Course Summary - preparation for Final Exam