

Carleton University

Fall 2014

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program
RELI 2220A
Early Christianity

Prof. Janet H. Tulloch
Office: Paterson 3A60
Phone: 613-520-2600 x7042
Time: Tues/Thurs 2:35-3:55pm
Email: Janet.Tulloch@Carleton.ca

Credit: 0.5
Office Hours: T/R 1:00-2:30pm
Place: Canal Building 3101

Course Description:

As this course is focused on canonical early Christian writings (in their physical and cultural contexts), we begin our study of the texts after the death of Jesus and work chronologically with the books of the New Testament beginning with the letters of Paul, the earliest extant writings by a follower of Jesus. This course introduces you to some of the historical methods used by scholars in the study of Christian origins as well as aspects of archaeological evidence important to the understanding of the texts. Problems both methods have in common with our sources are: identification and authenticity, dating, analysis, and interpretation. These methods will be demonstrated by focusing on selected texts and archaeological sites associated with places of the New Testament.

Please note that our approach to the texts and archaeological sites is historical and NOT theological i.e. NOT confessional; NOT faith-based. The ancient writings known as the New Testament are approached in the same manner as a student would approach other ancient writings such as Ovid's *Metamorphoses* or Virgil's *Aeneid* i.e. as writings embedded in a particular place and time. While the New Testament is considered as a sacred text by Christians, it will not be assigned this status in our classroom. Appeals to religious authority, family or church teachings, personal religious convictions, etc. are not methods used by scholars in the study of Christian origins and will not be used in this course either by the professor or the student. In order to do well in this course, students must be open to learning scholarly approaches to early Christianity (why else would you take this course?) especially when such knowledge challenges one's faith position.

Required Texts:

1. Bart D. Ehrman, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, 2011 (5th edition).

Warning: if you are looking for second-hand versions of **Ehrman**, be aware that there are many editions of this book now, and that the **5th edition** is the first that is markedly different. Make sure to buy the **5th edition** for this course.

2. Harper Collins Study Bible New Revised Standard Version with Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical Books.

Highly Recommended Text:

1. Jonathan L. Reed, *The HarperCollins Visual Guide to the New Testament*, 2007.

ON RESERVE:

1. Jonathan L. Reed, *The HarperCollins Visual Guide to the New Testament*, 2007.
2. Robinson & Mason, *Early Christian Reader*, Hendrickson Publishers. 2004.

Required Films:

All films will be shown in class once on the dates specified below. Films not available as an [Electronic resource through Carleton library] are available through InfoWAT@media.dymaxion.ca. The films shown in class are part of course content and will be part of course assignments, tests and exams. Students are required to view them if they wish to do well in this course.

If absent on the day a film is shown in class, the student, not the professor, is responsible for arranging an alternate viewing time of the film with the library reserve desk outside of class.

Student Evaluation: Except for #2, all assignments are to be completed individually.

1. **Take home question.** Written response based on the film: "From Jesus to Christ – Part 2" - 15%
– See instructions on CULearn.
2. **Team Map game – in class quiz** – Two teams of 4 compete to answer skill testing questions about ancient cities and regions. Class will be divided into groups of 8 and assigned a specific map to learn one week before game – 5%
3. **Midterm** – in class – Multiple Choice; Genre/passage recognition and importance - 25%
4. **Individual Research Project to be posted on course CULearn page to ALL registered students** on due date - 25% – See instructions on CULearn
5. **Oral presentation** – Students pitch research project to classmates – in class - 5%
6. **Final Exam - 25%** – Date TBA.

Course Calendar:**September**

Sept 4 Introduction to course content, historical, literary and archaeological approaches, evaluation mechanisms, your questions.

Sept 9 Introduction to the course (**Ehrman - Chapter 1**)

Sept 11 Diaspora Judaism and the Cultural world of Early Christianity (**Ehrman – Chapter 3**) **Optional: Jews Among Greeks and Romans (Reed- Chapter 3) REED IS ON RESERVE**

Sept 16 Archaeology and the New Testament; (**Reed – Chapter 1**) **REED IS ON RESERVE**

Sept 18 What is a writing genre: modern vs ancient? (**Robinson & Mason, Early Christian Reader – "Biography, Anecdote, and History" – pp. 243-282**) **ON RESERVE**

Sept 23 – The manuscripts of the New Testament - **Guest Lecture: Professor Zeba Crook**

Sept 25 – Galilee and the world of Jesus's Ministry (**Reed – Chapter 4**) **REED IS ON RESERVE.**

Sept 30 – Textual Criticism – a scholarly method for working with the NT writings. (**Ehrman – Chapter 2**).
Guest Lecture: Professor Zeba Crook

October

Oct 2 In class film: "From Jesus to Christ" – part 2 **Subject for take home question.** [Electronic resource through Carleton library] (Ehrman – Chapter 11 plus pp.309-311, 315-316, and p.321)

Maps assigned to teams.

Oct 7 Paul and the Cities of the Roman Empire – (1. *Harper Collins Study Bible - Selections from the Book of Acts*; 2. Reed – Chapter 6) REED IS ON RESERVE

Oct 9 **Team map game – in class quiz - 5%; Take home question due – 15%**

Oct 14 Paul and his converts (1.*Harper Collins Study Bible – Selections from 1 Corinthians*; 2. Ehrman pp. 339-49)

Oct 16 Paul and his opponents (1. *Harper Collins Study Bible – Galatians*; 2. Ehrman pp. 354-63)

Oct 21 NT Authorship and Pseudepigraphy (Ehrman - Chapter 25)

Oct 23 Midterm Exam – 25%

Oct 28 – Fall Break (no class)

Oct 30 – Fall Break (no class)

November

Nov 4 Gospel Genre and Transmission of Material (Ehrman - Chapters 5-6)

Nov 6 Markan Themes, Issues, and Ending (1. *Harper Collins Study Bible – Selections from Gospel of Mark*; 2. Ehrman - Chapter 7)

Nov 11 The Synoptic Problem (Ehrman – Chapter 8).

Nov 13 Gospel of Matthew – Themes and Issues (1. *Harper Collins Study Bible – Selections from Gospel of Matthew*; 2. Ehrman - Chapter 9)

Nov 18 Lukan Themes and Issues (1. *Harper Collins Study Bible – Selections from Gospel of Luke*; 2. Ehrman – Chapter 10)

Nov 20 **Students pitch individual research project to classmates – in class - 5%**

Research project to be posted ON day of November 20th no later than 11:55pm - 25%

Nov 25 Canonical vs. Extra-Canonical "Jesuses" (Ehrman - Chapter 14)

Nov 27 History of the Quest for the Historical Jesus (Ehrman - Chapter 15)

December

Dec 2 Apocalyptic Literature (1. *Harper Collins Study Bible- Selections from Revelation*; 2. Ehrman - Chapter 30)

Dec 4 Exam review and evaluation

Final Exam – 25%

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 8, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2015**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 7, 2014** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2015** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library