

**CHRISTIANITY OUTSIDE THE CANON**

Fridays 11:30-2:30

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will explore early Christian literature from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century CE outside of the mainstream biblical canon. Emphasis will be placed on reading texts from the Nag Hammadi collection of codices and analyzing the various streams of ancient Christian theology that they represent.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

M. Meyer, ed., *The Nag Hammadi Scriptures* (ed. M. Meyer; Harperone, 2009)  
 B. Ehrman, *Lost Christianities* (Oxford, 2003)

**EVALUATION**

Final exam 50% (TBA)  
 Final paper 50% (due April 8 / 3000 words)

Jan 9 CHRISTIANITY OUTSIDE THE CANON  
 Jan 16 REVISIONS OF GENESIS I *Secret Book of John*  
 Jan 23 REVISIONS OF GENESIS II *Hypostasis of the Archons; On the Origin of the World*  
 Jan 30 THOMAS TRADITIONS *Gospels of Thomas; Book of Thomas*  
 Feb 6 THE VALENTINIAN SCHOOL *Gospel of Truth; Tripartite Tractate*  
 Feb 13 MARY AND JESUS *Gospel of Mary; Dialogue of the Savior*  
 Feb 27 MYSTICAL ASCENTS *Holy Book of the Great Invisible Spirit; Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth*  
 Mar 6 REVELATIONS *Revelation of Paul; Revelation of Adam*  
 Mar 13 THE SEED OF SETH *Second Treatise on the Great Seth; Three Steles of Seth*  
 Mar 20 LIGHT AND DARKNESS *Paraphrase of Shem; Allogenes*  
 Mar 27 PROPHET AND PARACLETE *Manichaean Texts (to be provided)*  
 Apr 8 RECENT DISCOVERIES *Gospel of Judas; "Jesus' Wife" Fragment*

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

Irenaeus, *Against the Heresies* Book 1 (<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/irenaeus-book1.html>)  
 Hippolytus, *Refutation* Book 5 (<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/hippolytus5.html>)  
 Epiphanius, *Panarion* ([http://www.masseiana.org/panarion\\_bk1.htm](http://www.masseiana.org/panarion_bk1.htm))

**TERM PAPER**

For your paper you will take one of the texts studied in class (or another one from the sourcebook) and study it in more detail. Using at least 10 secondary sources (books/articles), you are to explore aspects such as the text's genre, authorship, theological perspective, historical milieu, and scholarly reception. Topics must be approved by me beforehand.

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION**

Carleton's Connect Mail is the official mode of email communication for all matters having to do with the university and with this course. All communications sent by Connect are official, and you are expected to get them. It is not an option to claim you did not get some announcement or request because you have another email address. You can configure your connect account to forward university emails to another address, but you must be reachable through your Connect account. Also, any communication between you and me involving your personal information (like grades) must originate from a Connect account (FIPPA).

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

### **SYLLABUS**

You are expected to read and understand the syllabus. If you have questions, ask.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Although there are no marks to be earned for attendance, this is not a distance-ed course. You are expected to be in class and, once in class, to stay in class. Leaving in the middle of a lecture without prior notification (except of course to use the washroom) is disrespectful to the professor and to your fellow students.

### **COMMUNICATION**

I can be reached during office hours or via email. I do my best to respond within 24 hours. If I do not please feel free to follow-up. Also, it is a time honored custom to refer to professors in accordance with his or her credentials (i.e., as Dr. or Prof., definitely not by first name).

## **TERM PAPER FAQ**

### **DO I NEED TO HAVE A THESIS?**

Every essay needs to have a thesis of some sort, even if it simply describes what the paper is doing. However, since this is an undergraduate course I do not expect ground-breaking research or for you to formulate your own opinion about a topic that you are just learning about. This is not a philosophy paper or an opinion piece. The aim of the paper is to allow you to explore in more depth a topic related to the course that you'd like to learn more about.

### **WHAT DO YOU MEAN 10 SOURCES?**

Yes, 10 sources! This can be a mixture of secondary sources: scholarly books and/or articles (either in print or from an online database), and primary sources: texts written by your subject(s), artifacts, music, poetry, etc. Please note that individual chapters within a book by the same author do not count as separate sources, but if it is a collection of essays by different authors, those can be cited separately. Also DO NOT cite websites, because they are not peer-reviewed.

### **DO I NEED TO USE DIRECT QUOTATION?**

You are not obligated to quote from the sources directly, but even if you paraphrase its information you should be citing. As a rule, you should only cite a source verbatim if the passage itself is a key piece of evidence, or if the author has used a particular interested and/or problematic wording.

### **WHAT CITATION STYLE SHOULD I USE?**

Any style you like as long as it's consistent. Don't forget to put the page numbers.

### **CAN I WRITE IN THE FIRST PERSON?**

I have no objection to statements using "I" in a research paper.

### **WHAT IS THE LATE POLICY?**

Assignments submitted late will be subject to a deduction of 1% off per day.

### **SHOULD I PLAGIARIZE?**

Plagiarism of any sort will result in an automatic zero on the assignment and possibly the course. Such incidents will also be reported to the appropriate university authority.

### **SPECIAL NOTE ON RELIGION PAPERS:**

As a detached scholarly observer, it is not your aim to prove or disprove the validity of the belief system you may be writing about—leave that to the philosophers and theologians. Your goal is threefold: describe, analyze, explain. As a reader, I am not interested in your personal belief system, but rather in your ability to synthesize and articulate previously unfamiliar material.

## 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/](http://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/](http://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 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library