

# Early Christianity College of Humanities

RELI 2220A (Fall 2009)  
Mondays 8:35-11:25, Room 501 SA

Professor Janet H. Tulloch  
Office: Paterson Hall 329C

Office phone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1682 or  
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Office Hours: Monday 11:30am-1:30pm, or by appt.  
Email: Janet\_Tulloch@Carleton.ca  
Course Website: TBA

**Course Objective:** This course introduces you to some of the historical methods used by scholars in the study of Christian origins and the writings of the New Testament. These methods will be demonstrated by focusing on selected texts from the New Testament in their chronological order and social-historical context. This course seeks to understand the canonical writings of early Christianity by understanding the historical, social, cultural, and communal forces that created them. Note that our approach to the material is entirely historical and NOT faith-based. The writings are approached in the same manner as one would approach other ancient writings such as Ovid's *Metamorphoses* or Virgil's *Aeneid*.

## Evaluation

1. Map Quiz – 10%
2. Problem-solving questions: selected issues in early Christianity - 6 x 10%
3. Final Exam – 30% (2 hours)

## Required Texts

1. **Bart D. Ehrman, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*. Oxford, 2008 (4<sup>th</sup> edition).**

- **Note:** 2<sup>nd</sup> hand versions of Ehrman's text are quite different; make sure to buy the 4<sup>th</sup> edition for this course.

2. **Steve Mason and Tom Robinson, eds., *Early Christian Reader: Christian Texts from the first and second centuries in contemporary English translations including the New Revised Standard Version of the New Testament*. Introductions and Annotations by the authors. Hendrickson Publishers Inc., 2004.**

**THESE TEXTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH MOTHER TONGUE BOOKS, 1067 BANK STREET (AT SUNNYSIDE) 613-730-2346.**

3. **See the course website for further readings where indicated.**

## Weekly Lecture Outline and Required Reading

**Note:** Lectures are delivered in such a way as to reward those who have done the required reading!

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|---------|--|
| Sept 14 | Introduction to the course (Ehrman - Chapter 1 – pp. 1-10; ECR – Introduction – pp.3-19); Intro to Early Judaism.<br><b>See study maps in ECR pp. 777-779. See course web-site for problem-solving question I.</b>           |
| Sept 21 | Early Judaism (Ehrman – Chapters, 3; 16);<br>The Social World (I) - Honor and Shame, Gender, and Household Cults in the Late Roman Republic, early Empire.<br><b>See study maps and further readings on course web-site.</b> |
| Sept 28 | The Social World (II) – Families and the Patronage System in the Late Roman Republic, Early Empire.<br><b>See further readings on course web-site.<br/>Question I due. Map quiz (last ½ hour)</b>                            |
| Oct 05  | Guest Lecture: Professor Zeba Crook<br>“The Manuscripts of the New Testament and Textual Criticism” (Ehrman - Figures 1-8 between pp. 468 and 469; Chapter 30); <b>See further readings on course web-site.</b>              |
| Oct 12  | Statutory Holiday – no class. <b>Question 2 due on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.</b>  |
| Oct 19  | The Letters of Paul (ECR – The Letters of Paul – pp. 23-32.)<br>Life of Paul (Ehrman - Chapter 19).  |

- Oct 26 Paul and his converts (ECR – To the Assembly in Corinth/ 1 Corinthians – pp. 44-72; Ehrman – Chapter 21 – pp.324-334); Paul and his opponents (ECR – To the Assemblies of Galatia/Galatians – pp. 106-119; Ehrman – Chapter 21 – pp.339-348).  
**Question 3 due.**
- Nov 2 NT Authorship and Pseudepigraphy (Ehrman - Chapter 24); Gospel Genre and Transmission of Material (ECR – Biography, Anecdote, and History – pp. 243-282); The Synoptic Problem (Ehrman – Chapter 7).
- Nov 9 Markan Themes, Issues, and Ending (ECR – The Origin of the Gospel/ Mark - pp. 283-326; Ehrman – Chapter 6).  
**Question 4 due.**
- Nov 16 Matthean Themes and Issues (ECR – The Book of the Genesis of Jesus the Messiah/ Matthew – pp. 327-396; Ehrman – Chapter 8).
- Nov 23 Apocalyptic Literature (ECR – The Disclosure of Jesus Christ to John/ Revelation - pp. 596 – 622; Ehrman - Chapter 29).  
**Question 5 due.**
- Nov 30 The Quest for the Historical Jesus; Portraits of Jesus (Ehrman - Chapters 14-15).  
**See further readings on course web-site.**
- Dec 07 Non-Canonical 'Jesuses' (Ehrman - Chapter 13).  
**See further readings on the course web-site.**  
**Question 6 due.**

### 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 read them.
- It is not an option to claim you did not receive 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.

### Map Quiz (Sept. 28)

- Maps on which you will be tested can be found either in your texts or on the course web-site.
- You will be asked to identify items on the map (e.g., place, a body of water, or territory: Qumran; Sea of Galilee, Judaea).
- You will be tested on the same maps from which you studied.

### Problem-solving Questions: selected issues in Early Christianity

- Questions based on selected issues in Early Christianity appear on the web-site.
- You must do each of them in the order they appear – no substitutes accepted.
- Reports are due every other week @ 4:00pm: Sept 28; Oct 13; Oct 26; Nov 9; Nov 23; Dec 07.
- Reports must be submitted electronically through the course web-site, not by email.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> report can be submitted on October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Reports will be marked and returned electronically before the next one is due.

The objective of these problem-solving reports is to analyze and respond to a question in a scholarly manner that relates to the materials studied in this course. Each question must be answered in essay format, be type-written, double-spaced and be between 500-750 words in length. I expect all students to use university standard English and spelling. You must illustrate your answer by referring to specific passages in the New Testament where appropriate and to specific (non-NT) passages in your text books. To achieve an "A" grade, reports must have a minimum of two additional outside sources (to your texts) cited as references within your answer. Make the connections between your answer and these outside sources explicit. Do not make the reader guess at the connection. Do not substitute long quotations from any source for your own ideas. Quotations substantiate your ideas, they do not replace them. Be clear. Be concise. Be sure to number each page with your name and student number appearing in the top right hand corner of each page. Finally, read your work out loud before handing it in. Then, ask someone in the class to proofread your work before submitting it to me. Get help with writing skills from Carleton's Writing Tutorial Centre (Patterson Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> floor) if you know yours are weak. Clear writing is connected to clear thinking. Errors of spelling, grammar, and syntax are a serious impediment to effective writing and communication, and will affect your grade.

Sources:

- Do not, under any circumstances, use material from the WWW. Full text articles accessed through the library web-site do not count as WWW material, and are fine to use. Your research must be drawn from traditional library materials i.e. books or journal articles.
- You might wish to consult the *Anchor Bible Dictionary* (a six volume Encyclopedia with introductory essays and good bibliographies on various topics) – BS 440 .A54 Ref. This counts as one 'outside' source.
- Further sources can be found in library books including those in the reference section or the ATLA Religion Database (available on the Carleton Library Website: Go to <Online Resources>, then choose <Journal Article and Other Databases>, then under Subject choose <Religion>). The librarians can help you to get started. This is a search-engine that allows you to find articles and essays on various topics in religion.
- All citations and bibliographies must be carried out according to the Society of Biblical Literature Handbook of Style, PN 147 S276 in the Reference section of the Library: section 7.2 (and all the subsections, pp. 46-54) will give you information on how to cite practically any material. Your ability to reproduce this proper style will factor into the marking of your written work.
- **Late Penalties:** Essays are due on the specified date. There will be a penalty of 1 mark per day (including weekends) until the penalty reaches 10 marks. Extensions will only be granted for personal medical and family emergencies (for which documentation must be provided); extensions are not granted because of essay conflicts, work schedules, or the like. Late essay answers will be marked according to my schedule.
- Retain copies of work submitted. Remember to do a computer/disk back-up.

## Final Exam

- Final exam will be 2 hours in length
- The final will involve a selection of short-answer questions, passage identifications, and long-answer questions. The precise layout of the exam will be made clear to the class well before the final exam.

# 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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of “F” for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

## GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

## REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student\\_guide.htm](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm)

**Religious obligation:** 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student\\_guide.htm](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm)

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 are 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 I receive 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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad\\_accom.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html)

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

## PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar’s Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar’s Office will be considered.

## ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 <sup>th</sup> floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 <sup>th</sup> floor Library