

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

Prof. Janet H. Tulloch
Office: 3A60 PA

Credit: 0.5
Office Hours: 1:30-2:30pm
or by appointment

Phone: 613-520-2600 x 7042
Time: M/W 11:35-12:55pm
Email: Janet.Tulloch@Carleton.ca

Room: ME 4499

Course Description:

This course focuses on canonical early Christian writings in their historical and geographical settings. We begin our study with an introduction to the Roman world in which a nascent early Christianity emerges, taking note of the earliest archaeological discoveries relating to characters and events in the New Testament. We then examine the features of ancient writing genres and historical methods used by scholars in the study of early Christian manuscripts. Problems with our ancient sources such as identification and authenticity, dating, analysis, and interpretation are central to the study of course materials. Scholarly methods are demonstrated by focusing on selected texts from the New Testament. These texts typically show conflict within and between nascent early Christian communities as they struggled to distinguish themselves from the Roman and eventually, Jewish religious practices around them. Our study of selected texts in the New Testament takes place in the order many historians believe they were written, namely: the undisputed letters of Paul, then the anonymously written gospels.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR APPROACH IN THIS COURSE IS HISTORICAL NOT THEOLOGICAL. The books of the New Testament are viewed in the same way as other ancient writings, e.g. Ovid's *Metamorphoses* or Virgil's *Aeneid* that is to say as texts 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 by either the student or the professor. **In order to do well in this course, students must be open to learning scholarly approaches to early Christianity especially when such knowledge challenges one's own faith position.**

Required Texts:

1. Bart D. Ehrman, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, 2011 (6th edition). Available in bookstore.

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 **6th edition** is markedly different. Make sure to buy the **6th edition** for this course.

2. *Harper Collins Study Bible New Revised Standard Version with Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical Books*. Some copies will be available in the bookstore.

ON RESERVE IN THE LIBRARY:

1. Jonathan L. Reed, *The HarperCollins Visual Guide to the New Testament*, 2007.
2. Tom Robinson & Steve Mason, *Early Christian Reader: Christians text from the first and second centuries in contemith introductions and annotations by the authors*. 2004.
3. Carolyn Osiek anporary English translations including the New Revised Standard Version of the New Testament / wd Margaret Y. MacDonald with Janet H. Tulloch, *A Woman's Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*. 2006.

Required Films:

Films will be shown in class once on the dates specified below. All films are available through the Carleton Library. Their content will be part of course assignments, tests and exams. Students are required to view them if they want to do well in this course.

Student Evaluation: All assignments are to be completed individually.

1. Assignment 1: Take home question. Written response to the film: "Who authored the New Testament?" - 15% See instructions on CULearn.
2. Map game – in class quiz – 10%.
3. Midterm – in class - 25%.
4. Individual Research Project – See instructions on CULearn – 25%
5. Final Exam – Take home questions - 25%

Course Calendar:

January 2016

Jan 6 Overview of course content, historical, literary and archaeological approaches, maps, evaluation mechanisms, your questions.

Jan 11 Introduction to the course (**Ehrman - Chapter 1**)

Jan 13 Religions in The Roman World in 1st century AD (**Ehrman – Chapter 3 / Reed pp. 44-53. REED IS ON RESERVE**)

Jan 18 In class film: "Who authored the New Testament? [Electronic resource through Carleton library] **Assignment 1 found on CU Learn is discussed in class.**

Jan 20 Ancient sources for early Christianity: Archaeology and its methods (**Reed – Chapters 1 & 2. REED IS ON RESERVE**)

Jan 25 Ancient sources for early Christianity: The manuscripts - (**Ehrman – Chapter 2 & "Ancient Manuscripts of the New Testament", pp. 33-40.) Guest Lecture: Professor Zeba Crook. Assignment 1 DUE ONLINE -15%**

Jan 27 –Textual Criticism – a scholarly method for working with the NT writings. (**Ehrman – Chapter 2 & "Ancient Manuscripts of the New Testament", pp. 33-40.) Guest Lecture: Professor Zeba Crook**

February

Feb 1 – What is a writing genre? Writing genres in the ancient world (**Robinson & Mason, *Early Christian Reader* – “Biography, Anecdote, and History” – pp. 243-256; 261-274; 274-282. Robinson and Mason are ON RESERVE)**)

Feb 3 - Paul and the Cities of the Roman Empire – (**Reed – Chapter 6/ Ehrman – Chapter 20/ Harper Collins Study Bible – Brief selections from the Book of Acts – see CULearn for selections)**)

Feb 8 MAP GAME – in class quiz - 10%; Paul and his churches. (**Ehrman – Chapter 21, Chapter 22: 368-372/ Harper Collins Study Bible – Thessalonians and Selections from 1 Corinthians - see CULearn for selections)**)

Feb 10 Continuation of Paul and his churches (**Ehrman – Chapter 22: 373-400 /Harper Collins Study Bible – Selections from 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philemon - see CULearn for selections)**)

Feb 15 – Fall Break (no class)

Feb 17 – Fall Break (no class)

Feb 22 - NT Authorship and Pseudepigraphy: Paul’s disputed letters (**Ehrman - Chapter 25)**)

Feb 24 - Women in Early Christianity (**Ehrman – Chapter 26/ Tulloch – Chapter 8. TULLOCH IS ON RESERVE.) Assignment 2 found on CULearn discussed in class.**)

Feb 29 - Oral Traditions and the Gospel as literary genre (**Ehrman - Chapters 5-6)**)

March

March 2 - **In class Midterm Exam – 25%**

March 7 - Markan Themes, Issues, and Ending (**Ehrman - Chapter 7 / Harper Collins Study Bible – Selections from Gospel of Mark - see CULearn for selections)**)

March 9 - The Synoptic Problem (**Ehrman – Chapter 8).**)

March 14 - Gospel of Matthew – Themes and Issues (**Ehrman - Chapter 9 / Harper Collins Study Bible – Selections from Gospel of Matthew - see CULearn for selections)**)

March 16 - Lukan Themes and Issues (**Ehrman – Chapter 10 / Harper Collins Study Bible – Selections from Gospel of Luke - see CULearn for selections)**)

March 21 – In class films – “From Jesus to Christ” – part 1; “Jesus the Jew” – segments 15 & 16 [Electronic resource through Carleton library]

March 23 - Canonical vs. Extra-Canonical “Jesuses” (**Ehrman - Chapter 13)**)

March 28 - The Historical Jesus (Ehrman - Chapter 14 & “The Material World of Jesus and the Gospels”, pp. 272-279.)

March 30 – Jesus, the Apocalyptic prophet (Ehrman – Chapter 17) **Assignment 2 DUE ONLINE – 25%**

April

April 4 – From the Jesus story to the canonical texts of early Christianity (Ehrman – Chapters 18 and 1)

April 6 – Discussion and Hand out of take home 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. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

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. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** 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 a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, 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