

**The Social World of the New Testament**  
**RELI 4850A (Winter 2011)**  
**Religious Studies**  
**College of Humanities**

Thursday 11:30am-2:30pm, Room CO 213

Professor Z.A. Crook

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Office phone: 520-2600, ext. 2276

Term Office Hours: Monday 9-10am, Tuesday 10-11am, Thursday 2:30-3:30 pm

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### Course Objective

- This course will look at a limited selection of issues and models that help us to understand life in the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE Mediterranean. Ultimately, the goal of understanding these various aspects of the New Testament social world is to understand the experiences of the people, communities, and phenomena at the origins of the Christian movement.

### Evaluation

Daily Seminar Participation (30%)

Research Essay Presentation (20%)

Final Research Essay (50%) – DUE April 5, 2011

### Text Books

Dietmar Neufeld and Richard DeMaris (N&D), *Understanding the Social World of the New Testament* (from Carleton Book store).

WebCT Readings

### Class Topics

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Jan 6  | Culture and Enculturation (N&D Introduction + Chap 2 + 4 from <b>Elliott</b> , <i>What is Social Scientific Criticism?</i> pp. 9-16 + 36-59).   |
| Jan 13 | Collectivism/Individualism (N&D 1 + <b>Malina/Neyrey</b> “First-Century Personality: Dyadic, Not Individualistic” from <i>The Social World of Luke-Acts</i> , ed. Neyrey, pp. 67-96). |
| Jan 20 | Honor and Shame (N&D 7 + <b>Crook</b> , “Honor, Shame, and Social Status Revisited,” <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> 128 (2009): 591-611).                                      |
| Jan 27 | Birth, Youth and Education (N&D 2 + <b>Veyne</b> , “From Mother’s Womb to Last Will and Testament,” from <i>A History of Private Life: From Pagan Rome to Byzantium</i> , pp. 9-31).  |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Feb 3  | Marriage and Gender (N&D 3 + <b>Stegemann and Stegemann</b> , Chapters 12+13 from <i>The Jesus Movement: A Social History of its First Century</i> , pp. 361-88).              |
| Feb 10 | Economy (N&D 13 + <b>Oakman</b> , “Jesus and Agrarian Palestine: The Factor of Debt” from <i>The Social World of the New Testament</i> , eds. Neyrey and Stewart, pp. 65-82) . |
| Feb 17 | Patronage, Clientage, and Friendship (N&D 10 + N&D 11 + <b>Chow</b> , Chapter 1 from <i>Patronage and Power: A Study of Social Networks in Corinth</i> , pp. 38-82).           |
| Feb 24 | <b>Reading Week</b>  |
| Mar 3  | Ethnicity (N&D 5 + <b>Elliott</b> , “Jesus the Israelite was Neither a ‘Jew’ nor a ‘Christian’ from <i>Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus 5</i> (2007): 799-818).   |
| Mar 10 | <b>Conference Trip – No Class</b>  |
| Mar 17 | Landscape and Spaciality (N&D 6 + <b>Stewart</b> , Chapter 2 of <i>Gathered Around Jesus: An Alternative Spatial Practice in the Gospel of Mark</i> , pp. 30-61).              |
| Mar 24 | Presentation of Papers I   |
| Mar 31 | Presentation of Papers II  |

The topic of each day will be the same: lecturing (by me) will be extremely brief. The most time will be spent discussing the assigned readings, and then we will ask the question, “Now that we know this, what do we know about the NT people, communities, characters, transmitters, etc. that we didn’t know before?” I shall bring passage citations for us to consider and discuss, but you must bring your bibles. Needless to say, if you don’t bring your bibles, and you don’t do the readings, our meetings will be a disaster. Be warned, if I get the feeling that a critical mass of those having done the prescribed reading has not been achieved, I may spontaneously cancel class.

## Email Communication

- Carleton Connect is the official mode of email communication for all matters having to do with the university and with this course. All communications sent to your Connect account are considered official by the university, 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, I am forbidden to put into an email any information which could be deemed personal unless it is addressed to a Connect account (because hotmail etc. accounts are not secure, whereas Connect is secure).

## Research Papers

Papers should be ~20 pages, including footnotes (please no endnotes) but not including works cited list or title page. Main text should be double spaced, and footnotes single spaced. Everything should be in 12 pt. font, no headings, default margins.

Be conscious of the fact that your engagement with the New Testament needs to be fully informed by the canons of historical-critical approaches, even though we are doing “social-scientific criticism.” The former does not trump the latter. If you are unfamiliar with these (from courses like RELI 2207/2220, 2208/2710, 3105/3230, or 3106/3231), then it is your responsibility to become familiar with them. See me if you need this kind of help.

Citation style should follow the social-science citation style. Examples below:

### **In the Text**

Other definitions are more expansive. For instance, Danièle Aubriot-Sévin (1992: 24) defines prayer as...

It can even be argued that questions posed to oracles must be considered forms of prayers, because implicit in any question, say concerning whether a loved one will die of a certain disease, is the hope and unspoken prayer that it will not be so (Versnel 1981: 8).

### **In footnotes**

<sup>1</sup> See, for instance, Crook 2004b; Danker 1982; deSilva 1996; deSilva 1999; Malina 1988; Mott 1975; Versnel 1981a.

<sup>2</sup> On this see Aubriot-Sévin 1992: 125ff, and Pulleyn 1997: 188ff.

<sup>3</sup> This extremely apt term is adopted from Harland 2003

### **In the Works Cited** (*not* a Bibliography)

Crook, Zeba A.

2004a “*BTB* Readers’ Guide: Loyalty.” *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 34: 167-77.

2004b *Reconceptualising Conversion: Patronage, Loyalty, and Conversion in the Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Malina, Bruce J.

1980 “What is Prayer?” *The Bible Today* 18: 214-20.

1988 “Patron and Client: The Analogy Behind Synoptic Theology.” *Forum* 4: 2-32.

1998 “Time Orientation.” Pp. 189-94 in *Handbook of Biblical Social Values*. Edited by John J. Pilch and Bruce J. Malina. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers.

2001 *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition; Revised and Expanded. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

Versnel, H.S.

1981 (ed.) *Faith Hope and Worship: Aspects of Religious Mentality in the Ancient World*. Leiden: E.J. Brill.

Most works you’ll cite will be books, essays in edited books, and articles in journals, all shown here as examples. If there are other citation forms you’re uncertain of, ask

me for advice. You may not, under any circumstances, cite from the world wide web. Electronic sources (obtained through our library) are fine, and can be cited as if they are paper sources. Again, ask me if this is unclear to you in any way.

**Topics for research** paper may develop from one of the topics covered in class, but it doesn't have to. However, if your topic does not derive from material covered in class, or from the list immediately below, be sure to clear any topic with me before taking it up.

Social Stratification

Artisans and peasants

Slavery

Gossip and Lying

Kinship

Loyalty

Political Religion

Purity

Clothing and Adornment

Healing/Medicine/Shamans

Limited Good

Evil Eye

City vs. Country

Ritual

Voluntary Associations vs. House churches

Modeling vs. not-modeling (an advanced theoretical topic)

Structure vs. agency (also an advanced theoretical topic)

## **Presentation of Research Papers**

The time available for each in-class presentation will depend on the number of students divided into the available time. It will likely be in the vicinity of 12-16 minutes per student, but exact timing will be established closer to the dates. The point will be to benefit from some class discussion and questions about your paper. It's not a test and should not be too onerous, but is meant to improve your final product, either because the questions help you sharpen your argument, reveal weaknesses, or because someone comes up with a great idea. Academic work never happens in isolation, but always in dialogue with other people. It's not always an easy dialogue, but it's always helpful in one way or another.

## 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. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

### 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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: [carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/](http://carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/)

### 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 |