

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
THE NEW TESTAMENT REL 3330

Classroom: 147 West Hall
Office: 103 Ashley Hall
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Dr. L. Bennett Elder
T/R 12:30-1:45 PM
Office Hrs.T/R 2:00-3:00 PM
And by Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to bring the student into the world of Jesus, the earliest Christian communities and the writings that had their origins in these communities. Our perspective is shaped by questions about the historical, cultural and social contexts in which these texts and traditions were generated. We will also seek to understand implications of theological, economic and political interests and agendas within these communities for the emerging religion that we now know as Christianity. Students will be introduced to a variety of methodological perspectives that inform Biblical Scholarship in the late 20th century and early 21st century and will engage in examination and analysis of texts from several of these perspectives. The course is divided into three units: A Prolegomena to the Study of the New Testament; Gospel Traditions; The Emerging Church.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED TEXTS

The New Testament: A Student's Introduction, S. L. Harris, 6th edition
An Annotated Bible (The New Oxford Annotated Bible, With Apocrypha, New Revised Standard Version, is preferred). I also encourage you to bring other translations in addition to the RSV if you like... it is interesting to compare translations and the implications of differences among them.

EVALUATIONS

There will be an examination following each of the three units in the course.
Each Exam will be weighted at 30 % of your grade

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

This class is designed to encourage student's discussion and participation. It is anticipated that students will come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings. You are permitted to take two un-excused absences throughout the term. Any additional absences **will** reduce your final grade by one letter grade per absence.
Attendance, Participation and the occasional "Pop Quiz" constitute 10 % of your grade

COURSE OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students will derive a greater understanding of the contexts and contents of the New Testament and the world from which it proceeded2. Students will be encouraged to recognize the diversity intrinsic in the self understanding among adherents of the texts appropriated and designated as the New Testament.3. Students will be made aware of the various distinctive, historical and cultural contexts from which the New Testament texts emerged.4. Students will be familiar with interpretive categories in New Testament scholarship and New Testament theologies. These include different interpretations of the Holy, sacred time and sacred space, symbol systems, |
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sacred stories and rituals.

5. Students are challenged to think critically and to engage in rational analysis of a variety sacred and secular data.
6. To encourage a responsible transcendence of ethnocentricity without abdicating the value of personal experience.
7. To establish links with practitioners of Christianity in different approaches and self understandings of what constitutes their Christian belief system.
8. To illustrate the significance of religion as an element of cultural transformation.
9. To help students explore similarities and differences within Christianity in different cultural contexts among world religions.
10. To incorporate experiential learning opportunities in this country and abroad.
11. To demonstrate the influence of Christianity in general and religion in particular as a dynamic in the shaping of social policies and systems throughout human cultures.
12. To encourage students' awareness of the impact of religious ethics in business, law, media, and criminal justice.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week One- 1/12-1/14

INTRODUCTION: Prolegomena to the Study of the New Testament

Session One: Introductions, Methods and Contexts

Assignment: For Thursday 1/14 and Tuesday 1/19 Harris: Chapters 1- 2.

Read, Reference and Review Harris' Text, Terms and Questions from Chapters 1-2. Read to discern/ recognize main concepts and terms for these chapters. See the glossary in the back of your text book for definitions of terms and write them down; become familiar enough with terminology pertinent to the study of the New Testament that you could define the terms on a pop quiz or exam.

Session Two; Overview of the New Testament, Harris Chapter 1

Week Two-1/19-1/21

Session One continue; Begin Ch. 2: How the New Testament was Formed and Handed Down to Us.

SessionTwo How the New Testament was Formed and Handed Down to Us(continued).

Assignment: Chapter Three: Read to discern/recognize main concepts and terms for this chapter. See the glossary in the back of your text book for definitions of terms and write them down; become familiar enough with terminology pertinent to the study of the New Testament that you could define the terms on a pop quiz or exam. Chapter Three and Ch.3 Terms pp.40-64.

Quiz?

Week Three – 1/26- 1/28

Session One: Diverse World of First Century Judaism (Harris 3cont'd)

Session Two: cont'd: and/ or **Quiz?** Read Ch. 4

Week Four 2/2-2/4

Session One: Introduce the Hellenistic World

Session Two: Continue: the Hellenistic World and Judaism

Week Five 2/9-2/11

Session One: Hellenism in Judaism and Christian origins

Session Two: Cont'd, Roman Presence in Israel and Earliest Christianity,

Week Six 2/16-2/18

Session One: Continue; review

Session Two: **Exam One** (In Class);

Assignment: Read Mark's Gospel (CH 7) for class on 2/23

GOSPEL TRADITIONS

Week Seven 2/23-2/25

Session One: The Gospel According to Mark

Session Two: The Gospel According to Mark

Assignment: Harris: Matthew's Gospel; Review/ Reference Harris' questions re: MT for next week.

Week Eight 3/2-3/4

Session One: The Gospel According to Matthew

Session Two: No Class Today; Read The Gospel According to Matthew; do CH.8 terms to hand in on 3/9

Week Nine 3/9-3/11

Session One: The Gospel According to Matthew

Session Two: The Gospel According to Matthew

Assignment: Harris: Luke's Gospel; Review/Reference Harris' questions re: LK for 3/23

Week Ten 3/14 Spring Break

Week Eleven 3/23-3/25

Session One: The Gospel According to Matthew; The Gospel According to Luke

Session Two: The Gospel According to Luke

Week Twelve 3/30-4/01

Session One: The Gospel According to Luke

Session Two: The Gospel According to Luke

Week Thirteen 4/06-4/08

Session One: The Gospel According to Luke; Intro to the Gospel of John

Session Two: The Gospel According to John

Week Fourteen 4/13-4/15 :

Session One: The Gospel According to John

Session Two: The Gospel According to John

Week Fifteen 4/20-4/22

Session One: EXAM II, GOSPEL TRADITIONS

Assignment: Read Ch's 11-12 (Create one question based on this material to hand in on 4/22. Read and be prepared to Discuss the different portrayals of Paul in Acts and in Ch.14.

UNIT THREE THE EMERGING CHURCH

Session Two: Lecture/Discussion Begins: Ch's 13 and 14.

Week Sixteen: 4/27-4/29

Session One: Lecture/Discussion Re Harris Chapter 13-16.

Assignment: Make time to study Harris Chs. 15 and 16 These Chapters help us know how best to grasp the essences of Paul. We'll do these together and then you'll work with a different text for your final.

Session Two: Lecture and Review for your final

I will distribute your final at the end of this session. Finals will be due on Monday, May 3rd before 5:00 PM in my mail-box in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Office. Must be typed. Late exams cannot be accepted

HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER !!!!!