

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

Adult Accelerated F 2006
Room D 224
Thursdays 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Margaret Schreiber, OP
L 31 Resource
Office Hours
T/R 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
W 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
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New Testament REL 217-70 (IAI H5 901)

I. Course Description

This course is a study of the life and teachings of Jesus as presented in the New Testament. This course examines the four Gospels and the Pauline Epistles for their message to the contemporary world.

II. Required text

- **Bible** (If you need to purchase a Bible I suggest *The New Revised Standard Version* from Oxford Press)
- ***The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings***
Third Edition
Bart D. Ehrman
Oxford University Press, 2004
ISBN: 0-19-515462-2

III. Mission Statement

- The mission of Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.

IV. Goal, Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

A. Goal

- Upon successful completion of this course students will have a general understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus as presented in the New Testament and they will have reflected on the message relevant to the contemporary world that is contained in the four Gospels and Pauline Epistles.

B. Common Student Learning Objectives (CSLOs)

- Content Knowledge (Lifelong Learning) CK-1. Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter.
- Communication Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) CS-1. Communicate effectively in oral and written forms.
- Problem Solving Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) PS-2. Seek information and develop an in-depth knowledge base, grounded in research.
- Global Perspectives (Diversity) GP-1. Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities and cultures.

C. Course-based Student Learning Objectives (CBSLOs)

- Upon completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate their mastery of the following learning outcomes, addressing the following CLSOs (in parentheses):
 - CBSLO-1. To define the mission and teachings of Jesus as revealed in the four Gospels. (CK-1, CS 1, GP-1).
 - CBSLO-2. To describe the various books of the New Testament according to their genre. (CK-1, CS-1).
 - CBSLO-3. To articulate the meaning of the message contained in the Four Gospels and Letters of Paul and how they relate to the contemporary world (CS 1, GP-1).
 - CBSLO-4. To apply various methods of scriptural study. (CK-1, PS-2).
 - CBSLO-5. To evaluate the importance of the New Testament for the world today (CK-1, CS-1, GP-1).

V. Teaching methods

- Lecture
- Class discussion
- Group activities

VI. Course requirements

- **Attendance Policy**
 - Regular attendance is required. Students are to notify the instructor via email regarding an absence and are personally responsible for getting class notes from another student. All unexcused absences will result in a reduction of 1 point.
- **Reading Assignments**
 - Reading assignments for each session are included under VIII: Topical Course Outline
- **Written Assignments**
 - A reflection paper (4-5 pages) that compares the life and teachings of Jesus that are revealed in the four Gospels. (CBSLO 1, 3, 5)
 - A reflection paper (4-5 pages) on a message contained in the undisputed letters of Paul and how it is relevant for the contemporary world. (CBSLO 1, 3, 5). You may choose one of the following topics:
 - The significance of Adam
 - Paul's view of the cross
 - The Significance of Abraham
 - The Gifts of the Spirit
 - Baptism
 - Women in the Pauline community
 - Or a topic determined in consultation with the instructor
- **Examinations**
 - There will be mid-term and final exams (CBSL 1-6). These will be a combination of objective and essay questions.
- **Cell Phone Policy**
 - All cell phones are to be turned off before entering the classroom. If a cell phone rings during class the student is to leave the classroom and not return. An unexcused absence will result.
 - If there is a valid reason for a cell phone to be kept on vibrate (it may not ring), please notify the instructor before class and if necessary a student may leave the room to answer a call then return to class.
- **Class Participation**
 - Students are expected to actively listen in class and offer appropriate comments to the class discussion.
 - Questions pertinent to the course material are encouraged.

VII. Means of Evaluation

Final grades will be based on assignments, class participation, attendance, and exams and weighted as follows

- Exams: mid-term (60 points) final (74 points)
 - Reflection papers (each is worth 25 points with a total of 50 points)
 - Class participation (16 points)
 - The total number of points is 200

Grade	Points
A	180 - 200
B	160 - 179
C	140 - 159
D	120 - 139
E	0 - 119

- **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as follows: "The deliberate and knowing presentation of another person's original ideas or creative expressions as one's own. Generally, plagiarism is immoral but not illegal. If the expression's creator gives unrestricted permission for its use and the user claims the expression as original, the user commits plagiarism but does not violate copyright laws. If the original expression is copied without permission, the plagiarist may violate copyright laws, even if credit goes to the creator. And if the plagiarism results in material gain, it may be deemed a passing-off activity that violates the Lanham Act." Black's Law Dictionary, 8th ed. (2004), p. 1187. [The Lanham Act,

15 U.S.C., is the federal law regulating trademarks.] Also useful to establish guidelines for delineating plagiarism is Diana Hacker's definition: "Three different acts are considered plagiarism: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words." (*A Writer's Reference*, by Diana Hacker, Bedford St. Martin's Press, 2003, page 331.) Some instances of plagiarism may, in fact, be violations of copyright law and subject to prosecution. The SCI Student Handbook lists plagiarism as a serious breach of conduct standards and will result in disciplinary action.

- **Plagiarism Policy:** If there is sufficient evidence that a student's paper was intentionally plagiarized, the student will receive a failing grade for the course.

VIII. Topical Course Outline

- Thurs., October 19 (In preparation for this class, read Ehrman pp. 1-45; 231-249)
 - Introductions
 - Review of syllabus and overview of the text
 - Introduction to the New Testament
 - Chapter 1: What is the New Testament? The Early Christians and Their Literature
 - Introduction to the political, social and religious context of the early Christian writings
 - Chapters 2: The World of Early Christian Traditions
 - Chapter 15: Jesus in Context
 - Assignment for next class: read the Gospel of Mark and Erhman pp. 48-90
- Thurs., October 26
 - The Greco-Roman Context, The Gospel of Mark and an introduction to the Synoptic Problem
 - Chapter 3: The Traditions of Jesus in Their Greco-Roman Context
 - Chapter 4: The Christian Gospels: A Literary and Historical Introduction
 - Chapter 5: Jesus, the Suffering Son of God
 - Assignment for next class: read the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Luke, and Erhman pp. 92-130
- Thurs., November 2
 - The Gospel of Matthew and Luke and the application of the Synoptic Problem
 - Introduction to Redaction Criticism and the Comparative Method
 - Chapter 7: Jesus, the Jewish Messiah
 - Chapter 8: Jesus, the Savior of the World
 - Assignment for next class: read the Gospel of John and Erhman pp. 154-175 and study for the mid-term exam.
- Thurs., November 9
 - The Gospel of John and Mid-term exam
 - Chapter 10: Jesus, the Man Sent from Heaven
 - Assignment for next class: read Ehrman pp. 210-229; 250-283.
- Thurs., November 16
 - The Historical Jesus
 - Chapter 13: The Historical Jesus: Sources, Problems, and Methods
 - Chapter 14: Excursus: The Historian and the Problem of Miracles
 - Chapter 15: The Apocalyptic Prophet
 - Chapter 16: From Jesus to the Gospels
 - Assignment: Reflection paper (5-6 pages) that compares the life and teachings of Jesus as revealed in the four Gospels. Due November 20, 2006. Read the undisputed letters of Paul: 1 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, and Philemon, and Ehrman pp. 285-347
- Thurs., November 23 **Thanksgiving Day – No Class**
- Thurs., November 30
 - Paul, the Apostle and Writer
 - Chapter 18: Paul the Apostle: The Man and His Mission
 - Chapter 19: Paul and His Apostolic Mission
 - Chapter 20: Paul and the Crises of his Churches

- Assignment: Read Romans and Ehrman pp 348-360; 395-406.
- Thurs., December 7
 - Paul's Letter to the Romans and the life of Women in Early Christianity
 - Chapter 21: The Gospel According to Paul: The Letter to the Romans
 - Chapter 24: From Paul's Female Colleagues to the Pastor's Intimidated Women: The Oppression of Women in Early Christianity
 - Assignment: Study for the final exam. Prepare a reflection paper on a message in Paul's undisputed letters that has particular relevance to our contemporary world.
 - You may choose one of the following topics:
 - The significance of Adam
 - Paul's view of the cross
 - The Significance of Abraham
 - The Gifts of the Spirit
 - Baptism
 - Women in the Pauline community
 - Or a topic determined in consultation with the instructor
- Friday, December 8
 - Oral presentation of students' reflection paper. Be creative and interesting in your presentation. You are to present the information contained in your paper but you are not to read your paper to the class. (Your graded paper will be given to the Adult Accelerated Office the day after grades are due (December 12). If you wish to have your paper mailed, please supply a self-addressed stamped envelope.)
 - Final Exam

IX. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Please Note: Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact the director of the Resource Center as soon as possible.

X. Assessment

- Goals, objectives, and learning outcomes that will be assessed in the class are stated in this syllabus in Sections IV and VI. Instructor will use background knowledge probes, one-minute papers, reflective essays and/or other Classroom Assessment Techniques as deemed necessary in order to provide continuous improvement of instruction. Students are required to take part in all assessment measures.

XI. Illinois Articulation Initiative

- REL 217-70 has been approved by the Illinois Articulation Initiative as meeting the criteria stipulated for iTransfer Course H5 901 (as follows).
- **H5 901: Foundational Religious Texts (3 semester credits)**
The humanistic study of one or more of the foundational documents of the world's major religions, such as the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the Qur'an (Koran), or the Vedas