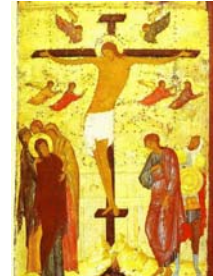


RS 102b/202G – THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE II: THE NEW TESTAMENT

Class Time: Mon. and Wed. 9:30-11:00am
Professor: Ian Scott
Office: DL 236 (above academic dean's area)
Office Hours: Tues. 11-12noon, 4-6pm; Wed. 11-12noon
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The texts which make up the New Testament provide us with the earliest surviving record of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. They also allow us to hear, first hand, several voices from among his earliest followers. The New Testament thus offers us a window into the Christian religion at its very beginning. In this course we will look at each of the books of the New Testament, placing it in its historical and cultural setting. Since early Judaism provides the chief context in which the New Testament developed, we will give special attention to the "apocryphal" or "deuterocanonical" writings which afford us a glimpse of Judaism in the first century. Along the way we will survey the range of scholarly opinions about the origin and development of each text. In addition to this historical focus, we will also ask what view of the world each of the texts aims to present and what it would mean to regard the New Testament as sacred Scripture.

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the course, all students should be able to:

- **describe the contents** of several Second-Temple Jewish writings and **discuss how they inform** our reading of the New Testament;
- **list the books** of the New Testament and briefly **describe their contents**;
- **outline the history** of earliest Christianity and the origins of the New Testament
- **describe and evaluate the range of scholarly opinions** on the historical and critical questions listed in the outline below;
- **give a close interpretation** of a biblical passage in its literary and historical context;
- **find and use a range of resources** for biblical study;
- **summarize the common themes** in early Christian thinking;
- **discuss how** a belief in this early Christian message could **effect someone's view of themselves and the world**;
- identify key information in a reading or the key issues in a debate.

Students registering the course as 202G should also be able to:

- construct a clear and coherent argument;
- communicate their thoughts clearly and effectively in writing;

COURSE OUTLINE (subject to change if necessary)

Jan 9 th	Introduction: The New Testament in the First Century and the Twenty-first Century
Jan 11 th	Judaism at the time of Jesus: Ben Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Wisdom of Solomon, and Baruch
Jan 16 th	Judaism at the time of Jesus: First and Second Maccabees
Jan 18 th	Judaism at the time of Jesus: Tobit, Judith, and additions to Daniel and Esther
Jan 23 rd	Judaism at the time of Jesus: Second Esdras, the Psalms of Solomon, and the Dead Sea Scrolls
Jan 25 th	The Gospels: Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The oral Gospel tradition • Gospel form criticism • Why four gospels?
Jan 30 th	The Gospel of Mark
Feb 1 st	The Synoptic Problem
Feb 6 th	The Gospel of Matthew: The Infancy Narratives
Feb 8 th	The Gospel of Luke: Redaction Criticism
Feb 13 th	The Acts of the Apostles: the History of Earliest Christianity **Mid-Term Test
Feb 15 th	The Gospel of John: Social-scientific Readings
Feb 20 th	The Letters of John **102: Interpretation assignment due
Feb 22 nd	The Letters of Paul: Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient letters and letter-writing • Paul's eschatological world-view • The First and Second Letters to the Thessalonians
Feb 27 th	Conference Week
March 1 st	Conference Week
March 6 th	The First and Second Letters to the Corinthians: Rhetorical Readings **202: Annotated bibliographies due
March 8 th	The Letters to the Galatians and Romans: Paul and the Jewish Law
March 13 th	Philippians, Colossians, Philemon: Letters from Prison
March 15 th	Ephesians: Deciding on the Authenticity of an Ancient Letter **202: Outlines Due

March 20 th	The "Pastoral" Letters: First and Second Timothy and Titus **102: Thematic Assignment Due
March 22 nd	The "Letter" to the Hebrews: Christianity and Judaism
March 27 th	The "General" Letters: First and Second Peter, James
March 29 th	The Apocalypse of John (Revelation): Interpreting an apocalyptic book ** 202: Essays Due
April 3 rd	The Theology of the New Testament: Common Themes
April 5 th	The Theology of the New Testament: Diversity
April 10 th	The Ethics of the New Testament

ASSIGNMENTS

		102b	202G
Class Participation	Students are expected to attend class and to participate appropriately in class discussions. Students' participation over the term should demonstrate that they have done the assigned reading and are prepared to discuss any assigned reading questions.	10%	10%
Interpretation Assignment	Students registered for 102b will write a 3 page assignment interpreting a passage from the Gospels in its context.	15%	--
Thematic Assignment	Students registered for 102b will write a 3 page assignment tracing the treatment of a theme through one New Testament book.	15%	--
Mid-Term	All students will write a 1.5 hour mid-term test. It will include three sections: a) definitions; b) short answer; and c) exegesis of a sight-passages.	25%	20%
Essay	Students registered for 202G will write a paper of 8-10 pages. For full instructions, see the course web-page. This assignment consists of three parts:		

	Annotated Bibliography	A bibliography of sources to be used for the paper. The bibliography should include the number and variety of sources specified on the essay marking key (see web-site), and each entry should be followed by a brief (2 sentence) description of the specific ideas or information which the student will draw from the source.		5%
	Thesis and Outline	A brief (1-page) assignment in which students a) state the question to be answered in the essay; b) state a tentative, one-sentence answer to the question (thesis); and c) provide an outline of the argument in support of the answer. The outline should extend to 2 levels and each point should be a statement which supports the thesis (not simply a topic label).		5%
	Final Paper	This is the completed essay. It may be a) an interpretation of a New Testament passage; b) an examination of a theme in one New Testament book; or c) an exploration of a critical issue in New Testament studies.		30%
	Final Exam	This three hour exam will follow the same format as the mid-term, but with more questions in the first two sections.	35%	30%
			100%	100%

TEXTBOOK

1) The Bible (New Testament with the *Apocrypha* or *Deutero-canonical books*). Any of the following translations are satisfactory:

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
 New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)
 New International Version (NIV)

If you want to use a version which does not appear on this list, please consult with the professor.

2) Additional required readings will be made available on the class web-page and in the King's library.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Please refer to **Scholastic Discipline** under the Senate **Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities** at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>.

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (link to Turnitin.com website: <http://www.turnitin.com>).