**Anderson University School of Theology**

**Course Syllabus**

**BIST 6210**

**Literature and History of the New Testament I**

**Fall Semester, 2013-Online**

**Rev. Dr. Kimberly Majeski**

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**Course Description:**

This course will examine the Hellenistic-Roman and Jewish world into which Jesus was born and the New Testament emerged. The student will be introduced to the debate over the topic of the historical Jesus and will craft a portrait of Jesus within the context of first century Judaism for examination. The classroom experience will include discussions on methodology and exegesis as we move towards a study of the synoptic gospels and John. This course will challenge students to read Scripture through the lens of the historical, theological and literary contextual nuances of the first century as well as help them to see the true socio-political motivations behind the crucifixion and to be able to mine the text for the central message of Jesus’ earthly ministry.

**Objectives:**

1. To gain knowledge of the political, social, economic and religious milieu of the early Jesus people, both in Palestine during the second temple period and in the Roman empire of the Mediterranean basin.
2. To substantially increase one’s knowledge of the content of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
3. To develop methodological awareness, both skills in the various criticisms, and in the learning of oneself as an interpreter
4. To develop a personal portrait of Jesus of Nazareth from which to live and minister
5. To allow the Word to shape us rather than allowing our preconceived notions to shape how we view the Word.

**Requirements:**

1. Participation. Scripture is to be engaged as a community experience, your perspective is needed and necessary; each student is to participate in class having read the assignment and being prepared to enter into the online dialogue.
2. The student will read carefully through the synoptic gospels and John and turn in a three page summary of the contents of each book on the assigned date.
3. The student will write a paper on Jesus of Nazareth in conversation with the Synoptics and other assigned readings.
4. Regular quizzes will be given to measure the students reading and comprehension of materials.
5. An exegesis paper on a passage on Luke will be written following the methodology presented. **All students must earn a grade of C or better on exegesis papers to pass the course**.

**Late Work Policy**: **No work will be accepted after the due date.**

The Newell Lectures will be held, Mon. October 15 at Anderson University. Our speaker this year is Dr. Ken Richards*, Professor of Old Testament, Emory University and Former President of The Society of Biblical Literature*. Participation in the Newell Lectures is an invaluable benefit to persons who preach, teach and exposit scripture. Students who are able to attend are encouraged so to do.

**Grading Scale:**

**93-100 A (93 A-)**

**85-92 B (85 B-; 92 B+)**

**77-84 (77 C-;84 C+)**

**69-76 (D)**

**0-68 (F)**

**Course Evaluation:**

Summaries (4) 10pts. ea 40 pts

ID project 50 pts

Jesus Paper 100 pts

Quizzes

(Map, ID, Final) 140 pts

Participation (Blogs,Chats,Forums,Wiki) 100 pts

Practicum 100 pts

Exegesis Paper 200 pts

730 pts

**Sources and Texts:**

Brown, Raymond, Introduction to the New Testament (Yale University Press: 1997)

Koester, Helmut, *Introduction to the New Testament: History, Culture and Religion of the Hellenistic Age*;

2nd Edition, Volume I (New York: 1995).

**E-Reserves:**

[**http://library.anderson.edu/uhtbin/cgisirsi/?ps=1jQ7PUVU5d/0/144780025/82/BIST6210/13452**](http://library.anderson.edu/uhtbin/cgisirsi/?ps=1jQ7PUVU5d/0/144780025/82/BIST6210/13452)

Adela Yarbro Collins, “Mark: The Son of God and His Readers,” Harvard Theological Review, vol. 93, 2000.

Amy Jill-Levine, “Anti-Semitism in Matthew,” Currents in Theology and Mission, vol.34, 2007.

John S. Kloppenborg, et al., “Introduction” Q-Thomas Reader (Sonoma: Polebridge, 1990): 3-27.

C. Kavin Rowe, *World Upside Down*: Reading Acts in the Graeco-Roman Age, (Oxford Scholarship Online, 2009), Chapter 4.

Wayne A. Meeks, "The Man from Heaven in Johannine Sectarianism," Journal of Biblical Literature 91 (1972): 44­72.

**Recommended:**

Fee, Gordon, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*; 3rd Edition

(Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2002).

Goodrich, Richard and Lukaszewski, A Reader’s Greek New Testament; 2nd Edition (Grand

Rapids:Zondervan, 2007).

The New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha

**Participation:**

As this course will be offered through the Moodle online module, students are expected to have a working knowledge of Moodle course functions as well as a working knowledge of basic internet/media features such as, GoogleYouTube channel and video upload, Google docs, Gmail, etc. In effort to design this course around the online format, in addition to course readings, examinations and writing assignments, the online course offers additional, v log, blog, wiki, forum, survey and online chat opportunities for participation.

**Each student is expected to interact with classmates a minimum of 3 times per week**. These opportunities will be provide through small group work in the forums named above. Students have the opportunity to earn **100 participation points by availing themselves to substantive, interaction three times weekly and by participating in at least one on-line chat as is offered at end of each month**. Participation grades will be assigned according to activity logs, feedback and collaboration at the end of the course.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

**Sept. 2-8 Introduction; Jewish and Hellenistic History and culture**

**Reading ( Koester 197-234)**

**Sept.9-15 Greco Roman World, Culture and Religions, Geography of Narrative**

**Reading (I Macc., 2Macc)**

**Quiz: Roman Empire Map**

**Sept. 16-22 Judaism in Palestine in Roman Period ON CAMPUS WEEK**

**Reading (Koester 273-391)**

**ID project glossary Due**

**Quiz: Identification**

**Sept. 23-29 Jesus and Culture**

**Reading [hillel and jesus\*]**

**Online Chat**

**Sept.30-Oct. 6 Gospel of Mark**

**Reading (Mark, Brown, Collins\* )**

**Mark Summary Due**

**Oct. 7-13 Gospel According to Matthew**

**Reading (Matthew, Brown, Levine\*)**

**Matthew Summary Due**

**Oct.14-20 Gospel According to Luke and “Q”**

**Reading (Luke, Brown, Q Reader\*)**

**Luke Summary Due**

**Oct.21-27 Acts and Acts of the Apostles**

**Reading (Acts, Acts of the Apostles\*, Brown)**

**Acts Summary Due**

**Oct.28-Nov.3 Methodology: Historical Critical Methods of Exegesis and Biblical Studies Research**

**Reading (Fee)**

**Jesus Paper Due**

**Online Chat**

**Nov. 4-10 Gospel According to John**

**Reading (John, Brown, \*)**

**John Summary Due**

**Nov. 11-17 Gnostic Gospels**

**Reading (Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Mary Magdalene, Gospel of James)**

**http://www.maryofmagdala.com/GMary\_Text/gmary\_text.html**

**http://lifeintegrity.com/Gospel-of-Thomas-Scholars-Version.pdf**

**http://blog.cnaughton.com/mediafiles/pdfs/james.pdf**

**Nov. 18-24 Historical Jesus**

**Reading Selections to be Assigned**

**Nov.25-Dec.1 Writing Week**

**ExegesisPaper Due**

**Dec.2-8 New Testament Canon**

**Practicum Paper Due**

**Practicum Video Sample**

**Practicum Feedback**

**Dec. 9-15**

Final Exam

Online Chat

**\*all readings are offered at E-Reserve**

**Standards for Written Work:**

All written work must follow guidelines set forth in *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations,* Eighth Edition by Kate L. Turabian. All papers will be graded on content, research and following the methodology assigned to the project. **All written work is expected to be graduate level writing.**

**Policy on Academic Integrity**:

Academic integrity in all areas related to this class is absolutely expected. All students are expected to comply with the University’s Academic Policy (see the School of Theology Student Handbook). Among other things, the policy states, “Cheating or academic dishonesty is defined as the deception of others about one’s own work or about the work of another. Examples of cheating include but are not limited to: (2) Failure to properly acknowledge authorities quoted, cited or consulted in the preparation of written work (plagiarism).”

Violations of the University’s policy are very serious and documentation will be forwarded to the Dean of the School, or any other competent authority where records are kept until a student graduates or withdraws from the university. Violation of the policy will result in a failing grade for the course. Examples of conduct which could be regarded as being in violation of the policy include (but are not limited to):

• Plagiarism in any form

• Copying from another’s quiz or examination

• Stealing an examination or key from the instructor

Plagiarism:

Read and take seriously the AUSOT statement on plagiarism: Student Handbook, Appendix E, “Policy on Academic Integrity.”

Furthermore, posted on http://www.anderson.edu/sot/resources/ is a link entitled Seminary Faculty’s Definition on Plagiarism; this will lead you to Georgetown University’s definition of, and examples of, plagiarism (linked with their permission). Read it, apply it! Learn to avoid plagiarism!

Please also read this article by Dr. Guy R. Brewer on plagiarism:

http://www.anderson.edu/sites/default/files/migrate/sot/faculty/brewer-plagiarism.pdf

**Plagiarism consists in using someone else’s work or ideas as if they were one’s own. If you copy verbatim three or more words from an author, you must put those words within quotation marks and write a reference. Not doing so constitutes plagiarism.**

Plagiarism is a very serious issue. It is incumbent upon the student to use sources properly and responsibly. **If plagiarism is detected, in the first instance and is determined to be unintentional, the paper may be returned to be corrected. However, in that case the highest possible grade to be earned will be a C**. It is your responsibility to make sure the paper is completely free of plagiarism and other errors.