**Anderson University School of Theology**

**Course Syllabus**

**BIST 6210**

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

**Fall Semester, 2013**

**Rev. Dr. Kimberly Majeski**

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**SOT Room 108**

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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 come to class having read the assignment and being prepared to enter into the discussion.
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 present a paper on Jesus of Nazareth in conversation with the Synoptics and assigned texts and articles
4. Two tests will be given; one on the Greco-Roman world in the beginning of the semester and a final exam.
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**.

**Attendance:**

Students are required to attend and participate in the dialogue of each class period. Since studying scripture is a community process, each person’s contribution is needed. Student’s are allowed one class absence, excused. Ten points will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence.

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

**Extra Credit Opportunity**:

The Newell Lectures will be held, Mon. October 14. Students are required to attend 3 hrs. of lecture in place of class. NT I students who attend all sessions and submit a summary paper are eligible for 10 pts. extra credit.

**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

Test I 100 pts

Quizzes (4) 10 pts. ea 40 pts

Class Participation50 pts

Exegesis Paper/Final Exam 200 pts

580 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

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

**Sept. 3 Introduction; Jewish and Hellenistic History and culture**

**Sept. 10 Greco Roman World, Culture and Religions, Geography of Narrative**

 **Class Discussion (I Macc., 2Macc., Koester 197-234)**

**Sept. 17 Judaism in Palestine in Roman Period**

 **Class Discussion (Koester 273-391)**

**Quiz: Roman Empire Map**

**Sept. 24 Jesus and Culture**

 **Class Discussion [hillel and jesus]**

**ID project Due**

**Test I**

**Oct. 1 Gospel of Mark**

**Class Discussion (Mark, Brown, Collins\* )**

**Mark Summary Due**

**Oct. 8 (TBD)**

**Monday, Oct. 14 32nd Annual Newell Lectures**

**Dr. Kent Harold Richards**

**"The Role of the Bible in Our Technological Era"**

**Richards is the former executive director of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) located at Emory University, where he is also professor of Old Testament. He has been active in a number of organizations concerned with biblical studies and has authored or edited more than a dozen books. In addition he has contributed leadership to the legal branches of government by appointment of the Supreme Court of Colorado to the Vision 2020. Richards was also professor of Old Testament at Iliff School of Theology (Denver, Colo.). He is an ordained United Methodist minister.**

 **General Lecture (9 - 10:15 a.m.): "Biblical Authority in the Wiki Age"**

 **Scholarly Lecture #1 (10:30 - 11:45 a.m.): "Living the Questions"**

 **Scholarly Lecture #2 (2 - 3:15 p.m.): "Alterity and SImilarity"**

 **Q & A (3:15 - 4 p.m.)**

**\*You are required to attend at least 3 hrs. of lecture, extra credit offered for attendance all day plus a written synopsis of impact for your ministry.**

**Oct. 15 Class WILL NOT MEET ON THIS DAY DUE TO NEWELL LECT’S (TBD)**

**Oct. 22 Gospel According to Matthew**

**Class Discussion (Matthew, Brown, Levine\*)**

**Matthew Summary Due**

**Oct. 29 Gospel According to Luke and “Q”**

 **Class Discussion (Luke, Brown, Q Reader\*)**

 **Luke Summary Due**

**Nov.5 Methodology: Historical Critical Methods of Exegesis and Biblical Studies Research**

 **Class Discussion (Fee)**

 **Jesus Paper Due**

**Nov. 12 Acts and Acts of the Apostles**

 **Class Discussion (Acts, Acts of the Apostles\*, Brown)**

 **Acts Summary Due**

**Nov. 19 Gospel According to John**

 **Class Discussion (John, Brown, \*)**

 **John Summary Due**

**Nov. 26 Class will not meet; Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting (TBD)**

**Dec. 3 Gnostic Gospels**

**Class Discussion (Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Mary Magdalene, Gospel of James)**

[**http://www.maryofmagdala.com/GMary\_Text/gmary\_text.html**](http://www.maryofmagdala.com/GMary_Text/gmary_text.html)

[**http://lifeintegrity.com/Gospel-of-Thomas-Scholars-Version.pdf**](http://lifeintegrity.com/Gospel-of-Thomas-Scholars-Version.pdf)

[**http://blog.cnaughton.com/mediafiles/pdfs/james.pdf**](http://blog.cnaughton.com/mediafiles/pdfs/james.pdf)

**Dec. 10 New Testament Canon**

**Dec. 17 Final Paper Due**

Students will turn in a hard copy and present paper to class in academic conference style. Professor and students will ask questions from each presenter regarding paper topic and research.

**\*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, 8th 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.