

Huntingdon College Adult Degree Completion Program

COURSE NUMBER: REL102
COURSE NAME: Survey of New Testament
Spring 2009, Session II, Pell City

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Michael Wilkinson

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An overview of the biblical heritage found in the Christian Scriptures growing out of the Old Testament; three basic types of literature: Gospels, Pauline letters and post-Pauline works. It centers on the person and work of Jesus of Nazareth, and the interpretation of him as the Christ by the early Christian community; theological, philosophical and ethical concerns. Concepts such as discipleship, redemptive community, self-sacrificial love, evangelism, service and mission.

PREREQUISITE: none

TEXT REQUIRED:

Stephen Harris, The New Testament: A Student's Introduction, McGraw Hill, **(see Huntingdon College booklist for edition and ISBN)**

Michael D. Coogan, The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha. **(see Huntingdon College booklist for edition and ISBN)**

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Explain the origin and development of New Testament scriptures
- Develop a set of interpretive strategies for understanding New Testament scriptures
- Describe the significance of New Testament scriptures and their relation to Christian culture
- Analyze and Evaluate particular texts of the New Testament scriptures in light of history and culture
- Apply historical and cultural understandings to the interpretation of New Testament scriptures

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA:

Learning Journal: You will complete a weekly journal demonstrating that you have read the texts. The journal should also detail questions that arise during your reading and may be used for discussion.

Mid-term Exam: An exam given at week three. The exams are multiple choices and cover only the material preceding the exam. Questions will be drawn from the reading and class discussion.

Book Project: You will do a project in which each student will focus on a particular book

of the collected New Testament scriptures. The project should include: 1) history and authorship, 2) cultural context, 3) major themes, 4) uniqueness (e.g., problems or unique contributions to the Christian corpus or theology, and 5) brief history of interpretation. **Final Exam:** An exam given at week five. The exams are multiple choices and cover only the material preceding the exam. Questions will be drawn from the reading and class discussion.

Grading Elements	Percentage:
Five learning journals:	25%
Mid-term Exam:	25%
Book Project:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Total Points	100%

GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59-below

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Absences and Tardiness – All students are required to attend the first session.

Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an "F" for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.

Participation –Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

Late Assignments – Explain whether late assignments will be accepted and what penalty might be imposed if the assignment is late. Also specify what assignments can be turned in late. This will allow the student to make informed decisions.

Accommodation of Special Needs- Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik, will notify your professor(s) of the committee's decision. If you have any questions regarding

reasonable accommodation or need to request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4432 or e-mail at disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu.

Academic Honesty –Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas *which are not your own creation* is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

First Night Assignment -

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Background and Contexts

Reading-*A Brief Introduction to the New Testament*, Chapters 1-4

Writing-Learning Journal turned in at the beginning of class

Research-Brainstorming ideas for Book Project

Learning Topics for Week One

1. INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?

- The New Testament: Some Basic Information
- Other Early Christian Writings
- The Development of the Christian Canon
- Implications for Our Study
- The New Testament: One Other Set of Problems
- *At a Glance: The New Testament Canon*
- Excursus: Some Additional Reflections: The Historian and the Believer

2. THE ENVIRONMENT OF EARLY CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS: THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD

- The Problem of Beginnings
- One Remarkable Life
- The Environment of the New Testament: Religions in the Greco-Roman World
- *At a Glance: The World of Early Christianity*

3. THE ENVIRONMENT OF EARLY CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS: THE WORLD OF ANCIENT JUDAISM

- Monotheism: The Belief in One True God
- The Covenant: Israel's Pact with Its God
- The Law: Israel's Covenantal Obligations
- Temple and Synagogue: Israel's Places of Worship
- Forms of Early Judaism
- Political Crises in Palestine and Their Ramifications
- The Formation of Jewish Sects
- The Jewish Context for the Traditions About Jesus
- *At a Glance: The World of Early Judaism*

4. THE TRADITIONS OF JESUS IN THEIR GRECO-ROMAN CONTEXT

- Oral Traditions Behind the Gospel
- The Gospels as Biographies of Jesus
- *At a Glance: The Traditions of Jesus*
- Some Additional Reflections: The Authors of the Gospels

Week Two –The Synoptic Gospels

Reading-*A Brief Introduction to the New Testament*, Chapters 5-8

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: Mark, Matthew, and Luke-Acts

Writing-Learning Journal turned in at the beginning of class

Research-Choose Book Project Topic

Learning Topics for Week Two

1. JESUS, THE SUFFERING SON OF GOD: THE GOSPELS ACCORDING TO MARK

- The Synoptic Problem
- The Beginning of the Gospel: Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God Who Fulfills Scripture
- Jesus the Authoritative Son of God
- Jesus the Opposed Son of God
- Jesus the Misunderstood Son of God
- Jesus the Acknowledged Son of God
- Jesus the Suffering Son of God
- Jesus the Crucified Son of God
- Jesus the Vindicated Son of God
- Conclusion: Mark and His Readers
- *At a Glance: The Gospel of Mark*

2. JESUS, THE JEWISH MESSIAH: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

- A Redactional Approach to Matthew
- The Importance of Beginnings: Jesus the Jewish Messiah in Fulfillment of the Jewish Scriptures
- The Portrayal of Jesus in Matthew: The Sermon on the Mount as a Springboard
- Jesus Rejected by the Jewish Leaders
- Matthew and His Readers
- *At a Glance: Matthew*

3. JESUS, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

- A Comparative Overview of the Gospel
- The Preface to Luke's Gospel
- Luke's Birth Narrative in Comparative Perspective
- From Jew to Gentile: Luke's Portrayal of Jesus the Rejected Prophet
- Luke's Distinctive Emphases Throughout His Gospel
- Conclusion: Luke in Comparative Perspective
- *At a Glance: Luke*

4. LUKE'S SECOND VOLUME: THE BOOK OF ACTS

- The Genre of Acts and Its Significance
- The Thematic Approach to Acts
- From Gospel to Acts: The Opening Transition

- Themes in the Speeches of Acts
- *At a Glance: The Book of Acts*
- Conclusion: The Author and His Themes in Context

Week Three –John and Paul

Reading-*A Brief Introduction to the New Testament*, Chapters 9-12

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: John, The Johannine Epistles

Writing-Learning Journal turned in at the beginning of class

Study for Mid-term Exam

Research for Book Project

Learning Topics for Week Three

1. JESUS, THE MAN SENT FROM HEAVEN: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN AND THE JOHANNINE EPISTLES

- The Gospel of John from a Literary-Historical Perspective
- The Gospel of John from a Redactional Perspective
- The Gospel of John from a Thematic Perspective
- The Gospel of John from a Comparative Perspective
- *At a Glance: The Gospel of John*
- The Johannine Epistles
- The Questions of Genre and Author
- The New Testament Epistolary Literature and the Contextual Method
- The Johannine Epistles from a Contextual Perspective
- Reflections on the Contextual Method
- *At a Glance: The Johannine Epistles*

2. THE HISTORICAL JESUS

- Problems with Sources
- Using Our Sources
- Jewish Apocalypticism
- Jesus in His Apocalyptic Context
- The Beginning and End as Keys to the Middle
- The Apocalyptic Deeds of Jesus
- The Apocalyptic Teachings of Jesus
- The Apocalyptic Death of Jesus
- *At a Glance: Jesus the Apocalyptic Prophet*

3. FROM JESUS TO THE GOSPELS

- The Beginning of Christianity
- Jesus' Resurrection from an Apocalyptic Perspective
- Jesus' Death, According to the Scriptures
- The Emergence of Different Understandings of Jesus
- *At a Glance: From Jesus to the Gospels*

4. PAUL THE APOSTLE: THE MAN AND HIS MISSION

- The Study of Paul: Methodological Difficulties
- The Life of Paul
- *At a Glance: Paul and His Mission*

Week Four –The Gospel According to Paul

Reading-*A Brief Introduction to the New Testament*, Chapters 13-16

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: I Thessalonians, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Philipians, Philemon, Romans

Writing-Learning Journal turned in at the beginning of class

Research-First draft of Book Project

Learning Topics for Module Four

1. PAUL AND HIS APOSTOLIC MISSION: I THESSALONIANS AS A TEST CASE

- The Founding of the Church in Thessalonica
- The Beginnings of the Thessalonian Church: A Socio-Historical Perspective
- The Church at Thessalonica after Paul's Departure
- Conclusion: Paul the Apostle
- *At a Glance: I Thessalonians*

2. PAUL AND THE CRISES OF HIS CHURCHES: THE CORINTHIAN CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Corinthians
- *At a Glance: 1 Corinthians*
- 2 Corinthians
- *At a Glance: 2 Corinthians*

3. PAUL AND THE CRISES OF HIS CHURCHES: GALATIANS, PHILIPPIANS, AND PHILEMON

- Galatians
- *At a Glance: Galatians*
- Philippians
- *At a Glance: Philippians*
- Philemon
- *At a Glance: Philemon*

4. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL: THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

- The Occasion and Purpose of the Letter
- The Theme of the Epistle
- Pauline Models for Salvation
- The Flow of Paul's Argument
- Conclusion: Paul and the Romans
- *At a Glance: Romans*

Week Five –After Paul: Community Conflicts

Reading-*A Brief Introduction to the New Testament*, Chapters 17-20

The New Oxford Annotated Bible: II Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians, I & II Timothy, Titus

Writing-Learning Journal turned in at the beginning of class

Study for Final Exam

Research-Final Draft of Book Project

Learning Topics for Module Five

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE APOSTLE: THE DEUTERO-PAULINE AND PASTORAL EPISTLES

- Pseudonymity in the Ancient World
- The Deutero-Pauline Epistles
- *At a Glance: The Deutero-Pauline Epistles*
- The Pastoral Epistles
- The Historical Situation and Authorship of the Pastoral Epistles
- *At a Glance: The Pastoral Epistles*

2. FROM PAUL'S FEMALE COLLEAGUES TO THE PASTOR'S INTIMIDATED WOMEN: THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

- Women in Paul's Churches
- Women Associated with Jesus
- Paul's Understanding of Women in the Church
- Women in the Aftermath of Paul
- Ancient Ideologies of Gender
- Gender Ideology and the Pauline Churches
- *At a Glance: Women in Early Christianity*

3. CHRISTIAN CONFLICTS WITH JEWS AND PAGANS: HEBREWS AND 1 PETER

- Christians and Jews
- Early Christian Self-Definition
- Continuity and Superiority: The Epistle to the Hebrews
- *At a Glance: Hebrews*
- Christians and Pagans
- Christians in a Hostile World: The Letter of 1 Peter
- *At a Glance: 1 Peter*

4. CHRISTIAN CONFLICTS WITH CHRISTIANS AND WITH THE COSMOS: 2 PETER, JUDE, AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- Christian Conflicts with Christians
- The Epistle of James
- Jude
- 2 Peter
- Conflicts within the Early Christian Communities
- *At a Glance: Christian Internal Conflicts*
- Christian Conflicts with the Cosmos
- The Content and Structure of the Book of Revelation
- The Book of Revelation from a Historical Perspective
- The Revelation of John in Historical Context
- Apocalyptic World Views and Apocalypse Genre
- **At a Glance: The Book of Revelation**