

BIBL260C: The Life Of Christ

George Fox University

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Office Hours: T-Th 1:00-2:00 pm o.b.a.

Academic Year 2011-2012

Spring Semester, 2012

Tues 6:30-9:00 pm

HVR, Rm. 211

Credit hrs: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, co-member of the Trinity, and originator of the Christian Faith. It will examine various aspects of his existence—his early and adult life, career(s), teaching, public life, culture, influence on society, nature, and universal importance. Several sources will be used in this study such as the Gospels of the New Testament, although other extra-biblical material will be examined as well both from the past and present times. Daily class activities will include lecture, inductive study, group discussion, cinematic examinations, and (hopefully) personal reflection and application.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To learn the major events and teachings of the life of Jesus Christ.
2. To understand the culture and context surrounding Jesus and his Disciples.
3. To know the person, character, and purpose of Jesus.
4. To critically examine and understand the theories within modern scholarship concerning Jesus.
5. To appreciate the influence of Jesus of Nazareth on society and individually.
4. To improve reading, writing, and researching skills through the writing of a research paper.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Holy Bible: Today's New International Version (TNIV), Zondervan.

Four Portraits, One Jesus, Mark L. Strauss, Zondervan, 2007.

The Meaning of Jesus, Borg and Wright.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

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| 1. Attendance/participation at all class sessions. | 5% |
| 2. Three exams. | 30% |
| 3. Jesus Journal. | 20% |
| 4. Research Paper. | 30% |
| 5. Jesus in Cinema Paper. | 15% |

Attendance:

Students are to be prepared for each class session and to contribute questions and observations. Participation is required for certain in-class exercises. Unexcused absences/non-involvement will be reflected in the course grade. Be sure to inform the professor via email if you have to miss a class and for what reason.

Exams:

There are three in-class exams for this class. The exams will be closed book and should take the whole period to complete. The exams may consist of charts, matching, multiple-choice, and essay questions. Missing an exam without a legitimate excuse will result in no points for that exam.

Research Paper:

The focus of this paper should be on a matter with reference to the life of Jesus Christ. There are a variety of choices relating to this subject that can be examined—but the topic must directly relate to the life of Jesus. Check with the professor about your selection of topics. This paper should be 4-5 pages in length not including the bibliography (5% penalty per page after 5 pages), typed, Times-Roman, double-spaced, and have correct grammar, syntax, and referencing. It should indicate library research of articles and books, web-based searches for reliable materials, and should be presented in appropriate Chicago-style academic form (see handout).

Jesus in Cinema Paper:

Many people receive their religious education solely from the movies or television documentaries. As such, it is important to differentiate between quality and inferior cinematic productions concerning Jesus Christ. Thus, in a 1000-word essay, students will answer three questions (provided by the professor) concerning the movie clips viewed throughout the term. This paper should be typed, double-spaced, and have correct grammar, syntax, and referencing. It should indicate a careful viewing and critiquing of the clips and should be presented in appropriate Turabian-style academic form (see handout).

The Jesus Journal:

Throughout the term, students will have the opportunity to compile a journal of reading notes, observations, movie critiques, newspaper/articles, etc. concerning the life of Jesus both during and out of class. This journal will be turned in at the end of the term and will be graded on content, thoroughness, imagination, and relevance to the subject of study. Students who put forth reasonable effort will be well rewarded; students who casually approach this assignment can expect a mediocre grade for the journal. Students will turn in the journal mid-term for pre-grading by the professor to help ensure quality journaling. The whole purpose is to help define the students' understanding of who Jesus is to them through various mediums and sources.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Week 1:** **Strauss:** pp. 23-35, 38-42, 67-84; **Borg:** 3-14
Jan. 10 Introductions; Studying the Life of Jesus Christ; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**
- Week 2:** **Strauss:** pp. 259-291 (G of L), 411-422; **Borg:** 171-188
Jan. 17 The Birth & Childhood of Jesus; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**
- Week 3:** **Strauss:** pp. 297-336 (G of J), 425-432; **Borg:** 145-156
Jan. 24 Baptism of Jesus and John the Baptist; The Ontology of Jesus; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**
- Week 4:** **Strauss:** pp. 213-253 (G of Mt), 399-408; **Borg:** 15-30
Jan. 31 Ministry of Jesus; The Temptation of Jesus; His Disciples; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**
- Week 5:** **Strauss:** pp. 171-208 (G of Mk); **Borg:** 31-52
Feb. 7 **Exam #1**
- Week 6:** **Strauss:** pp. 455-466; **Borg:** 157-168
Feb. 14 Jesus the Healer & Miracle Worker; Do Miracles Exist?; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**
- Week 7:** **Strauss:** pp. 435-452; **Borg:** 53-76
Feb. 21 Jesus and Judaism; The Law; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**
- Week 8:** **Strauss:** pp. 43-63; **Borg:** 189-196
Feb. 28 Jesus & Satan; **Jesus Journal Time; Video; Research Paper Due**
- Week 9:** **Strauss:** pp. 149-164, 469-489
Mar. 6 Jesus and Sinners; and the Jewish Leadership; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**
- Week 10:** **Strauss:** pp. 123-145; **Borg:** 79-91
Mar. 13 **Exam #2**
- Week 11:** **Strauss:** pp. 493-507; **Borg:** 93-110
Mar. 20 Religion & Politics; Roman & Jewish Judicial System; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**

Spring Break: March 26-30

Week 12: Strauss: pp. 93-120; Borg: 129-142
Apr. 3 Jesus and the Gentiles; **Jesus Journal Time; Video; Jesus in Cinema Paper Due**

Week 13: Strauss: pp. 511-523; Borg: 229-250
Apr. 10 Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus; Pre & Post Easter Jesus; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**

Week 14: Strauss: pp. 383-396; Borg: 111-142
Apr. 17 Jesus in Contemporary Society; **Jesus Journal Time; Video**

Finals Week: Exam #3 Tuesday, April 24th @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm; Jesus Journal Due

The **Academic Resource Center (ARC)** on the Newberg campus provides all students with free writing consultation, academic coaching, and learning strategies (e.g., techniques to improve reading, note-taking, study, time management). The ARC, housed on the second floor of the Murdock Learning Resources Center (library), is open from 1:00-10:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Friday. Call [503-554-2327](tel:503-554-2327) or email the_arc@georgefox.edu to schedule an appointment. Visit arc.georgefox.edu for information about ARC Consultants' areas of study, instructions for scheduling an appointment, and helpful learning tools.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: At George Fox, academic integrity is a shared endeavor characterized by truth, personal responsibility and high academic standards. One important aspect of academic integrity is academic honesty. Violations of academic honesty include: Plagiarism, Collusion/Inappropriate Assistance, Cheating, Fabrication/falsification/Alteration, Unauthorized Multiple Submission, Sabotage and Tampering. A student who violates academic honesty will be subject to disciplinary action according to Students Rights and Responsibilities.