



Syllabus:

SCS 105 Christian Scriptures

Overview

Dates

June 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2024
Monday – Friday, 10 am – 12 pm

Place

Via Zoom – link will be sent out from Jane McCarthy LUT

Sponsor

Unity of Gaithersburg
111 Central Ave
Gaithersburg, MD

Course Instructor

Jane McCarthy LUT

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the books of the Christian Scriptures including the Gospels, letters, history (Book of Acts), and apocalyptic literature (Book of Revelation) that comprises what is more commonly known as the “New Testament” of the Judeo-Christian Bible. Students will learn about the historical framework in which the Christian Scriptures were written and the meaning for the people to whom they were written. The Christian Scriptures are the response of early Christian writers to both the person and the message of Jesus Christ. In this course the Christian Scriptures will be examined as a testament about Jesus by early Christian communities.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Describe and explain the four major divisions of the Christian Scriptures
 - Gospels
 - Letters
 - History
 - Apocalyptic literature
- Explain the criteria process of canonization as it applies to the Christian Scriptures.
- Describe the view of Jesus that the writer of each of the four Gospels presents.
- Examine the emergence of the Christian church as an organization separate from Judaism.
- Describe the essential elements of the Apostle Paul’s theology.
- Describe the significance of the Book of Revelation.

About the Instructor

I have been a member of Unity since 1978 when I joined the Unity Church of Washington DC. Upon finding Unity I felt like I had come home for the first time. Over the years I studied the principles by attending SEE classes at Unity Village and at Unity churches in DC, Fairfax, VA and Gaithersburg, MD. With the mentorship of Rev. Roger Goodwin at Unity of Gaithersburg I finished my education as a Licensed Unity Teacher in 2010. Presently, I am a Professor at the University of North Florida where I teach online graduate nursing courses. As a member of Unity of Gaithersburg, I continue my path of truth by sharing insights of goodness and God in the world with others.

Required Text/Readings

- Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
- Borg, Marcus J. *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*. New York: HarperCollins, 1989

Recommended Text/Readings

- Aslan, Reza, *Zealot - The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, Random House, 2013
- Chopra, Deepak, *The Third Jesus*, New York: Harmony Books, 2008
- Ehrman, Bart D., *How Jesus Became God*. New York: Harper One, 2014.
- Ehrman, Bart D., *Misquoting Jesus -The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*, San Francisco: Harper Collins Publishers, 2005.
- Pagels, Elaine, *The Gnostic Gospels*, New York: Random House, 1979
- Willis, B and Meyer, M, *The Gnostic Bible*, Boston: Shambala, 2003.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students will be expected to:

- Participate actively in each class session's activities.
- Complete reading assignments.
- Present a Christian Scripture reading with maieutic interpretation in class.
- Submit a reflection paper after the completion of the course of 200-500 words sharing your thoughts and feeling on what you have learned and how it may apply to your life. Discuss how, if at all, your view of the Christian Scriptures has evolved as a result of your study in this course.

Student Evaluation

- S (Satisfactory) met all requirements.
- I (Incomplete) waiting for final assignment.
- AU (Audit) not seeking credentialing (no assignments required)
- NC (No Credit) did not complete final assignment within three months of end of course and/or did not meet attendance requirements.

Ten credits will be granted when the student has successfully completed the class. Unless special permission is requested and granted, students are expected to attend all five two-hour classes.

Course Schedule and Assignments

The course is divided into ten units and will be covered in five two-hour sessions. Below are the topics for each unit along with assignments which are listed in the second hour for the next class.

A Reflection paper will be due after completion of the course.

Unit	Topics	Assignments
		<p>For Class 1: Read Borg, Chapter 1.</p> <p>Watch Part I the PBS documentary - <i>From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians</i></p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN8FM1NCOSk</p>
Class 1 Hour 1	<p>Introductions – What do the Christian Scriptures mean to you? Pretest – Go over Syllabus and Assignments</p>	
Hour 2	<p>Slides</p> <p>Handouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pretest - Syllabus with Assignments <p>Group Discussion</p>	<p>For Class 2:</p> <p>Read: The “Strange” Endings of the Gospel of Mark, James Tabor, Biblical Archeology Society, 2024</p> <p>https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/the-strange-ending-of-the-gospel-of-mark-and-why-it-makes-all-the-difference/?mqsc=E4159183&dk=ZE4120ZF0&utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=BHDA%20Daily%20Newsletter%201-90&utm_campaign=02 21 24 Back to School in Babylonia</p> <p>Watch: Bart Ehrman, <i>Jesus and the Historian</i>: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd7Lanms-gY</p>
Class 2 Hour 1	<p>Your thoughts on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tabor, Ending of Mark - Ehrman, Jesus and the Historian 	
Hour 2	<p>Slides</p> <p>Handouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Jesus Seminar - The Quest for the Historical Jesus <p>Group Discussion</p>	<p>For Class 3:</p> <p>Read: Borg, Chapter 2, 3 and 8</p> <p>Read: <i>Jesus Never Healed Anybody</i> by J Jennings, <i>Science of Mind</i>, Jan 2019</p> <p>Read: Biblical Archeology Society, <i>The Wedding at Cana, Whose and Where?</i> by James Tabor https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/jesus-historical-jesus/mark-and-john-a-wedding-at-cana-whose-and-where/?mqsc=E4158714&dk=ZE4120ZF0&utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=BHDA%20Daily%</p>

		20Newsletter&utm_campaign=02_02_24_A_Byzantine_Church_on_the_Temple_Mount Watch: Bart Ehrman on Misquoting Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQW5lm3hR2M
Class 3 Hour 1	Your thoughts on Jennings and Tabor - <i>Jesus Never Healed Anybody</i> - Ehrman, <i>Misquoting Jesus</i>	
Hour 2	Slides Group Discussion	For Class 4: Read: Borg, Chapter 9 - Paul Listen to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHFTJIMtOik Read: https://ehrmanblog.org/christmas-reflection-2018/
Class 4 Hour 1	Your thoughts on: Peter, Paul and Mary Magdalene video Ehrman, <i>Reflections on Christmas 2018</i>	
Hour 2	Slides – Borg Chap 9 - Paul Group Discussion	For Class 5 Read: Borg, Chapter 10; The Gospel of Mary; Dead Sea Scrolls handouts Read: New Findings on Dead Sea Scrolls https://apnews.com/article/new-dead-sea-scrolls-israel-19844d3eb208190914182e78d9d79aac
Class 5 Hour 1	Your thoughts on: Dead Sea Scrolls; Gospel of Mary	
Hour 2	Slides Group Discussion Go over Pre-test	Reflection paper - due date