

**Spiritual Education and Enrichment Course**  
**Unity of Gaithersburg**  
**January 5, 12, 19, 26 and February 2, 2019**  
**Saturdays 1:00 – 3:00 PM**  
**BI251 – Overview of the Christian Scriptures**  
**10 Hours**

**Recommended Course Prerequisite** BI 250 Overview: Hebrew Scriptures

**Instructor** Jane McCarthy, Licensed Unity Teacher  
(H) 3015701299 (C) 2404605925  
Email: [Jane.McCarthy@unf.edu](mailto:Jane.McCarthy@unf.edu)

**Course Description**

In this course students will explore the Gospels, letters, history of the church from the Book of Acts, and the apocryphal literature from the Book of Revelation that comprise what is commonly known as the New Testament of the Judeo-Christian Bible. Students will develop a basic understanding of the Christian Scripture meaning for the people for 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.

**Learning Objectives**

In this course students will be able to:

- Describe and explain the four major divisions of the Christian Scriptures – Gospels, Letters, History and Apocryphal literature.
- Briefly explain the 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.

**Required Course Materials**

- Bible (New Revised Standard Version)
- *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* by Marcus J. Borg

**Recommended**

- *Misquoting Jesus - The Story Behind who Changed the Bible and Why* by Bart D. Ehrman

**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 analysis in class.

- Complete the pre-test.
- 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 the topics for each unit is given along with assignments. Students will complete a pre-test, presentation, and a reflection paper.

Unit	Topics	Assignments
Week 1 1/5/19 Hour 1	Introductions - What do the Christian Scriptures mean to you now? Today? Pretest Go over syllabus and assignments	Sign up for Maieutic Christian Scriptures Presentation
Hour 2	Slides – Overview of New Testament?  Writings of Christian Scriptures: Gospels, History, Letters, and an Apocalypse	Read Borg: Chapters 1-3 (for Week 2)  Read 1 Thessalonians, Chapters 4 and 5, Romans 3-5; Galatians 2:15-4:8  Listen to Bart Ehrman on the New Testament: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd7Lanms-gY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd7Lanms-gY</a>  Journal your beliefs about the authenticity of the Bible
Week 2 1/12/19 Hour 1	Share thoughts on Borg Chapters 1-3 and authorship of Bible according to Ehrman  Slides – Thessalonians Basic points of Paul's theology about Jesus - Jesus is Lord; Life in Adam vs. life in Christ; Neither Jew nor Greek; Justification by faith;	Read Borg: Chapter 8 the Gospels (for week 3)  Read Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12 John 20:1-18  Watch Bart Ehrman on Misquoting Jesus <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIXwSjyxe88">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIXwSjyxe88</a>
Hour 2	Maueitic interpretation of New Testament Story Presentations	Watch video on Did Jesus Exist? <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnybQxlgfPw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnybQxlgfPw</a>

		<p>Watch Bart Ehrman on the Case Against the Resurrection  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHJE7cetkB4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHJE7cetkB4</a></p> <p>Journal your thoughts</p>
<p>Week 3 1/19/19 Hour 1</p>	<p>Discussion – your thoughts about the Resurrection according to Ehrman</p> <p>The Gospels - Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12 John 20:1-18</p> <p>Resurrection Contrasting View</p>	<p>Read Borg: Chapter 9 – Paul (for week 4)</p> <p>Listen to Peter, Paul and Mary Magdalene:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHFTJIMtOik">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHFTJIMtOik</a>          Journal your thoughts about this video</p> <p>Read The Four Accounts of Resurrection, Four Witnesses</p> <p>Read Acts 1-3, 5, 8-10, 15; Galatians 1:14-2:14</p>
<p>Hour 2</p>	<p>Maueitic interpretation of Christian Scriptures Presentations</p>	
<p>Week 4 1/26/19 Hour 1</p>	<p>Discussion on Peter, Paul and Mary Magdalene video (Bart Ehrman)</p> <p>Resurrection Discussion – answer for each gospel: (1) What did they find at the tomb? What did they respond? (2) Who did Jesus appear to? Where did Jesus appear? When did Jesus appear?</p> <p>Four Witness Handout – comments</p> <p>Slides – Borg Chap 9 - Paul -</p>	<p>Read Borg: Chapter 10 (for week 5)</p> <p>Listen to Bart Ehrman on The Life of Brian and the Apocalyptic Jesus  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZegjCgfilsk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZegjCgfilsk</a></p> <p>Read Revelation 1:9-20, 2:1-3:22, 8:1-11:19, 13, 21</p>
<p>Hour 2</p>	<p>Maieutic interpretation of Christian Scriptures Presentations</p>	
<p>Week 5 2/2/19 Hour 1</p>	<p>The Book of Revelation – a Blessing and a Challenge</p> <p>What’s an Apocalypse? Context of Revelation Other Apocalypses          Overview of contents:</p> <p>- How to understand Revelation?</p>	
<p>Hour 2</p>	<p>Maueitic presentations          Go over Pre Test          Course Evaluations</p>	<p>Reflection paper due date</p>