



Syllabus: SCS 120 Jesus' Teachings

Dates

January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5, 2022
Saturday 1:00- 3:00 PM

Place

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

Sponsor

Unity of Gaithersburg
111 Central Ave
Gaithersburg, MD

Course Instructor

Name Jane McCarthy LUT
Email Jane.McCarthy@unf.edu
Cell Phone 2404605925

Course Description

In this course, students will use the Gospels and other literary sources outside of the Christian Scriptures to learn concepts that Jesus taught and the methods he used to teach his disciples. Students will learn these teachings based on what we believe Jesus taught rather than what others taught about him and his work. The quest for the historical Jesus will be discussed helping to better understand the Gospels propagating the theology rather than the history of Jesus. Writings outside of the Gospels such as the Nag Hammadi texts will be examined to provide a closer look at the teachings of Jesus. The holistic healing elements of Jesus' works with their applications to today will also be discussed.

Course Learning Objectives

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Examine the historical Jesus information and compare with one's own theological viewpoint to recreate an understanding of who Jesus was.
- Refer to Christian Scripture sources to understand the life and teachings of Jesus.
- Describe writings from outside the Christian Scriptures that illustrate Jesus' teachings.
- Formulate a critical understanding of Jesus' life and his teachings.
- Apply the teachings of Jesus to situations in their own lives.

Required Text/Reading

- *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* by Marcus J. Borg
- *The Bible* (New Revised Standard Version)
- Other required videos and readings listed in Course Schedule and Assignments

PO Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063 816.524.7414 www.uwsi.org / www.unityworldwideministries.org

Recommended Text/Readings

- *Lost Scriptures - Books that did not make it into the New Testament* by Bart Ehrman
- *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels
- *The Gnostic Bible* by W Barnstone and M Meyer
- *The Zealot* by Reza Asian
- *The Third Jesus* by Deepak Chopra

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students will be expected to:

- Participate actively in each class session's activities.
- Complete reading assignments.
- Participate in Group Discussions at the end of each 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 Jesus' Teachings 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 taking the course for SEE credit will complete a pre-test, presentation, and a reflection paper.

| Unit | Topics | Assignment |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Class 1 Hour 1 | Introductions Pretest What does Jesus mean to you now? | |
| Hour 2 | From Hebrew Scriptures to the New Testament (slides Class 1) The Quest for the Historical Jesus Handouts: SEE Courses Maieutic/Metaphysical Interpretation | Read for class 2: Borg, Chapter 8 (review Chapters 1-3) Handout: Source theory of Gospels Jesus' Parables and Aphorisms Healings of Jesus Watch: <i>From Jesus to Christ</i> at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UulusbcS8V0 |
| Class 2 Hour 3 | Source Theory of Gospels The Gospels: Mathew, Mark Luke and John (Slides Borg chap 8) | |

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| Hour 4 | Group Discussions | Read for class 3 – <i>Heart-Centered Metaphysics</i> , Chapter 15 Watch: YouTube- <i>Misquoting Jesus in the Bible</i> by Bart Erhman at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfheSAcCsrE |
| Class 3 Hour 5 | Unity Jesus, The Christ, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus (Slides) | |
| Hour 6 | Group Discussions | Read for class 4 Four Witnesses: Four Accounts of the Resurrection Story <i>The Treatise of the Resurrection</i> http://gnosis.org/naghamm/resurrection-barnstone.html Watch: Jesus Resurrection Bart Ehrman (2009) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHJE7cetkB4 |
| Class 4 Hour 7 | The Resurrection Story The Nag Hammadi Library – The Treatise of the Resurrection | |
| Hour 8 | Group Discussions | Read for class 5 – The Coptic Gospel of Thomas https://www.marquette.edu/maqom/Gospel%20of%20Thomas%20Lambdin.pdf Watch: Bart Ehrman <i>How Jesus Became God</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yte-ad6Y31s |
| Class 5 Hour 9 | The Nag Hammadi Library – The Coptic Gospel of Thomas | |
| Hour 10 | Group Discussions Based on this course what do we know about Jesus? What do you think of Jesus - His teachings, His value as your Way-Shower? | Go over Pre-test Reflection paper due date to be determined |