

## **EMB 1501: Introduction to the New Testament – Part I**

Fall 2016 (Wednesday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon)

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**Purpose:** This course is Part One of a two-part introductory survey of all writings in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. This course will acquaint the student with a number of the common and significant issues which scholars and other readers of the four canonical gospels have experienced when reading those texts. In other words, it is a foretaste of the feast to come for those who would continue in this line of inquiry.

**Outcomes:** By the end of this course, the student will be able to ...

1. Describe each of the four canonical gospels as a distinctive narrative
2. Demonstrate acquaintance with the manuscript tradition of the New Testament and with the Synoptic Problem (Two Document Hypothesis)
3. Contrast original and contemporary contexts of the four canonical gospels and explain how habitual ways of reading these texts may be problematical and / or promising
4. Practice both a committed and a critical style of theological conversation with the biblical text, e.g., Christology

**Student Assessment** will be based on:

1. Regular attendance with informed participation in plenary discussions (10 %)
2. Constructive and insightful contribution to small-group work (15%)
3. Timely and proper completion of four written assignments (75%)

### **Textbooks**

1. *The Christian Bible* (including the Apocrypha; preferably, the Revised Standard Version or the New Revised Standard Version)
2. Burton H. Throckmorton. *Gospel Parallels*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992
3. Raymond E. Brown, S.S. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997
4. Bart D. Ehrman. *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012

## Course Outline

- |    | <b>Introduction</b>     | <b>Four Gospels</b>   |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | 14 Sept 2016:           | Myth Criticism<br>Ehrman 1-16; Brown 3-47   |
|    | <b>Tragedy</b>          | <b>Gospel of Mark</b>   |
| 2. | 21 Sept 2016:           | Historical (Literary) Criticism: Who? When? Where? How?<br>Ehrman 88-104; Brown 126-170 |
| 3. | 28 Sept 2016:           | Text-Criticism: Which? What?<br>Ehrman 17-28; Brown 48-54; Throckmorton x-xxvi          |
| 4. | 05 Oct 2016:            | Synoptic Problem: Plagiarism!<br>Ehrman 105-113; Brown 831-840; Throckmorton §§ 1-10    |
|    | <b>Comedy</b>           | <b>Gospel of Matthew</b>  |
| 5. | 12 Oct 2016:            | Redaction Criticism (I)<br>Ehrman 114-130; Brown 171-224                                |
|    |                         | <i>FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE</i>   |
| 6. | 19 Oct 2016:            | Historical (Comparative) Criticism: Second-Temple Judaism<br>Ehrman 49-68; Brown 74-125 |
| *  | <i>26 October 2015:</i> | <i>READING WEEK (no class)!</i>   |
|    | <b>Romance</b>          | <b>Gospel of Luke</b>   |
| 7. | 02 Nov 2016:            | Redaction Criticism (II)<br>Ehrman 134-153; Brown 225-278                               |
|    |                         | <b>SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>  |
| 8. | 09 Nov 2016:            | Historical (Comparative) Criticism: (Greco-) Roman Empire<br>Ehrman 29-48; Brown 55-70  |
| 9. | 16 Nov 2016:            | Ideological Criticism: Feminism, etc.<br>Brown 27-28 (#11)                              |

	<b>Satire (Irony)</b>	<b>Gospel of John</b>
10.	23 Nov 2016:	Comparative (Literary) Criticism Ehrman 184-197; Brown 333-382
		THIRD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE
11.	30 Nov 2016:	Theological (Historical) Criticism: Anti-Judaism Ehrman 92-93; 435-438
12.	07 Dec 2016:	The Quest(ion) of the Historical Jesus Ehrman 237-258; Brown 817-830
*	14 Dec 2016	<i>FOURTH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE</i>