

EMB1501: Introduction to the Christian Bible – New Testament: Part I

FINAL SYLLABUS

Tuesdays 1-4 pm (EM 302)

Dr. Christopher B. Zeichmann

Office hours: 4-5pm Tuesdays, EM 005

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Purpose

This course is the first part of a two-part introductory survey. The course aims to acquaint the student with a number of common and significant issues which scholars and other students of the New Testament gospels have experienced when reading these 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 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 canonical gospels and explain how habitual ways of reading these texts may be problematical or promising
4. Practice a committed critical style of theological conversation with the biblical text, especially vis-à-vis Christology

Student Assessment

Student assessment will be based upon:

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

Textbooks

- *The Christian Bible* (including the Apocrypha; preferably, the Revised Standard Version or the New Revised Standard Version)
- Burton H. Throckmorton. *Gospel Parallels*. 5th ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992
- Raymond E. Brown. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997
- Bart D. Ehrman. *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*. 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016

Accommodations

Students with diverse learning styles are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, I invite you to approach the Accessibility Office as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy

Quoted from *Emmanuel College Policies and Procedures*: “Academic credit for a course requires regular class attendance, unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus. Attendance means being present in the class for the entire scheduled class meeting, not just part of it. In the event of absence for any reason including sickness, students are responsible for any information or class content missed. Students are expected to inform the instructor prior to class. The instructor may require additional work to make up for an absence. The instructor will be required to inform the Basic Degree Committee if students miss three regular classes. For students who miss three regular classes, this may result in a lower grade or even a failing grade for the course. If attendance is poor due to extenuating circumstances, students may petition the Basic Degree Committee to drop a course without academic or financial penalty.”

Outline

I. Introduction, Gospel of Mark, Text Criticism

1. 11 September Introduction
Ehrman 1-19, 96-102; Brown 3-47
2. 18 September Gospel of Mark
Ehrman 103-119; Brown 126-170
3. 25 September Text Criticism [BRING THROCKMORTON]
Ehrman 20-40; Brown 48-54; Throckmorton x-xxvi

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

II. Gospel of Matthew, Early Judaism, Synoptic Problem

4. 2 October Gospel of Matthew [BRING THROCKMORTON]
Ehrman 129-148; Brown 171-224
5. 9 October Second Temple Judaism
Ehrman 61-81, 274-275; Brown 74-125
6. 16 October Synoptic Problem [BRING THROCKMORTON]
Ehrman 120-128; Brown 831-840; Throckmorton §§ 1-10
- * 23 October 2014 *NO CLASS! (Reading Week)*

III. Gospel of Luke, Roman Empire, Feminist Criticism

7. 30 October Gospel of Luke
Ehrman 149-168; Brown 225-278

SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

8. 6 November Roman Empire
Ehrman 41-60, 257-261, 272-273; Brown 55-70
9. 13 November Gender and Race
Ehrman 192-194; Brown 27-28

IV. Gospel of John, Anti-Judaism, Historical Jesus

- * 20 November *NO CLASS! (SBL/AAR and American Thanksgiving)*

10. 27 November Gospel of John
Ehrman 169-191; Brown 333-382

THIRD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

11. 4 December Historical Jesus [BRING THROCKMORTON]

Ehrman 235-256; Brown 817-830

* *11 December*

FOURTH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE