

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

DRAFT SYLLABUS [June 22, 2017]

Wednesdays 6-9 pm (EM 302)

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Office hours: By appointment

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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

Outline

I. Introduction, Gospel of Mark, Text Criticism

1. 13 September 2014 Introduction
Ehrman 1-19, 96-102; Brown 3-47
2. 20 September 2014 Gospel of Mark
Ehrman 103-119; Brown 126-170
3. 27 September 2014 Text Criticism
Ehrman 20-40; Brown 48-54; Throckmorton x-xxvi

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

II. Gospel of Matthew, Early Judaism, Synoptic Problem

4. 4 October 2014 Gospel of Matthew
Ehrman 129-148; Brown 171-224
5. 11 October 2014 Second Temple Judaism
Ehrman 61-81, 274-275; Brown 74-125
6. 18 October 2014 Synoptic Problem
Ehrman 120-128; Brown 831-840; Throckmorton §§ 1-10
- * 25 October 2014 *NO CLASS! (Reading Week)*

III. Gospel of Luke, Roman Empire, Feminist Criticism

7. 01 November 2014 Gospel of Luke
Ehrman 149-168; Brown 225-278

SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

8. 08 November 2014 Roman Empire
Ehrman 41-60, 257-261, 272-273; Brown 55-70
9. 15 November 2014 Gender and Race
Ehrman 192-194; Brown 27-28

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

- * 22 November 2014 *NO CLASS! (American Thanksgiving)*

10. 29 November 2014 Gospel of John
Ehrman 169-191; Brown 333-382

THIRD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

11. 06 December 2014 Historical Jesus
Ehrman 235-256; Brown 817-830

- * 13 December 2014 FOURTH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE