

University of Waterloo – Fall 2016
Religious Studies 235 – Jesus: Life and Legacy



"Christ," Odilon Redon (1887), Bibliothèque Nationale de France

Time: Monday and Wednesday, 2:30-3:50 pm

Place: Conrad Grebel University College (CGUC), Room 1300

Instructor: Dr. Alicia Batten

Office: CGUC 2116

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10-11 am; Wednesdays, 10-12 pm, and by appointment

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UW Religious Studies Student Society: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/UW-RS-Society/569260749758923?fref=ts>

Catalogue Description:

The life, teachings, and significance of Jesus of Nazareth as experienced and interpreted by his followers, and as recorded by the writers of the New Testament and other ancient sources. Attention is given to traditions of virginal conception, crucifixion, resurrection, and divinity, and to Jesus' contemporary importance.

The course begins with a study of the ancient sources for Jesus, namely, the early Christian gospels, each of which presents a different portrait of Jesus. We will also examine other New Testament texts in order to determine how Jesus is perceived by a variety of ancient writers. Next, we will turn to the question of the historical Jesus: what did he say and do? At the end of the semester we will examine briefly how Jesus has been interpreted at selected moments from a variety of perspectives, including artistic interpretations, throughout history.

Course Goals

1. To analyze the significant sources, especially those in the New Testament, and methods for studying Jesus.
2. To understand some of the major differences in ancient and modern interpretations of Jesus.
3. To examine the significance of Jesus, to some extent, at various historical moments, including within contemporary social, cultural and religious contexts.

4. To further develop close reading, analysis and writing skills.

Texts

A **Bible**. It is vital that you bring a Bible with you to class so that we can examine and discuss the texts. A Study Bible, such as the *New Oxford Annotated Bible*, is very useful. Here are some translations that you could use: *New Revised Standard Version*, *Revised Standard Version*, *New American Bible*, *New Jerusalem Bible*, *English Standard Version*, *New King James Version*. However, paraphrases such as *The Living Bible* or *The Message* are not suitable for the course. You can also access different translations on the internet. One good website for this is *The New Testament Gateway* (www.ntgateway.com).

Throckmorton, Jr., Burton H. *Gospel Parallels. A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels*. 5th Edition. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992. Available in the bookstore and one copy on 3-hour reserve in the Milton Good Library at Conrad Grebel.

Tuckett, Christopher. *Christology and the New Testament. Jesus and his Earliest Interpreters*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001.

Various articles and essays available on the Learn page for the course.

We will occasionally use other texts available online at www.earlychristianwritings.com

Course Requirements

Participation (10%) – Participation includes attendance, listening to others, asking questions and offering your own comments and observations. Please make sure that you do the reading before class as it will be the basis for discussion. Come to each class with 2 questions and/or comments about the reading to share with the class.

Three 4 page Papers (worth 15% each = 45%) – Further instructions will be provided for each of these. They are due **October 5th**, **November 2nd**, and **November 23rd**.

Please hand these papers in in hard copy (bring them to class) and via the LEARN drop box.

Mid-term Test (20%) – This will be an in-class test on **October 17th**. Further instructions will be provided.

Take-home Final (25%) – Further instructions will be provided. This is due on **December 12th by 5 pm**. Please hand in via the LEARN drop box.

Schedule

Sept 12

Introduction to the Course

Sept 14

Introduction to Studying the Bible and Jesus

Reading: Tuckett, pages 1-37; *Gospel Parallels*: skim through pages *x-xl*. Bring this book to class as we will be talking about how to use it.

Sept 19

Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Reading: Read through the Gospel of Mark, preferably in one sitting, and think about how you would describe Jesus in this gospel. What is your response to this account of Jesus and his followers? Bring *Gospel Parallels* to class.

Sept 21

Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Reading: Tuckett, pages 105-118. Bring *Gospel Parallels* to class.

Sept 26

Birth Stories

Reading: Read Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2; 3:23-38. Note down the similarities and differences in these two stories of the conception and birth of Jesus? How do the two genealogies compare? Bring the *Gospel Parallels* to class.

Sept 28

Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew

Reading: Read through the Gospel of Matthew. Note down how you would describe Jesus in this gospel? How does he compare with Mark's interpretation? Read Tuckett, pages 119-132. Make sure that you bring your *Gospel Parallels* to class. We will compare various stories in the two gospels in class.

Oct 3

Jesus in the Gospel of Luke

Reading: Read through the Gospel of Luke. Once more, write down how you would describe Jesus in this Gospel versus Matthew and Mark's versions. Read Tuckett, pages 133-147. Bring *Gospel Parallels* to class. We will do more comparison work.

Oct 5 - Paper on Mark due today. Please hand in in class (not by email)

Comparing the Passion stories.

Reading: Reread the Passion Narratives (Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23). Note down some of the similarities and differences that are the most interesting to you (they can be great or small). Bring your *Gospel Parallels* to class as we will work through some of the similarities and differences.

Oct 10 – No class. Thanksgiving**Oct 12 – No class – Study Day**

Oct 14 – Note that this is Friday – *Catch up if necessary and review for mid-term.*

Oct 17 – Mid-term test.

Oct 19

Jesus in Johannine Literature

Reading: Read through the Gospel of John and note down some of its features (could be the structure, style, stories, characterization of Jesus) that stand out as distinctive from the Synoptics.

Oct 24

Jesus in Johannine Literature cont'd.

Reading: Read 1, 2, and 3 John. What seems to be the sources of disagreement or dispute in these letters? Read Tuckett, 151-176.

Oct 26

Jesus in Paul

Reading: Read Philippians; 1 Corinthians 1; 15; Romans 5-9. Read Tuckett, 41-69. What terms does Paul use for Jesus (e.g. “Lord,” “new Adam,” “Son of God”) and what might he mean by them? What might Paul mean by saying that believers are “in Christ”?

Oct 31

Jesus in Deutero-Paul

Reading: Read Ephesians, Colossians, and skim through the Pastoral Epistles (1, 2 Timothy and Titus). Read Tuckett, 70-90. What differences do you notice between aspects of the Deutero-Pauline letters and the undisputed Pauline letters that we discussed last class?

Nov 2– Second paper due today. Please hand in in class.

Jesus in Hebrews

Reading: Read Hebrews and Tuckett, 91-102. How would you describe Christ in Hebrews?

Nov 7

Jesus in Revelation

Reading: Read Revelation and Tuckett, 177-87. What are the key features of Christ in this text?

Nov 9

Jesus in Q

Reading: Read Tuckett, 191-201, and read through the “Lost Sayings Gospel Q,” available online at www.earlychristianwritings.com.

Nov 14

Jesus in Non-canonical Christian Literature

Reading: The “Infancy Gospel of Thomas” and the “Gospel of Thomas” – both of these texts are available online at www.earlychristianwritings.com.

Note down sayings and stories that you find particularly interesting. What parallels do you see between the Gospel of Thomas and the Synoptic Gospels?

Nov 16

The Historical Jesus

Reading: Tuckett, 202-233.

Nov 21

Historical Jesus: Parables

Reading: Read the parable of the leaven in Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21; and Gospel of Thomas 96. What similarities and differences are there? Read Bernard Brandon Scott, “Leaven” (ON LEARN). Make sure that you bring either *Gospel Parallels* or a Bible as we will look at other specific examples from the Gospels in class.

Nov 23 – Third paper due today. Please hand in in class.

Historical Jesus cont’d (“Jesus and Politics”) Make sure that you bring either *Gospel Parallels* or a Bible as we will look at specific examples from the Gospels in class.

Nov 28

Jesus in Art

Reading: Robin Jensen, “Images of the Suffering Redeemer” (ON LEARN)

Nov 30

Jesus in American Culture

Reading: Read Paul Harvey, “Jesus in American Culture” (ON LEARN)

Dec 5

Perceptions of Jesus in Non-Christian Religious Traditions

Reading: Selections from Tarif Khalidi, *The Muslim Jesus. Sayings and Stories in Islamic Literature* (ON LEARN)

Final review.

Final Take-home is due on December 12th, 5 pm VIA the LEARN Dropbox.

There are many other resources available on religion in the CGUC library (Milton Good Library), at St. Jerome’s library, Renison Library and at the Dana Porter library. The library liaison at the Porter library for Religious Studies is Sandra Keys (skeys@library.uwaterloo.ca) (X32279). The subject guide for Religious Studies is available at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/discipline/religious/index.html>

THE WRITING CENTRE

The Writing Centre works across all faculties to help students clarify their ideas, develop their voices, and write in the style appropriate to their disciplines. Writing Centre staff offer one-on-one support in planning assignments and presentations, using and documenting research, organizing and structuring papers, and revising for clarity and coherence. You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre. Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available. Please note that writing specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you

revising skills and strategies, but will not proof-read or edit for you. Please bring hard copies of your assignment instructions and any notes or drafts to your appointment.

Policies

LATE ESSAYS: Students are required to complete the assignments by the due dates indicated and hand them in at the beginning of class. Late assignments receive a decrease of 2% off per day late. Exceptions will be made only in the case of illness (see below for documentation of illness) or some other emergency. No late assignments will be accepted after **December 5th**.

RE-WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: You have the option to re-write assignments, but you must hand them in by **Dec 5th** (last class). No rewritten assignments will be accepted after that date. You would receive the average of the two marks (note that your mark could go up or down). You must hand in both the original paper, with the original mark, and the revised paper. Revising does not mean merely fixing spelling and grammatical mistakes. I encourage you to meet with me if you decide to revise and re-submit your work.

ELECTRONICS IN CLASS: Cell phones must be turned off before class, and “safely stowed.” Studies show that taking notes using pen and paper leads to better retention of material. Please note that your marks may suffer if you are using a computer for purposes other than for the class. It also affects the ability of others to concentrate on class material.

Cross-listed course: Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ and http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html for more information.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 – Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 – Student Appeals, www.Adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72htm.

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Illness: From time to time students become ill or have ongoing medical conditions that prevent them from meeting academic obligations. The University is committed to assisting students who are ill and has established the following policy:

Students in an on-campus course who are ill and unable to meet assignment due dates or write a term test or final examination should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor within 48 hours by submitting a completed UWaterloo Verification of Illness Form to support requests for accommodation due to illness. The UWaterloo Verification of Illness Form is normally the only acceptable medical documentation and is available online at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness>

Students who consult their physician or use the services of an off-campus walk-in clinic must provide this form to the attending physician for completion. Doctor's notes and forms created by the physician or clinic are normally not acceptable. For more information, see <https://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/Regulations-Accommodations>