

# Course Schedule

Important: **ALL TIMES EASTERN** - Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Course Outline for details

Week	Module	Readings and Other Assigned Material	Activities and Assessments	End/Due Date	Weight (%)
Week 1	<a href="#">Module 1: Introduction to the Study of Jesus and First Century Palestine</a>	- Sanders: Ch. 1–3	<a href="#">Introduce Yourself</a>	Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11:59 PM	Ungraded
			Discussion #1: Initial Post <a href="#">(Discussion Posts)</a>	Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 11:59 PM	3.5%
Week 2	<a href="#">Module 2: Introduction to Gospels and the Gospel of Mark</a>	- Bible: Gospel of Mark - Tatum: 55–61 - Sanders: Ch. 6	Discussion #1: Follow-up post <a href="#">(Discussion Posts)</a>	Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:59 PM	1.5%
			- Bible: Gospel of Matthew (esp. Ch. 1–2) - Bible: Gospel of Luke (esp. Ch. 1–2) - Tatum: Ch. 3 (pp. 61–71) and Ch. 7 (pp. 151–156)	Quiz 1: <a href="#">Quizzes</a>	Begins: Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 12:01 AM Ends: Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 11:59 PM
Week 3	<a href="#">Module 3: Matthew and Luke</a>		<a href="#">Class Check-ins</a> <i>(Comparative Analysis Part 1)</i>	Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Bonus 1%
			Discussion #2: Initial post	Thursday, February 1, 2024	3.5%
Week 4	<a href="#">Module 4: Tools—The Synoptic Problem and the Criteria of</a>	- Goodacre, M. (2001) (Course Reserve)			

[Authenticity](#)

([Discussion Posts](#)) at 11:59 PM

Discussion #2: Sunday, February

Follow-up post 4, 2024 at 11:59 1.5%

([Discussion Posts](#)) PM

[Comparative](#)

Sunday, February

[Analysis](#)

11, 2024 at 11:59 5%

[Assignment, Part](#)

1

PM

Begins: Saturday,

February 10, 2024 5% (3 of 5

at 12:01 AM quizzes,

Ends: Sunday, 15%)

February 11, 2024

at 11:59 PM

Discussion #3: Thursday,

Initial post February 15, 2024 3.5%

([Discussion Posts](#)) at 11:59 PM

**Monday,**

**February 26,**

**2024 at 11:59**

**PM**

Discussion #3:

Follow-up post 1.5%

([Discussion Posts](#))

**Week 5**

[Module 5: The Gospel](#)

[of John, the Gospel of](#)

[Thomas, and Josephus](#)

- Bible: Gospel of John

- [The Gospel of Thomas](#)

(PDF)

- Tatum: 71–78

- Sanders: 49–56

**Week 6**

[Module 6: The](#)

[Kingdom of God](#)

- Sanders, Ch. 8

- Crossan, Ch. 3: “A

Kingdom of Nuisances

and Nobodies” (Course

Reserve)

Reading Week (Saturday, February 17, 2024 to Sunday, February 25, 2024)

[Class Check-ins](#) 2: Wednesday,

(for Comparative February 28, 2024, Bonus 1%

[Analysis Part 2](#)) 11:00 AM - 12:00

PM

Begins: Saturday,

March 2, 2024 at 5% (3 of 5

12:01 AM quizzes,

Ends: Sunday, 15%)

March 3, 2024 at

11:59 PM

**Week 7**

[Module 7: Parables](#)

- Tatum, Ch. 11 (pp. 192–

205)

**Week 8**

[Module 8: Healings and](#)

- Tatum, Ch. 12 (pp. 206–

[Comparative](#)

[Analysis](#)

Sunday, March 10, 15%

	<a href="#">Exorcisms</a>	217)	<a href="#">Assignment, Part 2</a>	2024 at 11:59 PM	
			<a href="#">Class Check-ins</a> 3:	Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Bonus 1%
		- Tatum, Ch. 8 (pp. 157-168)	( <i>Parable Analysis</i> )		
<b>Week 9</b>	<a href="#">Module 9: Titles and Tensions</a>	- Sanders, Ch. 14 (pp. 151–156)	Discussion #4: Initial post	Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 11:59 PM	3.5%
			( <a href="#">Discussion Posts</a> )		
			Discussion #4: Follow-up post	Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 11:59 PM	1.5%
			( <a href="#">Discussion Posts</a> )		
			<a href="#">Parable Analysis</a>	Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 11:59 PM	20%
<b>Week 10</b>	<a href="#">Module 10: Execution &amp; Resurrection</a>	- Sanders, Ch. 17 - Bockmuehl, Ch. 7 (Course Reserve)	Quiz 4: <a href="#">Quizzes</a>	Begins: Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 12:01 AM Ends: Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 11:59 PM	5% (3 of 5 quizzes, 15%)
<b>Week 11</b>	<a href="#">Module 11: Jesus' Legacy in the Christian Tradition</a>	- Borg, Ch. 1 (Course Reserve)			
			<a href="#">Class Check-ins</a> 4:	Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Bonus 1%
			( <i>Take-Home Examination</i> )		
			Discussion #5: Initial post	Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 11:59 PM	3.5%
			( <a href="#">Discussion Posts</a> )		
<b>Week 12</b>	<a href="#">Module 12: Jesus' Legacy in Judaism and Islam</a>	- none	Discussion #5: Follow-up post	Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 11:59 PM	1.5%
			( <a href="#">Discussion Posts</a> )		
				Begins: Saturday, April 6, 2024 at	5% (3 of 5)

Quiz 5: [Quizzes](#) 12:01 AM quizzes,  
Ends: Sunday, 15%)  
April 7, 2024 at  
11:59 PM

[Take-Home Examination](#)

**Begins:** Sunday, March  
31st 2024 at 12:01  
AM

**Ends:** Sunday,  
April 14, 2024 at 25%  
11:59 PM

# Contact Information

## Announcements

You are expected to check **Announcements** on the **Course Home** page on a regular basis. To ensure you are viewing the complete list of announcements, you may need to click **Show All Announcements**.

## Class Check-ins (Bonus)

See the [Class Check-ins](#) page for details.

## Discussions

Discussion topics can be accessed by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar above. A [General Discussion](#) topic has also been made available to allow students to communicate with peers in the course. Your instructor may drop in at this discussion topic.

## Contact Us

### Who and Why

### Contact Details

Post your course-related questions to the [Ask the Instructor](#) discussion topic. This allows other students to benefit from your question as well.

### Instructor and TA

- Course-related questions

**Questions of a personal nature** can be directed to your instructor or your TA.

(e.g., course content, deadlines, assignments, etc.)

- Questions of a personal nature

Individual meetings with me can be arranged through email. These can be offered either at Conrad Grebel or through Bongo or Zoom.

Your instructor checks email and the [Ask the Instructor](#) discussion topic frequently and will make every effort to reply to your questions within 24–48 hours, Monday to Friday.

[learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca)

### **Technical Support,**

Centre for Extended Learning

- Technical problems with Waterloo LEARN

Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.

Technical support is available during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Eastern Time).

[IST Knowledge Base: For Students](#)

[Student Resources](#)

### **Learner Support Services,**

Centre for Extended Learning

- General inquiries
- Examination information

Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.

[extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca)

# Course Description and Learning Outcomes

## Course Description

Welcome to Jesus: Life and Legacy. Jesus is one of the most important figures of history. But who was he really? What was he trying to accomplish? Why did he amass both followers and enemies? How did this small Jewish movement become a worldwide phenomenon? How did he transition from a Jewish rabbi with a message for his fellow Jews to the center of Christian faith? How do we evaluate the evidence we have on Jesus?

Over the past 50 years or so, there has been increasing interest in Jesus as a historical figure, by both scholars of Jesus and lay people. The aim of this course is to familiarize you with the current state of knowledge about Jesus' life and legacy through an exploration of the first-century Greco-Roman and Jewish context in which he lived, his historical mission as outlined in the four New Testament Gospels (Our most important sources), and information from extra-biblical sources on Jesus, as well as an overview of some of the ways he has been understood and appropriated over the past 2000 years.

Whatever your perspective—religious, non-religious, conservative or liberal—you are welcome to join this conversation and quest to try to better grasp who Jesus was. You are not asked to agree with the instructor or with everything you read. I do ask, however, that you try to remain open to what is presented in the course, even if it may challenge your current understanding of Jesus. This is a journey for each person, and you will each find your own ways of integrating what you have learned.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to

- describe the first-century Palestinian context and its significance for Jesus' life, mission, and execution;
- summarize the most important sources on Jesus' life and explain what they tell us about him;

- characterize the portrayals of Jesus in each of the four canonical gospels and other early sources and distinguish between them;
- identify and describe the main aspects of Jesus' historical mission; and
- trace the development of Christian understandings of Jesus and assess their impact on Judaism and Islam.

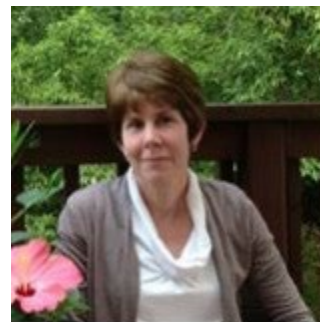


# About the Course Author/Instructor

## Course Author/Instructor — Amanda Witmer

Amanda Witmer is a historian of religion, with a focus on the first century and the historical Jesus. Her background in this area includes a Master of Theological Studies degree from Conrad Grebel University College, an MA in Religion and Culture from Wilfrid Laurier University and a PhD from McMaster University in Early Christianity and Judaism. Amanda's specific area of interest is the historical Jesus, and her dissertation was on the topic of situating Jesus' exorcisms and his role as exorcist within the larger first-century socio-political context.

She is also very interested in the social history of the first century more generally. Her book, *Jesus, the Galilean Exorcist: His Exorcisms in Social and Political Context*, was published in 2012 by T & T Clark. I look forward to meeting you all online and to our interactions. I wish you all well in the course and feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you might have.



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# Materials and Resources


## Textbooks

### Required


1. Bible: I recommend a recent and modern-language translation of the Bible, such as the *New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha*. The NRSV is the standard translation used in university classes. The text of the New Testament can also be found in various versions online.
2. Sanders, E. P. (1993). *The historical figure of Jesus*. Penguin Press.
3. Tatum, W. B. (1999). *In quest of Jesus* (Revised ed.). Abingdon Press.

For textbook ordering information, please contact the [W Store | Course Materials + Supplies](#)



For your convenience, you can compile a list of required and optional course materials through [BookLook](#)  using your Quest userID and password. If you are having difficulties ordering online and wish to call the Waterloo Bookstore, their phone number is +1 519-888-4673 or toll-free at +1 866-330-7933. Please be aware that textbook orders **CANNOT** be taken over the phone.

## Course Reserves

[Course Reserves for Students](#)  are used in this course. Course Reserves can be accessed using the Library Resources widget on the Course Home page.

## Resources

- Library services for [Co-op students on work term and students taking online courses](#) 

# Grade Breakdown

The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

<b>Activities and Assessments</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Introduce Yourself	Ungraded
Class Check-ins	4% bonus (4 at 1% bonus each)
Discussion Postings	25% (5 at 5% each)
Quizzes	15% (3 of 5 x 5%)
Comparative Analysis Assignment	20%
Parable Analysis	15%
Take-Home Exam	25%

## Official Grades

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through [Quest](#).

# Course Policies

## Course Policies

### Late Written Assignments

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There are sometimes exceptional circumstances in which students are unable to get their written assignments in by the due date (illness, emergencies, etc.). If you anticipate a problem, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. If no arrangements have been made, a late penalty of 5% per day will normally be applied up to a maximum of 15%. The late penalty for papers submitted more than 10 days late, and for which no extension or arrangements have been made, will be determined by the instructor, but will be no less than 20%. No assignments will be accepted after two weeks late except with prior permission from the instructor.

### Late Discussion Postings

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**Both the initial post and the follow up post must be posted by one week from the due date to receive partial credit.** Partial credit will be given for late postings up to one week past the due date. Late postings will receive a 50% deduction (3.5% becomes 1.75%, and 1.5% becomes 0.75%). This does not include any deductions for quality.

### Plagiarism and the Use of AI (ChatGPT)

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The very nature of the assignments makes plagiarism less of a temptation than it otherwise might be. As you know, there is hardly a more serious academic sin. University of Waterloo's policy is clear.

Plagiarism is

*The act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. The use of other people's ideas or words must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This applies to all written materials such as*

*essays, laboratory reports, work term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without acknowledgement, however, is contrary to accepted norms of academic behaviour.*

If plagiarism is discovered it will lead to a failing grade in the course and possible further disciplinary action by the university. I am obligated to make this clear to you, and to report infractions to the Associate Dean of Arts, Undergraduate Affairs.

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills, such as critical thinking and analysis, developing and practicing writing skills and the ability to synthesize and incorporate information from biblical texts. Therefore, the use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, is not permitted in this class. Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of [Policy 71](#) (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author's original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and courage ([ICAI](#), n.d.).

You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including research notes, brainstorming, and drafting notes. You may be asked to submit these notes along with earlier drafts of their work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted, you may be asked to meet with your instructor or TA to provide explanations to support the submitted material as being your original work. Through this process, if you have not sufficiently supported your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. More information is available from the Copyright Advisory

Committee: <https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence>

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- [Student Success Office](#) for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- [Writing and Communication Centre](#) for assignments with writing or presentations
- [AccessAbility Services](#) for documented accommodations
- [Library](#) for research-based assignments

Using AI tools, ChatGPT, or similar tools that generate text, code, or visual images for content generation and submitting it as one's own original work is a violation of the [University of Waterloo's](#)

[Policy 71 \(Student Discipline\)](#).

## Exclusions

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Note that this course has the following exclusions: RE 335 at Wilfrid Laurier University.

# University Policies

## Submission Times

Please be aware that the University of Waterloo is located in the **Eastern Time Zone** (GMT or UTC-5 during standard time and UTC-4 during daylight saving time) and, as such, the time that your activities and/or assignments are due is based on this zone. If you are outside the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the [Ontario, Canada Time Converter](#) .

## Short-Term Absences

Review the University of Waterloo's [Accommodations](#) policy for more details.

Additionally, undergraduate students have the option to self-declare a short-term absence during the formal lecture period by following the [Undergraduate student short-term absences](#) process outlined by the Registrar's Office.

Please follow the instructions above and contact your instructor for applicable accommodations.

## Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. **If you have not already completed the online tutorial regarding academic integrity you should do so as soon as possible.** Undergraduate students should see the [Undergraduate Academic Integrity Module](#) and graduate students should see the [Graduate Academic Integrity Module](#) website.

Proper citations are part of academic integrity. Citations in CEL course materials usually follow CEL style, which is based on APA style. Your course may follow a different style. If you are uncertain which style to use for an assignment, please confirm with your instructor or TA.

For further information on academic integrity, please visit the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).

## Turnitin

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.

[Turnitin® at Waterloo](#)

## Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes [academic integrity](#) to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

## Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), (other than a petition) or [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#), may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).



# Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#) , Section 4. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

# Final Grades

In accordance with [Policy 46 - Information Management](#) , Appendix A - Access to and Release of Student Information, the Centre for Extended Learning does not release final examination grades or final course grades to students. Students must go to [Quest](#) to see all final grades. Any grades posted in Waterloo LEARN are unofficial.

# AccessAbility Services

[AccessAbility Services](#) , located in Needles Hall, 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 accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term and for each course.

# Accessibility Statement

The Centre for Extended Learning strives to meet the needs of all our online learners. Our ongoing efforts to become aligned with the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\)](#) are guided by University of Waterloo accessibility [Legislation](#) and policy and the [World Wide Web Consortium's \(W3C\) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0](#) . The majority of our online courses are currently delivered via the Desire2Learn Learning Environment. Learn more about [Accessibility at D2L](#) .

# Use of Computing and Network Resources

Please see the [Guidelines on Use of Waterloo Computing and Network Resources](#) .

# Copyright Information

## UWaterloo's Web Pages

All rights, including copyright, images, slides, audio, and video components, of the content of this course are owned by the course author and the University of Waterloo, unless otherwise stated. By accessing this course, you agree that you may only download the content for your own personal, non-commercial use. You are not permitted to copy, broadcast, download, store (in any medium), transmit, show or play in public, adapt, or change in any way the content of these web pages for any other purpose whatsoever without the prior written permission of the course author and the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning.

### **Other Sources**

Respect the copyright of others and abide by all copyright notices and regulations when using the computing facilities provided for your course of study by the University of Waterloo. No material on the Internet or World Wide Web may be reproduced or distributed in any material form or in any medium, without permission from copyright holders or their assignees. To support your course of study, the University of Waterloo has provided hypertext links to relevant websites, resources, and services on the web. These resources must be used in accordance with any registration requirements or conditions which may be specified. You must be aware that in providing such hypertext links, the University of Waterloo has not authorized any acts (including reproduction or distribution) which, if undertaken without permission of copyright owners or their assignees, may be infringement of copyright. Permission for such acts can only be granted by copyright owners or their assignees.

If there are any questions about this notice, please contact the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1 or [extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca) (<mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca>).

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[Credits and Copyright \(/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?](#)

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