

WILLIAM PEACE UNIVERSITY

Religion 124 Online Introduction to the New Testament

Summer, 2018

Instructor: Dr. R. Lee Carter

E-mail: rlcarter@peace.edu

Phone: 919-508-2049

Office: Main 220 (Chaplain's Office)

Course description:

This course introduces students to the literature of the canonical New Testament, focusing on the development of the Jesus traditions that eventually led to the writing of literary gospels and the correspondence of early Christian leaders with the burgeoning churches.

This course also furnishes you, the student, with the tools and background necessary to help you make your own reading of the New Testament informed, insightful, and fresh. By providing guidance in the historical, geographical, and faith contexts, as well as the literary art involved in the production and crafting of this inspiring literature, the course will help you understand why the study of the New Testament has been the source of enjoyment, inspiration, and spiritual direction for centuries.

Required Textbooks:

1. Bart D. Ehrman, A Brief Introduction to the New Testament, third edition (Oxford University Press, 2013)

2. New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Oxford Annotated). I want you to read the articles in it as well.

Requirements:

Students are expected to do all of the readings that are assigned each week and to participate in the Discussion Forum. Failure to participate in the Discussion Forum each week will reduce the final grade by one letter.

Students will take two proctored tests on Weeks Four and Seven. Each will count 50% of the final grade.

Course Outline:

Week 1:

Introduction: What is the New Testament?

Ehrman, pp. 1-12

The Environment of Early Christian Traditions: The Greco-Roman World

Ehrman, pp. 14-27

The Environment of Early Christian Traditions: The World of Ancient Judaism

Ehrman, pp. 28-44

The Traditions of Jesus in Their Greco-Roman Context

Ehrman, pp. 46-58

Week 2:

The Gospel according to Mark

Ehrman, pp. 60-76

Mark

Week 3: The Gospel according to Matthew

Ehrman, pp. 77-94

Matthew

Week 4:

TEST 1 PROCTORED

The Gospel according to Luke

Ehrman, pp.95-110

Week 5:

The Gospel according to John

Ehrman, pp. 112-127

John

Week 6:

The Book of Acts

Ehrman, pp. 165-181

Acts

Paul the Apostle: The Man and His Mission
Ehrman, pp. 182-200

Week 6 (continued)
I Thessalonians
Ehrman, pp. 201-215

The Corinthian Correspondence
Ehrman, pp. 216-232

Paul and the Crises of His Churches: Galatians, Philippians, and Philemon
Ehrman, pp. 233-249

Week 7:
The Gospel according to Paul: The Letter to the Romans
Ehrman, pp. 250-263

In the Wake of the Apostle: The Deutero-Pauline and Pastoral Epistles
Ehrman, pp. 264-283

The Johannine Epistles and Revelation
Ehrman, pp. 320-348

TEST 2 PROCTORED

Here is the test:

Essay part A: Examine the accounts of the feeding of the multitudes/walking on water episodes in the four gospels (Matthew 14:13-33; Mark 6:32-52; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-21). Relate the variations to the distinctive themes of each gospel.

Essay part B: What was the “good news” according to Paul? What was the mystery revealed in Christ? What is the meaning of baptism in Paul?

You may bring in Bibles and notes for these essays.

NOTE: Please read these important additions to the syllabus

“Disability Services are available for students who require accommodations due to any cognitive, physical, or psychological disability. For more information, or to disclose a disability, contact the Disability Services Office at 508-2293.”

“Attendance and conduct related problems will be brought to the attention of the Dean of Academic Affairs who, in consultation with the instructor, will take disciplinary action that may result in involuntary withdrawal from a course and a grade of “W” or “F.” NOTE: The statement above was recently approved by CIC to mirror something already present in the Student Handbook related to **inappropriate** conduct in class.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU OBSERVE THE HONOR CODE. PLEASE PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE PLAGIARISM POLICY WHICH FOLLOWS.

WILLIAM PEACE UNIVERSITY – ACADEMIC HONOR CODE & PLAGIARISM POLICY HONOR CODE

The Honor Code represents the important values of integrity and accountability to the University community. It sets the standard for personal behavior. All new students are given the opportunity to sign the Honor Code to indicate their commitment, but all students are bound by it because of their membership in the William Peace University community. (Go to www.peace.edu to review the Community Conduct Code.)

On my honor as a William Peace University student, I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I condone the actions of those who do.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

William Peace University takes academic integrity seriously. It is expected that students are familiar with the University Honor Code and that they strive to embody its principles in their work. Students should be aware that there is a process by which violations of academic integrity are adjudicated.

Academic integrity requires that all members of the University community pursue learning with honesty and responsibility. Violations of academic integrity include:

- ☐ Cheating (using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in academic work or in working with others on academic requirements (tests, assignments, etc.).
- ☐ Plagiarism (representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic work).
- ☐ Falsification (falsification or invention of any information or citation in academic work).
- ☐ Facilitating academic dishonesty (helping or attempting to help another student to commit an act of academic dishonesty as noted above).
- ☐ Lying (misrepresenting information that is relevant to the classroom or academic performance).

Procedure for Handling Violations

The instructor will meet with the student(s) involved, send an email response, or note the matter on a graded assignment and clearly state the nature of the charge. Each professor has the option to institute sanctions for a first offense but is also required to submit a report to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The type of infraction (e.g. unintentional plagiarism versus blatant cheating on a test) will determine the severity of the sanction. A professor’s course syllabus will explain his or her penalties for a violation of academic integrity, such as a zero or “F” for a specific assignment or an automatic “F” for the entire course.