

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies

Religious Studies

RELI 250 Studies in Christian Theology: Jesus, the Gospels and the Coming of God
20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Study week: 20–24 October 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lecture: MY 101 Tuesday 11:00 – 12:50

Tutorials: tba

Names and contact details

Course Co-ordinators: Dr Matthew Scott matthew.scott@vuw.ac.nz HU 114
Dr John Dennison john.dennison@vuw.ac.nz HU 114

Administrator: Alikali Kalliabetsos aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz HU 318 463 5299

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is located in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Alikali Kalliabetsos, is in HU 318. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Notices will also be communicated to students via emails sent from Blackboard. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they check this address regularly.

Office Hours: The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9.30 – 12:00 noon and 2:30 - 3.30 pm. You can arrange to meet with John Dennison by appointment, and he will also answer all emails promptly.

Prescription

An examination of the life, teaching and activity of Jesus of Nazareth, as presented in the New Testament gospels and viewed against the historical, religious and political backdrop of first-century Palestine.

Course content

The course consists of five units, which will be covered in lectures, tutorials, assignments, and in your own reading.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1 locate the ministry of Jesus in its proper historical context, and to explain those features of first-century Palestinian Judaism that emerge in the text of the gospels;
- 2 explain the distinctive character and structure of Mark's narrative, and the historical and theological significance of the fourfold gospel witness;
- 3 summarise and critically evaluate the fruits of modern gospel scholarship, with reference to a range of contemporary publications;
- 4 appreciate the significance of the "Christ-event" for shaping the Christian concept of God.

Teaching format

This course is delivered through a combination of lectures and tutorials.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- a) Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);
- b) Attend at least 80% of tutorials.

Workload

For a 20 point course an average student should spend 200 hours across the trimester, 13 hours for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One 1500 word essay. This task should take about 50 hours	30%	1,2,3,4	08.08.2014
2	One 2,500 word essay. This task should take about 56 hours	35%	1,2,3,4	26.09.2014
3	5 short written responses. This task should take about 20 hours (including reading)	10%	1,2,3,4	Due dates to be advised in lectures
4	One final in-class test. This task should take about 40 hours	25%	1,2,3,4	14.10.2014

Rationale for assessment: The assessment of this course relates directly to these objectives.

The essays allow students to apply their analytical skills to information retrieved through library research on a set topic. Essays demonstrate the students' level of proficiency in finding, understanding, and using sources. They develop the skills of critical reading, analysis and organizing material necessary for

continued study. The process also gives the opportunity to develop more in-depth knowledge of an area covered in the lectures and weekly readings.

The short written responses test comprehension of the major ideas covered in weekly lectures and in class reader and Stanton's book.

The test allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the material presented in the course and provides the opportunity to reflect on their learning process throughout the term.

Students who do not understand the grades they have been assigned or are concerned about any matter relating to the course should see the course co-ordinator, John Dennison.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted electronically to Blackboard. Feed-back and marks for essays shall be posted on Blackboard within 2 weeks of submission.

Extensions and penalties

Penalties

Penalties for late essays / assignments:

- 2 per cent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays
- Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's or other appropriate certification.

Extensions

If a student requires an extension for any serious or medical reason they must apply for one as soon as practicably possible before the due date of the assessment in question

Set texts

Set texts: Course Reader available to be purchased from **Vicbooks**.

Recommended reading

Graham Stanton, *The Gospels and Jesus* Second edition (Oxford University Press, rev ed. 2002).

For a more "theological" perspective, see William C. Placher, *Jesus the Savior: The Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001).

Students are also expected to read through the Gospel of Mark (preferably the NRSV translation), as well as the Gospel of Matthew chapters 5-7, the Gospel of Luke chapters 22-23, and the Gospel of John chapter 1.

Additional Bibliography: Additional references for assignments and background reading are attached at the end of this course guide. One especially useful reference work is:

Joel B.Green *et al.* (eds) *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (Leicester: IVP, 1992).

Two massive recent studies on the historical Jesus provide a useful orientation to current scholarship:

James Dunn, *Jesus Remembered* Christianity in the Making Volume 1
(Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003)

John P. Meier, *A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus* 4 vols. (New York: Doubleday, 1994, 2000, 2001, 2008).

For an excellent survey of Christian theology in general, see:

Alister E. McGrath, *Christian Theology – An Introduction* (London: Blackwell, 2007)

For extra resources, students should check out the Trinity Newman Collection in the Religious Studies library, HU 320, and the library in Ramsey House, 8 Kelburn Parade.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

This course is evaluated by CAD

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz