

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FALL 2012

RELS 383 L01 Origins of Christianity: 100BCE - 200CE

Instructor: Craig Ginn, PhD
Classroom: SS012
Office: SS1304

Contact: cwcginn@ucalgary.ca (403) 220-5612
Class Time: TR 9:30-10:45am
Office hrs: TR 10:45-11:45am or by appointment

Textbook and readings:

- 1) Knight, Jonathan. *Christian Origins*. London, UK and New York, NY: T&T Clark, 2008.
- 2) Online textual sources from the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, *Ecclesiastical History* (Eusebius of Caesarea), noncanonical literature, and writings of early Church Fathers. Web links will be provided.

Course description:

This course examines the history, literature, and religion of early Christianity. Beginning with an overview of Judaism, class content will focus on the Jewish background of Christianity, the person and ministry of Jesus, the person and ministry of Paul, the apostolic church, and the early Patristic period. Various ecclesial and social dynamics will be considered, such as the development of church offices and the rise of the episcopacy, the role of women, persecution in the Roman Empire, orthodoxy and heresy, early Jewish-Christian relations and the eventual breach between Judaism and Christianity, and the early development of eastern and western Christianity. Students will be guided through a close reading of select texts (in English translation) of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, noncanonical literature, Eusebius' *Ecclesiastical History* (Books I-IV) and excerpts from early patristic literature.

Course Objectives:

1. To appreciate the Jewish background of Christianity.
2. To gain an understanding of the chronological development of early Christianity.
3. To study critically the sources of early Christianity.
5. To examine the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth portrayed by New Testament authors.
4. To consider the apostle Paul's impact on early Christianity.
5. To gain an understanding of canonization as process.
6. To gain an understanding of the development of theology in the early Church.
7. To gain an understanding of the New Testament and approaches to interpretation.
8. To explore the development of Christianity in its social and political contexts.
9. To examine the breach between Judaism and Christianity and consider the rise of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism in early Christianity.
10. To consider the difference between "types" of Christianity and "Christianities".

Course Requirements:

Assignment #1	Due September 27	Worth 10%
Assignment #2	Due October 16	Worth 10%
Midterm Exam	October 23 (includes material from Sept 13-Oct 18)	Worth 30%
Assignment #3	Due November 15	Worth 10%
Class Presentation	November 27, 29, December 4	Worth 10%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by the Registrar (includes material from Oct 25-Dec 4)	Worth 30%

Grading:

A+ 96-100%	B+ 80-84%	C+ 65-69%	D+ 53-54%
A 90-95%	B 75-79%	C 60-64%	D 50-52%
A- 85-89%	B- 70-74%	C- 55-59%	F <50%

Assignments:

Pick ONE of the following New Testament books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews, or Revelation. You will use this same book for ALL assignments (#1, #2, #3, and class presentation). NOTE: A sign-up sheet for the New Testament books will be distributed during the first week of the course.

Assignment #1:Textual-Historical

Identify author, audience, date, location of writing, purpose, etc. Discuss matters of textual criticism (sources, redaction, form), identify interpolations and variants, leading to a statement on reliability of the text.

Assignment #2:Hermeneutical

Select a critical passage that deals with ONE of the following topics: salvation, the nature of Christ, social morality/ethics, worship/liturgy, the afterlife, apocalypticism, the Jews, the role of women, ritual, view of scripture, or the church. Provide an interpretation of the passage using historical-exegetical method. Define critical terms. Compare at least two translations.

Assignment #3:Theological-Historical

Select an episode in the life of Jesus and/or the apostles [OR] a reference to an episode from Hebrew-Israelite history. Identify how the author has "theologized" or "historicized" person, place, and/or event. Clearly identify the operant hermeneutic of the author (e.g. prophecy historicized, theology historicized, history theologized, typology, numerology).

Assignment specifications:

Length: The length for each assignment is 800-1000 words. Do not exceed 1000 words. Assignments that exceed 1000 words will be deducted 5% per 50 excess words.

Spacing: Assignments MUST be typed in 11-12 pt font, double spaced, and formatted with 1" margins.

Title Page: The assignment MUST include a title page with the following: 1. title of the paper, 2. student name, 3. student number, 4. course name, 5. instructor name, 6. institution name, 7. date of submission, and 8. word count.

Format for submission: ALL students must submit a hard copy. Submit your paper on 8.5" X 11" white paper. Use a single staple to bind your paper together. Do NOT use report covers. A student may submit their paper via email if they request permission in advance. A backup file must be kept for all written work.

Sources: Where possible, please make use of U of C library/online sources. Selective online sources are acceptable, such as ejournals, ebooks, and online documents offered by academic institutions and societies. Wikipedia is NOT acceptable. NOTE: Class lecture notes from this class or any other classes are NOT acceptable.

Citation Style: The Chicago Manual of Style; footnotes and bibliography.

Due: Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late submissions are deducted 20% per day.

Marking guides: A marking guide for the assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with each marking guide.

Plagiarism: Sources MUST be cited. This includes a bibliography of sources AND citing sources within the paper. No student shall present the words, ideas, images, or data of another person as his or her own. Plagiarism is an academic offence.

NOTE: Each assignment must be written from an objective perspective. *Do not write from a confessional or adversarial perspective.*

Class Presentation:

Select a question or issue that arises from your research. Approve the question or issue with the instructor by November 22. The content must demonstrate in-depth analysis using methods emphasized in this course, including textual criticism, historical criticism, hermeneutical/exegetical analysis, systematic theology, and cultural-historical analysis. A hard copy of the presentation must be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of class on the day the material is presented. The format is flexible, e.g. point-form outline, print-out of data slides, essay. Sources must be cited.

Email:

Inquiries related to exams or assignments **MUST** be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send assignments via email unless approved in advance. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information.

Electronic Devices:

Laptops are permitted if used for the purpose of taking notes. Do not use laptops during class for emailing, checking facebook, watching videos, etc. Cell phones must be turned off during class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Students that distract from the instructor or other students due to the misuse of laptops or texting during class will be requested to leave the classroom.

Recording Lectures:

According to Academic Regulations E.6, recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor, "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a Release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered."

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm.

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints. Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.