

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017**

**Course:** RELS 383 From Jesus to Christ: 100 BCE-200 CE  
**Time:** M/W/F 1:00-1:50  
**Instructor:** Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD  
**Office Hours:** Thursday 3:30-4:30 or by appointment  
**Office:** SS 522  
**E-mail:** [cwcginn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cwcginn@ucalgary.ca)  
**Telephone:** (403) 220-5612

**Required Text(s):**

*Christian Origins.* Jonathan Knight. London and New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2008.

*How Jesus Became God.* Bart D. Ehrman. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2014

Additional online readings to be posted on D2L.

**Course Description:**

According to Dan Brown's bestseller *The DaVinci Code*, Jesus' status as the Son of God resulted from a vote at the Council of Nicea where "Constantine turned Jesus into a deity". According to Bart Ehrman – historian of early Christianity – long before Constantine many Christians believed that Jesus *was* divine or was *made* divine. How does one sort through the 'divinization debate' surrounding Jesus? Did he think he was God? Did he think he was an eternal being that took human form? Did his followers deify him after his death?

This course examines the life of Jesus and engages his profile as "The Jesus of History" and "The Christ of Faith". Beginning with an overview of Judaism, class content will focus on the Jewish background of Christianity, the person and ministry of Jesus, the accounts of his resurrection, 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 early developments in the division between 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 the writings of the early Church Fathers.

The course will be composed of four modules, based on Jonathan Knight's outline:

- Module 1 From Judaism to Jesus
- Module 2 Jesus and His Mission
- Module 3 Paul and Christian Beginnings
- Module 4 The Birth of Early Christianity

**Online Elements for this Course:**

Supplemental course materials will be posted on D2L.

**Core Competencies:**

Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with:

- critical methods in the study of early Christianity
- the Jewish background of Christianity
- the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth
- the resurrection narrative in early Christianity
- the worship of Jesus in early Christianity
- incarnational theology (the belief that God took physical form in the person of Jesus)
- the life and writings of the apostle Paul
- canonical literature in early Christianity
- New Testament hermeneutics
- the nature and development of theology in early Christianity
- the chronological development of early Christianity
- the development of Christianity in its social, political, and geographical contexts
- the breach between Judaism and Christianity

**Course Requirements:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>
January 30	Module 1 Test	10%
February 13	Module 2 Test	15%
March 13	Module 3 Test	15%
March 27	Module 4 Test	15%
March 31; April 3, 5, 7, 10	Group Presentations	15%
April 12	Research Paper due at the beginning of class (1:00)	30%

This course will not have a Registrar-scheduled final examination.

**Grading:**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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

### **Adjusted Final Grades:**

The instructor will implement a standard measure of adjustment (.5%) for final grades. For example, a final grade of 64.5% (C) will be rounded up to 65% (C+). Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' your final grade.

### **Group Presentations:**

Each student will sign up for a group presentation. A sign-up sheet for the groups will be circulated in class. Each group will be assigned a specific genre of literature from early Christian writings (primary sources), e.g. noncanonical gospels, martyrologies, apologetical literature, noncanonical apostolic Acts, and early patristic letters. Each student in the group will study one primary source with a focus on Christological analysis (though supplemental areas of analysis related to the early Christian view of Jesus may be appropriate such as doxological and soteriological analysis). Groups will consist of 4-5 students. The length of presentation for each group will be approximately 20 minutes. Note: The actual size and number of groups as well as the length of presentation will be determined based on final enrolment. Each student in the group will be graded on their individual contribution to the group.

### **Research Paper:**

The research paper will be a continuation of the group assignment. Each student will expand on their contribution to the group presentation writing, in essay format, a detailed analysis of Jesus' profile in one primary source selected from early Christian literature. Length of essay: 2000-2200 words. Do not exceed 2200 words. Essays that exceed 2200 words will be deducted 5% per 100 excess words. All essays must include a word count.

### **Writing Assistance:**

The instructor will not read through or evaluate a student's research paper in advance of the due date. If a student would like to present a rough draft of their research paper to the instructor in advance of the due date, the student may bring the rough draft to the instructor during office hours or arranged appointment. The instructor will read select sections of the draft and advise the student according to the marking rubric. Do not email the rough draft to the instructor. For assistance in writing, students are advised to consult Writing and Learning Services.

### **Policy with regard to Missed Assessments:**

If a student misses a test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation

is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero. There are of course many reasons for missing the test that are not considered to be valid, including but not limited to: work schedules that conflict with the day of the test, family functions that conflict with the day of the test, forgetting about the test, traffic congestion on the day of the test, and having no internet connection on the day of the test.

**Extra Assignments:** There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

**Weighting of Module Tests:** The weighting for module tests is identified above. The weighting of tests will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests.

### **Expectations for Student Conduct in this Course:**

Please be courteous toward other students in the course. Please do not engage in behavior that is distracting to other students. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer inquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

### **Expectations for Email Correspondence in this Course:**

Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. 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. Inquiries related to tests or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. Do not ask the instructor to preview your test answers.

### **Electronic Device Policy:**

Laptops are permitted if used for the purpose of taking lecture notes. Do not use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other nonacademic activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted. This includes taking pictures of data projector images and slides. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be requested to leave the classroom.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6, "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."

### **Syllabus:**

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

### **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 (section K, which can be found here:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. )If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

### **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.

### **Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help:**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

### **Gnosis:**

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

### **Classics Student Society:**

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [classsoc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

### **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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Freedom of Information and Privacy**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

**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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.