

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
WINTER 2010**

December 1, 2009

Course: Religious Studies 485 L01: Advanced Studies in Early Christianity
Time: MTWRF 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. January 4-8, 2010
Instructor: Anne Moore
Office / Hours: SS 1324 / MTWRF 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
E-Mail: amoore@ucalgary.ca
Telephone: (403) 220-3288

Textbooks:

- 1) Rhee, Helen. *Early Christian Literature: Christ and Culture in the Second and Third Centuries*. New York: Routledge, 2005.
- 2) Hock, Ronald F., J. Bradley Chance and Judith Perkins. *Ancient Fiction and Early Christian Narrative*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.
- 3) Various articles posted on Blackboard.
- 4) Copy of the Christian Bible, NRSV, NEB or Harper Collins Study Bible

Course Description:

The academic study of early Christianity (also known as ancient Christianity or Late Antiquity Christianity) has undergone a revolution during the last decade. First, the tendency to favor canonical or theological texts for the reconstruction of Late Antiquity Christianity has been replaced. Scholars acknowledge that non-canonical texts, such as the Apocryphal Acts, provide necessary insight into the formation of Christian identity and the inherent diversity that is part of this identity formation. Second, influenced by the work of Peter Brown, Burton Mack, and Jonathan Z. Smith, scholars have adopted new approaches in terms of the requisite comparative analysis of the Greco-Roman and Christian cultures. The prior 'unique' status of Christianity has been substituted with a more nuanced and complex understanding of Christianity as a product of Greco-Roman culture. Third, as part of their endeavor to reconstruct and comprehend this complex exchange between the Christian and Greco-Roman cultures, scholars have incorporated insights from literary criticism and new historicism as part of the exegetical method for analyzing texts. The course will reflect this revolution. The major focus of the course will be the Apocryphal Acts. Our engagement with these texts will involve a comparative analysis of the Apocryphal Acts with the Greek Novel or Romances, and, methodologically, our analysis will incorporate elements from literary criticism and new historicism.

Outcomes:

The course is intended to develop specific core competencies and skills. These will include: 1) critical and creative thinking/reasoning, 2) problem solving, 3) interpreting information, 4) awareness and ability to deal with diversity, 5) responding critically to both primary and secondary materials, 6) creating knowledge from information, 7) communication skills and 8) persuading and influencing others. The seminar format of the course means students will be interactive participants in the presentation of the course material and they will engage in one major research project that is designed to model graduate work. Finally, one of the major elements of the course will be the analysis of the symbiotic relationship between various research questions and methodological approaches.

Course Outline: (This is a provisional outline only)

- January 4** Morning
- Discussion of Preparatory Questions
- Afternoon
- Discussion of Jonathan Z. Smith's articles (Blackboard)
 - Discussion of New Historicism and Literary Criticism
 - Discussion of Vernon Robbin's Socio-Rhetorical Criticism (Blackboard)

- Hock's Article (pp. 121-38 in Hock)

January 5 Morning

- Schmeling (pp. 19-30 in Hock)
- Edwards (pp. 31-46 in Hock)
- Chew (pp. 47-60 in Hock)

Afternoon

- Pervo (pp. 77-120 in Hock)
- MacDonald (pp. 139-154 in Hock)
- Shiner (pp. 155-76 in Hock)

January 6 Morning

- Hedrick (pp. 177-98 in Hock)
- Brant (pp. 199-218 in Hock)
- Chance (pp. 219-24 in Hock)

Afternoon

- Alexander (pp.235-56 in Hock)
- Aubin (pp. 257-272 in Hock)
- Thomas (pp. 273-92 in Hock)

January 7 Morning

- Rhee, chapter 1

Afternoon

- Rhee, chapter 2.

January 8 Morning

- Rhee, chapter 3.

Afternoon

- Rhee, chapter 4.

Course Requirements

1) Preparatory Questions 10%

(Due: Saturday January 2, 2010)

Each student is required to submit electronically ten (10) questions.

The questions will be based on the assigned textbooks (minimum of five questions per book).

The questions are an opportunity for students to request information or clarify specific issues so that the class has a similar foundation from which to proceed.

The questions may focus on issues of: 1) information (i.e. Hock's edited book examines both canonical and non-canonical literature and Rhee's monograph examines the Apocryphal Acts. In other words, they do not maintain a distinction between canonical and non-canonical literature. Is this consistent with the study of early Christianity?); 2) clarification (i.e. Rhee's analysis of Early Christian literature demonstrates the overwhelming influence of the Greco-Roman context. What happened to the Jewish roots of Christianity?), or 3) methodology (i.e. Given the fluidity and ambiguity of literary categories and concepts associated with fiction and history, what are the implications for scholars in their examination of Christian literature?)

2) Précis and critical analysis of assigned readings from the textbooks 30%

Each student will complete two of these (2 @ 15%).

(Due: January 4-8, 2010)

- Each student will be assigned selections of chapters from the textbooks.
- The 15% will be divided between a written précis (10%) and an oral presentation of the material in class (5%).
- Précis (6-8 pages, double-spaced, bibliographical format: MLA, Chicago or SBL)
- The oral presentation will form the basis of class discussion of the material; therefore the oral presentation should be in a format that solicits participation from the other class members.

- 3) Protocol 15%
(Due September 5-8, 2010)
- Each student will be assigned to take notes for one of the morning or afternoon periods of discussion during January 5-8, 2010 (This will be for a class in which the student is not presenting). These notes will then be summarized in written format and distributed to all members of the class. Further, at the end of the written summary, a list will be provided of the five most important points of the discussion. The protocols will serve as a record of the class discussion. They will be discussed in class the following day.
- 4) Seminar Participation 5%
- Each student is encouraged to participate with thoughtful and reflective comments and/or questions.
- 2) Research Paper
- a) Thesis, Annotated Bibliography and Outline 15 %
 Minimum: One primary source, 6 journal articles, 4 books
Due: Monday, February 8, 2010
 - b) Research Paper 25%
 Minimum: 10- 12 pages, double-spaced, bibliographical format: MLA, Chicago/Turbian or SBL)
Due: Monday March 1, 2010

The adherence to deadlines is taken as a serious requirement and responsibility of the students in this course. There will be no Registrar scheduled final examination in this course.

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:

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

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first approved be by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Academic Honesty:

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

Safewalk Program :

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

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>.