

Course Description: Origin and development of early Christian message as set forth in New Testament with special attention to Jesus and Paul. (3 credits). (DH).

Introduction: Problems and Tools for Analysis.

- I. The New Testament as a Literary Document.
 1. Translations and Manuscripts.
 2. Canonization and the Problem of Orthodoxy.
- II. Types of Critical Approaches.
 1. Religio-Historical Criticism.
 2. Form Criticism.
 3. Redaction Criticism.

Historical and Religious Period and Environment.

- III. The Eschatological Mileau.
 1. The Greco-Roman World.
 2. Jewish People and Religion.
 3. Groups and Movements.

The Problem of Faith and History.

- IV. The Unavailability of the Historical Jesus.
 1. The Problem of Mythology.
 2. Q Source: Jesus as God's Eschatological Messenger.
- V. The Synoptic Tradition.
 1. Mark: Jesus as the Culmination of Apocalyptic History.
 2. Matthew: Jesus in the History of the Church.
 3. Luke: Jesus and the Church in the History of the World.
- VI. The Synthetic Tradition.
 1. John: Theology as the History of Jesus.

Paul and the Beginnings of Christianity.

VII. Letters and Missions.

1. Problems of Unifying Communities.
2. Authentic and Spurious Letters.

VIII. Paul's Theological Anthropology.

1. "All have sinned and fall short" (Rom. 3:23).
2. "A man is justified by faith" (Rom. 3:28).
3. "God was in Christ" (II Cor. 5:19).
4. "If any man be in Christ" (II Cor. 5:17).
5. "But, you may ask, how are the dead raised?" I Cor. 15:35).

Conclusions.

IX. The Revelation of John.

TEXTS: Harris, The New Testament: A Student's Introduction.
Heim, A Harmony of the Gospels.

All students will be expected to bring a Bible to class.

GRADING: There will be three exams. The exams will be of equal worth and each will cover approximately one-third of the course. Class lecture and discussion will be the primary basis for the exams.

SLOs: Student Learning Opportunities.

1. To understand and be able to articulate the history, composition, intent and central teachings of the New Testament.
2. To understand and be able to articulate the literary forms, principles of interpretation and technical terminology used in the study of the New Testament.
3. To understand and be able to articulate the political, religious and historical settings in which the New Testament was formed, developed, finalized and lived.
4. To understand and be able to articulate the major theological themes found in selected books of the New Testament.
5. To understand and be able to articulate the different approaches, major problems, various interpretations and present day applications of the New Testament and its teachings in today's world.