

SCS 502 Bible History: Christian
3 Credits 4 CEUs

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Required Texts	Ehrman, B. D. <i>The New Testament, A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings</i> . (3 rd Ed.) New York: Oxford University Press, 2004 Saunders, E. P., \. <i>Paul A Very Short Introduction</i> , New York: Oxford University Press, 1991
Other Required Reading	Handouts
Recommended Reading	Ehrman, B. D. <i>Misquoting Jesus</i> . San Francisco: Harper, 2005 Mack, B.) <i>Who Wrote the New Testament</i> . San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1996

Course Description

This class presents an introduction to the writings of the Christian Scripture. It covers the timing of the writing, and the primary authors. The reasons for the differences in each of the Gospels portrayal of Jesus are explored. Pauline and non-Pauline writings are covered from the standpoint of their relationship to the early Christian Church.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of how the Christian Bible as we know it came into being and relate the sequence of writing of the books in the Christian Bible
2. Assess the differences among the Gospel writers in the portrayal of Jesus
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of the events that followed the death of Jesus as recorded in the Book of Acts
4. Compare and contrast the teachings of Paul as evidenced in his letters
5. Explain the purpose of the Book of Revelation and its relationship to present day times.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity: MD-4 and the Diploma for ministry

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

C-4

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
2 Take home exams	20 points each	1 - 4
1 paper 20 pages	55 points	3 or 4
Class participation	5 points	1-4

Selected Bibliography

Frye, N. *The Great Code* San Diego: Harvest Books, 1982

Funk, R. Hoover, R and the Jesus Seminar. *The Five Gospels*. Santa Rosa, CA: Polebridge Press, 1993

Mack, B. *The Lost Gospel, the Book of Q*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1994

O'Dell, D. *How the Bible Became the Bible*. West Conshohocken, PA: Infinity Publishing, 2006

Spong, J.S. *The Sins of Scripture*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2005

White, L. M, *From Jesus to Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2004