

The Teachings of Jesus and the Teachings about Jesus
SCS 602 3 Hrs, (4 Units) Summer Term 2008
Tuesday and Thursday 8 – 10 a.m.

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| Instructor Name | Rev. E. J. Niles |
| Office Hours | Monday, Thursday 2-4 or by appointment Room 222 |
| Telephone | 816-347-5528; 816-600-5430 (h) |
| E-Mail | nilesej@unityonline.org ; ejniles@tbible.org |
| Term | July 14– Sept 18, 2008 |
| Required Texts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mack, Burton (1995) Who Wrote the New Testament, San Francisco Harper Collins, • Mack, Burton (1993) The Lost Gospel, the Book of Q,, San Francisco Harper Collins, • Sanders, E. (1991), Paul: A Short Introduction, New York: Oxford University Press |
| Recommended Texts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funk, Hoover and the Jesus Seminar (1996), The Five Gospels, New York: :Scribner • Robinson, James M. (2005) The Gospel of Jesus, San Francisco: Harper Collins • White, M. (2004) From Jesus to Christianity, San Francisco, Harper Collins |

Course Description

This course examines the New Testament writings with intent to separate the historical Jesus from the Christ of Faith. It explores the ideas of various Bible scholars and theologians who are researching and analyzing the writings of the New Testament to discover how the historical Jesus became the Christ of the Christian church. Included in the content are:

- The work of the Jesus Seminar and others whose work is directed to discovering the Historical Jesus
- Examination of the “Q Gospel” and the non-canonical Gospel of Thomas
- How and why the Christ Myth developed
- Impact on New Thought Teachings

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain the religious and cultural contexts that preceded the time of Jesus. (MD4, MA1, C1)
- Compare and contrast what Jesus taught with what was created after his death. (MD4, MA1, C1)
- Relate how the Christ myth relates to the deeper meaning of New Thought teachings. (MD4, MA1, C1)

The above objectives partially fulfill the following outcomes for the M Div MA and Certificate Program:

Class Schedule

| Week | Date | Topic | Reading Assignment | Paper/Exam/Activity |
|------|------|---|---|---------------------|
| 1a | 7/15 | <u>Topic:</u> The Mystique of Sacred Scriptures | Prologue and Epilogue Who Wrote the New Testament (WWNT) | |
| 1b | 7/17 | <u>Topic:</u> Mystique continued | | |
| 2a | 7/22 | <u>Topic:</u> Review of the Israelite History | | |
| 2b | 7/24 | <u>Topic:</u> Review of the Israelite History Continued | Handouts | |
| 3a | 7/29 | <u>Topic:</u> 2 nd Temple Era | Chapter One WWNT Handouts | |
| 3b | 7/31 | <u>Topic:</u> 2 nd Temple era continued | Handouts (Surpassing Wonder) | |
| 4a | 8/5 | <u>Topic:</u> "Q" Gospel | Prologue and Chapter 6 of The Lost Gospel "Q" Handouts | |
| 4b | 8/7 | <u>Topic :</u> "Q" Gospel Continued | Chapter 7 of The Lost Gospel "Q" | |
| 5a | 8/12 | <u>Topic:</u> From Jesus to Christ | Chapter 11, The Lost Gospel "Q" | |
| 5b | 8/14 | <u>Topic</u> From Jesus to Christ continued | | |
| 6a | 8/19 | <u>Topic:</u> Paul and his Letters Power Point and Lecture | Chapters 4 and 5 WWNT | |
| 6b | 8/21 | <u>Topic:</u> Continued | Sanders Chapters 6,7 and 11 | |
| 7a | 8/26 | <u>Topic:</u> The Synoptic Gospel Writers | Chapter 6 WWNT | |
| 7b | 8/28 | <u>Topic:</u> Continued | | |
| 8a | 9/2 | <u>Topic:</u> The Gospel of John - The Cosmic Christ | Chapter 7 WWNT | |

| Week | Date | Topic | Reading Assignment | Paper/Exam/Activity |
|------|------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 8b | 9/4 | <u>Cosmic Christ continued</u> | | |
| 9a | 9/9 | <u>Topic:</u> Creating the Christian Bible | Chapter 11 WWNT handouts | |
| 9b | 9/11 | <u>Topic:</u> Continued | | |
| 10a | 9/16 | <u>Topic:</u> The Impact of the Christ Myth on New Thought | Handouts | |
| 10b | 9/18 | <u>Topic:</u> Review of Class | | |

**Assignments for the Master of Divinity:
Grading**

| Assignment | Possible Points | Meets Learning Objective |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Exam | 15 | 1 and 2 |
| Exam | 15 | 3 |
| Exam | 15 | 4 |
| Paper 20 pages | 50 | 1-4 |
| Class Participation | 5 | 1-4 |

Final Grade Determination:

- 90-100 points A
- 80-89points B
- 70-79points C
- 60-69points D
- 59 points or less F

**Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:
Grading**

| Assignment | Possible Points | Meets Learning Objective |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Exam | 15 | 1 and 2 |
| Exam | 15 | 3 |
| Exam | 15 | 4 |
| Paper 15 pages | 50 | 1-4 |
| Class Participation | 5 | 1-4 |

Final Grade Determination

- 90-100 points A
- 80-89points B
- 70-79points C
- 60-69points D
- 59 points or less F

Assignments for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies: Grading

| Assignment | Possible Points | Meets Learning Objective |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Exam | 15 | 1 and 2 |
| Exam | 15 | 3 |
| Exam | 15 | 4 |
| Paper 20 pages | 50 | 1-4 |
| Class Participation | 5 | 1-4 |

Final Grade Determination

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 90-100 points | A |
| 80-89points | B |
| 70-79points | C |
| 60-69points | D |
| 59 points or less | F |

Incomplete Grades:

In an emergency situation the instructor has the option of assigning the grade of "I" (Incomplete). To receive the grade of Incomplete, a student must petition the instructor *before the end of the course*, stating the reason for the incomplete grade. See student handbook for details.

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it.

Classroom Protocol

Late Assignment Policy

Term papers received after the due date may be assessed a penalty up to 2% per day or 10% per week

Attendance Policy

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. Students missing a class are responsible for obtaining the handouts, information and/or directions from another student.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An "F" for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, as well as kept in the student's permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.

Selected Bibliography

- Akenson, Donald Harman (2001), *Surpassing Wonder*, *University of Chicago Press, Chicago*
- Borg, Marcus (1999) *The Lost Gospel Q*, *Ulysses Press, Berkeley, CA*
- Coogan, D. Michael, editor (2001) 3rd Edition, *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, *Oxford University Press*
- Funk, Hoover and the Jesus Seminar (1996), *The Five Gospels*, *New York: Scribner*
- Kloppenber, John (2000) *Excavating Q: The History and Settings of the Sayings Gospel*, *Fortress Press, Minneapolis,*
- Mack, Burton (1995) *Who Wrote the New Testament*, *Harper Collins, San Francisco*
- Mack, Burton (1993) *The Lost Gospel, the Book of Q*, *Harper Collins, San Francisco*
- Mack, Burton (2003) *The Christian Myth, Origins, Legends and Legacy*, *New York: Continuum*
- Marion, Jim (2004), *Death of the Mythic God*, *Hampton Roads, Charlottesville, VA*
- O'Dell, Donald L, (2006) *How the Bible Became the Bible*, *Infinity, West Conshohocken, PA*
- Robinson, James (2005) *The Gospel of Jesus*, *Harper Collins, San Francisco*
- Rubenstein, Richard, (1999), *When Jesus Became God*, *Harcourt, Inc. San Diego*
- Spong, John Shelby (2005), *The Sins of Scripture*, *Harper, San Francisco, CA*
- White, M. (2004) *From Jesus to Christianity*, *San Francisco, Harper Collin*