

Syllabus - M&RS: SCS 505 Bible History: Christian Scriptures

Course Overview

Course Instructor

Name	Rev. Daniel Beckett
Virtual Office Hours	Tue 9am-11am ET, Thur 3-5pm ET, Sat 12-2pm ET
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Response Time Policy	Within 24 hours of call or email unless otherwise indicated through automatic message

Course Description

The writings of the Christian Scripture (commonly known as “The New Testament”) are among the most influential books in the history of the world. The Christian Scripture lies at the foundation of Unity, so it is essential for ministers to be familiar with the contents of this great collection. Students will learn the probable origination dates of the various writings and the rationale for their inclusion in the Christian Bible Canon. The contrast between the teachings attributed to Jesus and the teachings of Paul is examined, as are the non-Pauline letters and the Revelation of John. Also included is how the Christian Bible describes the beginning of the early Christian ministry.

Recommended

- SCS 500: Bible History: Hebrew Scripture or equivalent.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of how the Christian Scripture/New Testament as we know it came into being, and articulate the four literary genres contained within.
- Assess the differences among the Gospel writers concerning their portrayals of Jesus.

- Examine the key events of the early Church that followed the death of Jesus as recorded in the Book of Acts.
- Evaluate the teachings of Paul and the early Church as evinced in the Pauline and non-Pauline epistles.
- Analyze the socio-historical context and purpose of the Book of Revelation.

Required Text/Readings

- Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic Press, **Second Edition**, 2018.
- **The Bible** - in one of the following translations. (The NRSV: New Revised Standard Version; or the NET: New English Translation)

Recommended Text/Readings

- Borg, Marcus J. and Wright, N.T. *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2007.
- Gombis, Timothy G. *Paul: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London, New York: T&T Clark, 2010.
- Malina, Bruce. *Christian Origins and Cultural Anthropology: Practical Models for Biblical Interpretation*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2010.
- Shepherd, Thomas. *Jesus 2.1: An Upgrade for the 21st Century*. Unity Village, MO: Unity Books, 2010.
- *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*. Abingdon Press, 2003

Required Handouts & PowerPoint Slides (*The handouts and PowerPoint slides can be accessed on the Course Handout page in Blackboard, as well as within the modules in which they are assigned*)

- *Module 1, Christian Scriptures Timeline*
- *Module 1, PowerPoint*
- *Module 2, Historical Reliability of the Gospels*
- *Module 2, PowerPoint*
- *Term Paper Rubric*
- *Module 5: PowerPoint*
- *Module 7: PowerPoint*
- *Module 10: Understanding Jewish & Christian Apocalyptic Literature*
- *Module 10: PowerPoint*

Live Collaborate Class Sessions

All times Central Time (CT) Zone

January 2019

1. Friday, January 11 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
2. Friday January 18 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
3. Friday January 25 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT

February 2019

4. Friday February 1 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
5. Friday February 8 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
6. Friday February 15 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
7. Friday February 22 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT

March 2019

8. Friday March 1 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
9. Friday March 8 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
10. Friday March 15 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT