



Syllabus

SCS 515 Quest for the Historical Jesus

Course Overview

Course Instructor

Name	Reverend Daniel Beckett
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

This course examines the life of Jesus of Nazareth through ancient literary sources inside and outside the biblical canon. It investigates the nature and socio-political context of the sources, studies contemporary standards of historical evidence, and analyzes how these have been applied to the sources since the beginning of historical Jesus studies. This course offers the opportunity to think deeply and critically about the historical reality of the life and teachings of Jesus by encountering a wide range of scholarly perspectives on the ideological spectrum. There is also an opportunity to integrate historical Jesus information with one's own theological viewpoint in order to (re)create an understanding of who Jesus was and is for oneself.

Learning Objectives

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

1. Analyze the development of the study of the historical Jesus from 18th century beginnings up to today.
2. Differentiate scholarly debates about, approaches to, and portraits of the historical Jesus.
3. Assess the character of the 1st century Greco-Roman and Jewish contexts as an environmental factor shaping the experiences and understandings of Jesus in the early Church.
4. Evaluate both biblical and extra-biblical sources in terms of how well and to what extent they provide supportive evidence for the historical Jesus.
5. Formulate his/her own critical understanding of Jesus' life and teachings based on content and methodologies learned during the class.

Prerequisite Course

- SCS 505 Bible History: Christian Scripture

Required Text/Readings

- Beilby, James K. and Paul R. Eddy, eds. *The Historical Jesus: Five Views*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Charlesworth, James H. *The Historical Jesus: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008.
- Handouts as provided

Required Text/Readings

- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels*. New York: HarperCollins, 1996.
- Theissen, Gerd and Annette Merz. *The Historical Jesus: A Comprehensive Guide*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1998.

Live Collaborate Class Sessions:

All times Central Time (CT) Zone

September 2021

1. Friday, September 17 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
2. Friday, September 24 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT

October 2021

3. Friday, October 1 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
4. Friday, October 8 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
5. Friday, October 15 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
6. Friday, October 22 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
7. Friday, October 29 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT

November 2021

8. Friday, November 5 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
9. Friday, November 12 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT
10. Friday, November 19 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. CT