



THE HISTORICAL JESUS



THEO6310

January 7-11, 2019

Defend the Faith Conference

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Theological & Historical Studies

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Seminary Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Description

The course introduces students to theological, biblical, philosophical, and methodological issues related to contemporary Historical Jesus research. Issues addressed include the nature of the task, the role of the historian, tools for the task, as well as past and contemporary personalities in Historical Jesus research. The seminar will emphasize personal reading, research, and writing.

Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with issues related to Jesus research by: (1) reading broadly on the history of Jesus research and (2) writing reports on assigned readings in the field.
2. Students will demonstrate basic familiarity with the variety of methods used in Jesus research by writing reports on assigned readings over sources and methods in Jesus research and leading the seminar in discussion of issues related to their reading.
3. Students will demonstrate basic familiarity with significant personalities involved in previous quests of the historical Jesus.
4. Students will demonstrate basic familiarity with significant personalities involved in contemporary Jesus research by writing a research paper summarizing and critiquing a contemporary Jesus scholar.
5. Students will formalize and express their own conclusions on Jesus research by writing personal perspectives on Jesus research.

Core Values Addressed

The course will address the core values Doctrinal Integrity and Mission Focus by giving attention to defending and presenting Christian beliefs particularly as they relate to Christian evangelism. Servant Leadership will be addressed as well in that Christian apologists must model humility.

Methodology

The seminar will utilize reading assignments, written reading reports, and a research paper. The primary methodology will be individual research and writing, guided by the professor.

1. Lecture Attendance. Students are required to attend all lecture sessions at the School of Christian Apologetics, January 7-11, 2019.

2. Book Reviews. Each student is required to review 3 of the following books (one per section):

A. Method in Jesus Research

1. Gregory W. Dawes, ed. *The Historical Jesus Quest: Landmarks in the Search for the Jesus of History*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2000.
2. Gregory W. Dawes, ed. *The Historical Jesus Question: The Challenge of History to Religious Authority*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001.
3. Mark Allan Powell, *Jesus as a Figure in History: How Modern Historians View the Man from Galilee*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1998.
4. Darrel L Bock, *Studying the Historical Jesus: A Guide to Sources and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic/Apollos, 2002.
5. Robert J. Miller, *The Jesus Seminar and Its Critics*. Santa Rosa: Polebridge, 1999.
6. W. Barnes Tatum, *In Quest of Jesus*, revised and enlarged. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.
7. Gerd Theissen and Annette Merz, *The Historical Jesus: A Comprehensive Guide*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.
8. Ben Witherington, III, *The Jesus Quest: The Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth*, 2d ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997.

B. Issues or Controversies in Jesus Research

1. Michael J. Wilkins and J. P. Moreland, *Jesus Under Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
2. Robert B. Stewart, ed., *The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N. T. Wright in Dialogue*. Minneapolis and London: Fortress and SPCK, 2006.
3. N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*, Vol. 3, *Christian Origins and the Question of God*. Minneapolis and London: Fortress and SPCK, 1996
4. John Dominic Crossan, *Who Killed Jesus?: Exposing the Roots of Anti-Semitism in the Gospel Story of the Death of Jesus*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1995.
5. Gary R. Habermas, *The Secret of the Talpiot Tomb, Unraveling the Mystery of the Jesus Family Tomb*. Nashville: Holman, 2008.
6. Raymond E. Brown, *The Death of the Messiah: From Gethsemane to the Grave. A Commentary on the Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels*. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York and London: Doubleday and Geoffrey Chapman, 1994.

7. Amy-Jill Levine, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. New York: HarperCollins, 2006.

C. Monographs on Jesus

1. N. T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Vol. 2, *Christian Origins and the Question of God*. Minneapolis and London: Fortress and SPCK, 1996.
2. James D. G. Dunn, *Jesus Remembered*, Vol. 1, *Christianity in the Making*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
3. John Dominic Crossan, *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1991.
4. John Dominic Crossan, *The Birth of Christianity: Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1998.
5. Ben Witherington, III, *Jesus the Sage: The Pilgrimage of Jesus*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.
6. Ben Witherington, III, *The Christology of Jesus*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.
7. Bruce Chilton, *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

Reviews should include: (1) some professional biographical data concerning the author; (2) an identification of the major elements of content; (3) an assessment of the author's aim or purpose and of the degree of its fulfillment; and (4) a critical evaluation of the book. The reviews should follow Turabian form. **Due Friday, March 22, 2019**

3. Research Paper. A research paper of not less than 15 pages in length nor more than 20 pages in length is required over a topic related to the historical Jesus. Turabian style guide should be consulted for form and style issues. **Due Friday, April 19, 2019.**

Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale.

Evaluation

Book Reviews	35%
Research Paper	35%
<u>Lecture Attendance</u>	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Possible Paper Topics

N. T. Wright

John Dominic Crossan

Albert Schweitzer

John P. Meier

Marcus Borg

Dale Allison

Bruce Chilton

Amy-Jill Levine

Bart Ehrman

William Wrede

James D. G. Dunn

Ben Witherington

Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza

Gerd Theissen

Richard Horsley

E. P. Sanders

Paula Fredriksen

Alan Segal

Robert Funk

Geza Vermes

The Historical Jesus
A Selected Bibliography

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- _____. *The End of the Ages Has Come: An Early Interpretation of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.
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