

**IPS 416-001: Christian Origins
An Exploration of the New Testament
Fall Semester, 2007**

Special Note: This course is available on-line, at the WTC, and in the Joliet Diocese Cohort Program.

Instructor: Robert Ludwig, Ph.D., Lewis Suite #630, 312/915-7467
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Dates and Time:

- On-Line 8/27 – 11/18
- WTC Mondays 12:35-3:05 PM (Aug 27 – Nov 26)
- Joliet Cohort Saturdays, 9 AM-3 PM Sept 8 & 22, Oct 13 & 27; Nov 3 & 17

Required Texts: The primary text for this course is Bart D. Ehrman, *A Brief Introduction to the New Testament* (Oxford University Press, 2004) – ISBN 0195161238; John Shea, *Gospel Light* (Crossroad, 1998) – 0824517091. These two books are available from Amazon.com as new and used books at great discounts. Students will be reading New Testament texts (Paul's letters to Galatians, I Corinthians, and Romans; the four canonical gospels; the Acts of the Apostles) and several essays written by the instructor, Robert Ludwig—available at the cost of duplication from the IPS office by contacting Susan Ozuk (312/915-7400)

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to and overview of the New Testament. Students explore the world of Jesus and his interpreters from both an historical and a biblical perspective and learn about the religious and cultural world of Palestinian Judaism during the Roman occupation. The course considers the life and teachings of Jesus in Galilee in the twenties; the beginnings of the Christian movement in the revelatory experience of Christ risen, the experience of the Spirit sent, and the preaching of the gospel focused on his life, death, and resurrection; the missionary movement of the Church into the Greco-Roman world (the life and writings of the apostle Paul); and finally the development of the four canonical gospels, each with their unique portrait of Jesus Christ and the path of discipleship. Throughout the course, students make connections between then and now, Christian origins and our world of faith, practice, and ministry today. Course expectations, class assignments, and student requirements are the same for on-line students and students who are attending class in Chicago or the Southwest suburbs.

Instructor's Expectations/Course Requirements/Grading Standards:

- **CLASS ATTENDANCE:** It is very important that students connect with the course on a weekly basis, whether that is by doing the class on-line or attending classes on campus or with the Joliet Cohort in the SW suburbs. Not participating in the course each week will create problems for students wanting to complete the course successfully. Students should call the instructor's voice-mail (312/915-7467) prior to missing any classes and provide him with an explanation. Attending class and participating actively in the discussions contribute **25 points** of your final grade. Unexcused absences and lack of participation in class discussions can seriously affect your final grade.

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Each week students are expected to complete a 3-4 page reaction paper focused on the reading assignment. Class discussions will be carried on in both small groups and the larger groups as well as on-line. These short papers are worth 3 points each toward final grade (**30 points** total). All students are expected to be actively involved in class discussions.
- **MIDTERM EXAM:** Students will write essay responses to questions. This will be a take-home exam or paper with several extended essays. Questions will be provided to students well in advance of the exam's due date. These essays will be worth **15 points** of the final grade.
- **LENGTHY ESSAY ON PAUL TRANSLATED:** Students will write a lengthy essay (approximately 10 pages) in which they translate the central meanings and values of Paul's faith vision into the world of their own life and ministry. This essay is worth **15 points** of the final grade.
- **FINAL EXAM/PAPER:** At the conclusion of the course, there will be a final exam/paper that includes essay responses to several questions on the gospels and spirituality. This final paper is worth **15 points** of the final grade.

How To Write Essays for EXAMS: There will be several questions posed. Students must respond to these questions with thoughtful essays. Sometimes students can choose between and among questions to answer. Students are expected to write thoughtful, focused, and well-organized essays in response to each question.

The process includes:

- 1) Read the question carefully—then review readings and class notes with this question in mind.
- 2) Reflect and think (take a walk)—find your own voice: what is the main thing you want to say in response to this question?
- 3) Create a brief outline to develop your focused response.
- 4) Write your paper, utilizing the outline.
- 5) Review and edit. Check for writing errors.
- 6) Move to the next question and repeat this process.

Each essay should have its own title, imaginatively and succinctly stating the essay's focus. Use Arial 11 point type face. When referring to the required texts, simply do so parenthetically (author, page numbers)—no lengthy quotes from the texts. If you are utilizing additional resources, be sure to clearly cite the sources in endnotes. No bibliography is needed. Papers will be sent electronically as Word attachments: rludwig@luc.edu

<p>Grading Grid: Above 92 points – A 89 – 92 -- B+ 85 – 88 -- B 81 – 84 -- C+ 76 – 80 -- C Under 75 – F</p>

Plagiarism, Cheating, Academic Dishonesty: Students are hereby advised of the strong sanctions against plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" in the course and possible expulsion from IPS. ***If you have any questions about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials, you should consult the instructor.*** Proper citation procedures are provided in all standard writing manuals. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see the instructor.

Reading/Assignment Schedule: Readings should be completed prior to the weekly class. Please come to class having read the materials and ready to discuss them.

Week #1 (8/27/07 to 9/02/07) – Chapters 1-3 in Ehrman

Week #2 (9/3/07 to 9/09/07) – Chapters 4-7 in Ehrman Book

Week #3 (9/10/07 to 9/16/07) – Chapters 8-11 in Ehrman

Week #4 (9/17/07 to 9/23/07) – Ludwig Essays, 1-3

Week #5 (9/24/07 to 9/30/07) – Midterm Exam Due

Week #6 (10/1/07 to 10/07/07) – Chapters 12-14 in Ehrman

Week #7 (10/08/07 to 10/14/07) – Ludwig Essay 4, Galatians, & I Corinthians

Week #8 (10/15/07 to 10/21/07) – Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapters 15-16 in Ehrman, and Ludwig Essay 5

Week #9 (10/22/07 to 10/28/07) – Lengthy Essay on Paul Translated Due

Week #10 (10/29/07 to 11/04/07) – Ludwig, Essay 6

Week #11 (11/05/07 to 11/11/07) – First Half of Shea Book

Week #12 (11/12/07 to 11/18/07) – Last Half of Shea Book

December 5, 2007 – Final Exam due by 4:00 PM

WTC Schedule:

August 27 (M) – Week #1

September 10 (M) – Week #2

September 17 (M) – Week #3

September 24 (M) – Week #4

October 1 (M) – Week #5

October 15 (M) – Week #6

October 22 (M) – Week #7

October 29 (M) – Week #8

November 2 (M) – Week #9

November 9 (M) – Week #10

November 16 (M) – Week #11

November 30 (M) – Week #12

Joliet Cohort Schedule:

September 8 (Sat) – Weeks #1 and #2

September 22 (Sat) – Weeks #3 and #4

October 13 (Sat) – Weeks #5 and #6

October 27 (Sat) – Weeks #7 and #8

November 3 (Sat) – Weeks #9 and #10

November 17 (Sat) – Weeks #11 and #12