



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Te Kura Toirangi

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**RELI 250 STUDIES IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY: JESUS, THE
GOSPELS & THE COMING OF GOD**

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: HULT 323 Tuesday 13:10 – 15:00

Tutorials: tba

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Matthew Scott
KP 14 203

Tutor: Sophie Silvester
KP 14 / 103
sophie.silvester@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Alikali Kalliabetsos
KP 14 / 203
aliki.kalliabetsos@vuw.ac.nz
463 5299

Communication of additional information

Religious Studies is located at 14 Kelburn Parade. The programme administrator, Alik Kalliabetsos, is in room 203. Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office. Notices will also be communicated to students via emails sent from Blackboard.

NB. Students who do not use their assigned student.vuw.ac.nz email addresses should ensure that ITS has an up-to-date email address, and that they *check this address regularly*.

Prescription

An examination of the life, teaching and activity of Jesus of Nazareth, as presented in the New Testament gospels and viewed against the historical, religious and political backdrop of first-century Palestine.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. locate the ministry of Jesus in its proper historical context, and to explain those features of first-century Palestinian Judaism that emerge in the text of the gospels;
2. explain the distinctive character and structure of Mark's narrative, and the historical and theological significance of the fourfold gospel witness;
3. summarise and critically evaluate the fruits of modern gospel scholarship, with reference to a range of contemporary publications;
4. appreciate the significance of the "Christ-event" for shaping the Christian concept of God.

Teaching format

This course is delivered through a combination of lectures and tutorials. **The lecture programme** is described in the "Appendix to the Course Outline." Lectures may be changed from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur, and if necessary a revised programme will be issued at lectures.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Attend at least 7 out of 9 tutorials in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs in the course.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

For 20-point courses a student should, on average, spend 13 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials. The total workload for the course, including class time, should be approximately 200 hours.

Assessment

| Assessment items and workload per item | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|-----|------------|--------------|
| One essay of approximately 1,500 words Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours | 20% | 1, 2 | 14 August |
| One essay of approximately 2,500 words Recommended average time spent on this task: 30 hours | 30% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 2 October |
| Five tutorial assignments to be handed in at tutorials Recommended average time spent on this task: 40 hours (400 words each) | 15% | 1, 2, 3 | In tutorials |
| In-class test (duration: 1 hour 50 minutes) Recommended average time spent on this task: 100 hours | 25% | 1, 2, 3 | 13 October |

The assessment of this course relates to these objectives in the following ways:

The tutorial assignments are designed to facilitate student reflection on the required readings. These allow students to build their knowledge of the Christian tradition, and to develop skills in critical reading and analysis of primary and secondary material.

The essays will encourage students to pursue their own interests in the Christian tradition in an exploration of primary and secondary sources. Through the essays, students will be exposed first-hand to the issues raised in scholarly analysis and will develop the knowledge and the skills necessary to critically evaluate scholarly studies of materials they have studied for themselves.

The class test allows students to demonstrate their grasp of the material covered in the course and their understanding of the themes addressed, and creates an opportunity to review and reflect on what they have learned in the course as a whole.

Marking criteria.

Please note that essays will be marked according to the following **rubrics**:

- (1) **Argument**: Does the writer establish a clearly stated, persuasive *argument* that is *supported* by evidence and sub-arguments? Does it reflect sophisticated engagement with readings using skills developed in class?
- (2) **Writing Style and Clarity**: Is the writing lucid, cogent, and grammatically correct? Does it show evidence of revision and attention to detail?
- (3) **Technical requirements**: Does the essay conform to the assignment, with the appropriate word-count and correct citation format? Please see the "Appendix to Course Outline" for more specific information about writing assignments and requirements.

Submission and return of work

Essays are to be submitted both electronically to Blackboard and also to the essay box situated outside the Religious Studies office, KP 14 / 203. The register must be signed and dated when an essay is submitted. All essays will be submitted to the plagiarism-detection software Turnitin. Marked essays shall be returned two weeks from the date of submission and may be collected from the Religious Studies office.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

If a student requires an extension for any serious or medical reason they must apply for one as soon as practicably possible before the due date of the assessment in question

Penalties

Penalties for late essays / assignments:

- 2 per cent per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays
- Essays submitted late due to medical reasons must be given to the programme administrator accompanied by a doctor's or other appropriate certification.

Set texts

All of the readings shall be available on Blackboard

Recommended Text

Graham Stanton, *The Gospels and Jesus* Second edition (Oxford University Press, rev ed. 2002).

For a more "theological" perspective, see William C. Placher, *Jesus the Saviour: The Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001).

Students are also expected to read through the Gospel of Mark (preferably the NRSV translation), as well as the Gospel of Matthew chapters 5-7, the Gospel of Luke chapters 22-23, and the Gospel of John chapter 1.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

This course is evaluated by CAD. All student feedback from course evaluations is considered and any suggested improvements applied. Students responded positively to course content and delivery.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz