

Humanities 6: : Great People, Great Ages

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Spring 2001

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Hrs: TBA, Call for appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION: *General description:* An interdisciplinary course which covers leading figures and major cultural developments in an historical period, such as the Greek playwrights and 5th century Athens; Augustine and the Augustinian Age; Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and the Renaissance; Descartes to Kant and the Enlightenment; Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche and the 19th century, Heidegger and the 20th Century, etc.. The course can also focus on a major development or issue of a particular period, such as the problem of truth and the sacred as it developed in the 19th-20th centuries or the transition from modernism to postmodernism.

Title and Description of Spring 2001 course: Jesus, the New Testament and the Emergence of Christianity
Many books have been written on Jesus, arguably the single most important and influential person in Western Civilization. Most of these books do not provide the best evidence available on who Jesus was, how he lived, and what he believed. In this course we will read some of the best scholarship available on the life and times of Jesus, the New Testament, and other early Christian writings, together with a creative biography of Jesus by a leading Bible scholar and scholar of Aramaic and Greek, and the long awaited translation of the New Testament by Richard Lattimore, the most well respected living translator of ancient Greek (known especially for his translations of Homer).

- Note:** 1. If you drop the class, do so officially or you may receive an automatic F for the course.
2. I no longer give incompletes, but I will accept late work in some cases. If work is not completed by the end of the semester a grade will be given which can be changed within 2 years.
3. You are subject to automatic exclusion if you miss 2 weeks of class.
4. If you come to class late or leave early, please sit in the rear of the class. Seats there should be otherwise left empty.
5. **Beepers and cell phones** should be turned off before entering class.
6. Please see me first for help or complaints.
7. This outline is a basic guide and is subject to revision. Follow announcements in class about any changes.

- TEXTS:** 1. Chilton, Bruce, *Rabbi Jesus*, Doubleday, 2000 (C)
2. Ehrman, Bart, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 2nd ed., Oxford, 2000. (E1)
3. Lattimore, Richard, *The New Testament*, Holtsping/Northpoint Press, 1997 (L)
4. Helms, Randel, *Who Wrote the Gospels?* Millennium Press, 1998. (H)
5. *New Oxford Annotated Bible*, Revised Standard Edition with Apocrypha, Oxford Univ. Press, 2001.
6. *The Gospel of Thomas: The Hidden Sayings of Jesus*, Harper Collins, 1992. (T)

GRADING: 1) Two essay exams: each essay 3-5 standard typed pages, 100 pts. each. 2) A journal of collected favorite passages from your reading briefly saying why each passage both represents a major issue raised in the text and was particularly meaningful for you. Late journals and exams are not graded until the end of the semester. Thoughtful, informed class participation and perfect or near perfect attendance may raise the grade.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Reading Assignment DUE</u> |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 2/8 | Introduction | |
| 2/15 | Rabbi Jesús, Early Charistians | C Ch 1-5, E1 Ch1-2, & Ch 29 |
| 2/22 | Rabbi Jesús, Traditions of Jesus, The Gospels | C Ch 6-10, E1 Ch 3-4 |
| 3/1 | Rabbi Jesús, Mark | C Ch 11-14, E1Ch 5-6 |
| 3/8 | Mark | L Mark, E1 Ch 5, H 1-2 |
| FIRST JOURNALS DUE 3/15 | | |
| 3/15 | Matthew | L Matthew, E1 Ch7, H 3 |
| 3/22 | Luke | L Luke, E1Ch 8, H Ch 4-5 |
| 3/29 | Acts | L Acts, E1 Ch 9, H |
| 4/5 | John | L John, E1 Ch 10, H 7-8 |
| 4/12 | Spring Break | |
| FIRST ESSAYS DUE 4/19 | | |
| 4/19 | Johannine Epistles, Gnosticism | L E1 Ch 11, H 9 |
| 4/26 | Thomas and Other Gospels, the Historical Jesus | E1 Ch 12-13, H 6, T all |
| 5/3 | Miracles, Jesús in Context | E1 Ch 14-15, T all |
| SECOND JOURNAL DUE 5/10 | | |
| 5/10 | Jesus, the Apocalyptic Prophet | E 1 Ch 16-17, T all |
| 5/17 | Paul | E 1 Ch 18-19 |
| 5/24 | Paul | L Letters, E1Ch 20-24 |
| 5/31 | Christians, Jews, Pagans, Xtian & Cosmos | E 1 Ch 25-28 |
| FINAL ESSAYS AND JOURNALS DUE on or before 6/4 | | |