

SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION 27: THE HISTORICAL JESUS
FALL 2008

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SCTR 027.43383
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Required Books:

- Robert J. Miller (and Robert W. Funk), ed. *The Complete Gospels: Annotated Scholar's Version*, 3d rev. ed. Sonoma, California: Polebridge Press, 1998; original 1992, 1994. [ISBN 0-944344-49-6] [\$32.00/\$24.00]
- Robert E. Van Voorst. *Jesus Outside the New Testament: An Introduction to the Ancient Evidence, Studying the Historical Jesus*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans, 2000. [ISBN 0-8028-4368-9] [\$28.00/\$21.00]
- Catherine M. Murphy. *The Historical Jesus for Dummies*. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley, 2008. [ISBN 978-0-470-16785-4] [\$16.99/\$12.75]
- Amy-Jill Levine. *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006. [ISBN 0-06-113778-2] [\$13.95/\$10.45]

Recommended Book:

- Kurt Aland, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1983. [ISBN 0-8267-0500-6] [\$25.00/\$18.75]

Course Description

This course examines the life of Jesus of Nazareth. As straightforward as this sounds, it is actually a complex task. To begin with, each of us brings our own preconceptions, beliefs and interests to project. The ancient sources are no different; each of them has a particular perspective shaped by experiences and reflections several decades after Jesus' life. To work from such sources back to the life of Jesus, we have to examine the nature and socio-political context of our sources, expand our perspective to include Christian books outside the Bible and non-Christian testimony about Jesus, study contemporary standards of evidence, and analyze how these have been applied to the gospels since the Enlightenment. The final week of the course takes a critical look at the quest for the historical Jesus itself – from the perspective of an orthodox Jewish feminist scholar.

Purpose of the Core Course in Religious Studies

At Santa Clara University, the study of religious belief and practice in various cultural contexts (including your own) is one of the central features of the Core Curriculum. This has always been important in Jesuit Catholic education, which is why you'll end up taking three Religious Studies courses with us. But the purpose of these Core courses isn't to make you believe certain teachings or to limit your inquiry to one tradition. Religious Studies at Santa Clara is broader, deeper, and more analytical than you might expect. In this second course, we want you to think deeply and critically about complex religious phenomena, like scripture and the evolving theological beliefs about Jesus, from different disciplinary approaches (in this class, we'll draw on history, archaeology, literary analysis, theology, political and economic theory). The heavy emphasis on the social sciences in this class will help us to consider how Jesus himself was embedded in a specific history and culture, just as every subsequent interpretation of him has been. We hope that this approach will help you to negotiate a world in which religion matters, but in very different ways to different peoples.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Trace and analyze several traditions about the historical Jesus
- Evaluate the historicity of a popular claim about Jesus
- Integrate and compare different disciplinary approaches to the historical Jesus
- Clarify and express your own beliefs about the historical Jesus and the Christ of faith

How to Prepare for Class

Reading and Study Prior to Class

The readings listed under each day's topics should be read before that class. They will provide the basis for our class discussion. Readings listed as "primary" are those from the past (e.g., the New Testament, the Jewish and Roman sources), while those listed as "secondary" are from modern scholars. There is a class prep page on the course Web site for each day's class. It introduces you to the readings and offers questions to help focus on the most important issues. Take a look at these before you do the reading so you know what to pay attention to; this will help you participate in class and prepare effectively for quizzes and exams.

Where to Find the Readings

Most of our primary readings are in the gospels (canonical and non-canonical ones), and you'll find these in *The Complete Gospels*, one of our major texts (it's in the bookstore and on reserve in the library – just go to the Circulation Desk, and ask for the resource you need for SCTR 27, Prof. Murphy). Most of the secondary readings will be in our other two course textbooks, the professor's *The Historical Jesus for Dummies* and A.-J. Levine's *The Misunderstood Jew*. Occasionally, though, the reading won't be in one of those four books, but on electronic reserve (ERes) instead. You can access these essays from any computer on or off campus by going to <http://eres.scu.edu>, searching for our course by its number (SCTR 27) or the prof's name (C. Murphy), and typing our course password, "synoptic" (you can also click on the ERes button on our course Web site, which takes you straight to the password page).

Questions, Lecture and Discussion

Each class will begin with questions about the readings, yours for the professor and the professor's for you (there will be occasional, unannounced quizzes). There will be some lecture each day on the core material from the reading, step-by-step practice at analyzing the source material, and plenty of opportunities for you to seek clarification from the professor and each other.

Assessment and Grading

Grade Components and Scale

Class Participation (oral participation 20%, group presentation 10%, attendance 5%)	35%
Quizzes & Exams (3 quizzes @ 5% each, midterm 20%)	35%
Research Paper (submitted in stages)	30%

Scale

93.5–100	A	86.7–89.9	B+	76.7–79.9	C+	66.7–69.9	D+
90.0–93.4	A-	83.3–86.6	B	73.3–76.6	C	63.3–66.6	D
		80.0–83.2	B-	70.0–73.2	C-	60.0–63.2	D-

Oral Participation & Attendance

Class participation is a critical part of this course. It includes your informed oral remarks in class – during formal lectures, open discussion periods, team break-outs, and class discussion. In order to participate, you've got to come to class (see the attendance policy below) and bring the readings, your questions and required assignments with you. Your informed oral comments and questions, based on your reading and reflection, are a substantial contribution to your classmates, so they count for 20% of your entire grade. Attendance counts for 5% of your grade (25% of your grade total).

Group Presentation

In the second week, you'll be asked to choose two team members. At some point in weeks 6-9, you and your partner(s) will introduce one of the contemporary historical Jesus scholars and lead the class in a discussion of their work. On one side of a sheet of paper, you'll prepare an outline listing their name, principle books, and the features of their method for reconstructing Jesus (sources and criteria they privilege, *a priori* assumptions). On a second sheet, you'll outline the chief features of their portrait of Jesus. If you bring the two pages to the professor by noon on the day of your presentation, she will take care of copying it for the class; otherwise, please prepare one double-sided copy for each student. Please note: other assignments may be due on the date of your presentation, so plan ahead – no extensions will be given. 10% of grade.

Research Paper

There will be one major 10-page research paper associated with this course. You will be free to choose a topic that interests you, as well as an approach (exegetical, thematic, historical). Suggestions will be offered online on the course Web site (click on "Research"). There are several required stages of the paper, listed below. The final paper replaces a final exam (scheduled for Tuesday night, December 9) and will be due the morning after by 10:00 a.m. (December 10). Of course, you can submit it earlier as well. The paper will not be graded unless and until both the hard copy and soft copy are submitted: the hard (paper) copy to the professor, and the soft (electronic) copy to www.TurnItIn.com. 30% of grade.

Topic statement & working bibliography	4th week	Thursday, October 16
Outline	8th week	Thursday, November 13
Conversation with Professor	9th week	Mon-Wed, November 17-19
Final paper (put in folder with earlier stages) due by 10:00 a.m. to Kenna 323B; submit an electronic copy to TurnItIn.com by midnight	11th week	Wednesday, December 10

Quizzes & Examinations

Three reading quizzes are scheduled during the quarter. These quizzes will be brief (roughly 20 minutes), and are intended to help you keep up with the readings. 15% of grade.

One midterm exam is scheduled. It is cumulative of material covered up to that point in the course, and you will have the full class period to complete it. 20% of grade.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be posted online at "Extra Credit Events" periodically throughout the quarter. To receive extra credit, attend the event, write a 2-3 page summary and evaluation, and turn it in within one week of the event. Alternatively, you could do a 2-3 page research précis of any question that comes up in class, exploring 3 professional sources to compose a response to the student's question. Directions for the paper can be found online at "Extra Credit Events." 3% of grade max, only applicable if all required assignments have been submitted.

Policies

Attendance

If you're sick or something comes up, please notify the professor in advance or within a week of the missed class. *Remember: You're not doing yourself or anyone else any favors if you come to class sick – you can always make up the work.* Notifying the prof means that the absence is excused; it's unexcused and counts more against your grade if you don't let the prof know. After the first excused absence, and for all unexcused absences, your attendance and class participation grades will be affected. At two or more unexcused absences (10+% of the course) your entire grade for the course begins to drop. Five unexcused absences (25% of course) will result in a failing grade. Daily roll will be taken. 5% of grade +.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to collaborate to share ideas, resources, and questions, particularly in small-group work, group presentations and exam preparation. This sharing becomes cheating or plagiarism when you present as original the insights or work of another. It thus includes copying someone else's work without attribution, whether the source is a friend, a book, or the web. Work on extra credit, exams and your research paper is expected to be original to you. That does not mean that every idea and insight you write about will be your own. What it does mean is that your assignments should be guided by your insights and, when you do rely on an authority other than yourself, you note that reliance through standard footnotes and bibliography (see the online "Research Tips" and "Style Sheet" at the course Web site). If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing on a required assignment, you will receive an "F" on the assignment and in the course, and the matter will be forwarded for further action to the Office of Student Leadership.

Disability Accommodation Policy

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources at the outset of the quarter. The Disability Resources Office is located in Benson Center, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445.

Wk	Date	Pages of Reading	Topic of Lecture & Discussion
1	9/23		INTRODUCTIONS
			UNIT 1. THE QUESTS FOR THE HISTORICAL JESUS
	9/25	[34]	THE QUEST FOR THE HISTORICAL JESUS <u>Primary Reading:</u> Gospel of Mark <u>Secondary Reading:</u> Levine, <i>A Misunderstood Jew</i> 17-41 <u>Optional Reading:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 33-46
2	9/30	[34]	THE FIRST QUEST & ITS COLLAPSE <u>Secondary Reading:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 47-56; Excerpts from Reimarus, Strauss and Wrede (from Dawes, <i>The Historical Jesus Quest</i> , pp. 73-7, 96-104, 114-20, 148-50 - ERes); online class prep ⇒ <i>Choose Group for Presentation</i>
	10/2	[17]	THE SECOND & THIRD QUESTS <u>Secondary Reading:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 56-60; Excerpts from Bultmann and Käsemann (from Dawes, <i>The Historical Jesus Quest</i> , pp. 244-7, 260-64, 279-83 - ERes); online class prep
			UNIT 2. THE SOURCES THAT MENTION JESUS
3	10/7	[36]	JESUS IN GREEK & ROMAN SOURCES <u>Primary/Secondary:</u> Van Voorst, <i>JONT</i> 19-53; online class prep <u>Optional:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 75-76; Van Voorst, <i>JONT</i> 1-17, 53-74 ⇒ <i>Quiz #1</i>
	10/9	[30]	JESUS IN JEWISH SOURCES OUTSIDE THE NEW TESTAMENT <u>Primary/Secondary:</u> Van Voorst, <i>JONT</i> 75-104; online class prep <u>Optional:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 73-75
4	10/14	[33]	SOURCES OF THE CANONICAL CHRISTIAN TEXTS <u>Primary/Secondary:</u> Van Voorst, <i>JONT</i> 135-69; online class prep <u>Optional:</u> CG has isolated Q and the Signs gospel for you; feel free to refer to it if it's helpful; see also Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 61-8
	10/16	[30]	NON-BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN SOURCES <u>Primary:</u> <i>Gospel of Thomas</i> logia 1-25, 53-56, 109-114 (CG 305-310, 313-14, 322); <i>Gospel of Mary</i> 6-10 (CG 363-66); <i>Gospel of Peter</i> (CG 399-408) <u>Secondary:</u> Van Voorst, <i>JONT</i> 179-89, 201-217; Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 65-66 (on the <i>Gospel of Thomas</i>), 68-73; online class prep ⇒ <i>Research Paper Topic Statement & Working Bibliography due</i>
			UNIT 3. POLITICAL & SOCIAL CONTEXT
5	10/21	[25]	ROMAN PALESTINE: THE POLITICAL CONTEXT OF JESUS' MINISTRY <u>Secondary:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 81-91, 113-26; online class prep
	10/23	[32]	JUDAISMS OF JESUS' DAY <u>Primary:</u> Josephus, <i>War</i> 2.8.2-14 (ERes) <u>Secondary:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 93-112; online class prep <u>Group Presentation:</u> E. P. Sanders
6	10/28		⇒ <i>MIDTERM EXAM</i>

Wk	Date	Pages of Reading	Topic of Lecture & Discussion
UNIT 4. GOSPEL EXEGESIS			
6	10/30	[40]	JESUS'S INFANCY, CHILDHOOD <u>Primary:</u> Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2; <i>Infancy Gospel of James</i> 17-20 (CG 391-94); <i>Infancy Gospel of Thomas</i> 1-8 (CG 371-75) <u>Secondary:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 129-46; online class prep <u>Group Presentations:</u> Marcus Borg, Robert Funk
7	11/4	[25]	BAPTISM & THE BEGINNINGS OF A MOVEMENT <u>Primary:</u> Mark 1:7-13; 2:13-17; 3:13-19; Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:40-41; Synopses §18-Baptism, §20-Temptation (ERes) <u>Secondary:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 147-60; online class prep <u>Group Presentations:</u> John P. Meier, Pope Benedict XVI
	11/6	[40]	PREACHING THE RULE OF GOD <u>Primary:</u> Mark 1:14-15; Synopses §20-Temptation (ERes); Mark 1:14-15; Q 6:20-49; 7:24-28; 12:2-12; Mark 4:26-32; Matthew 13:24-30, 44-50; 17:24-27; 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-37; Mark 11:1-10; 12:13-17; 13:3-8 <u>Secondary:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 161-78; online class prep <u>Group Presentations:</u> Jesus Seminar, Luke Timothy Johnson ⇒ <i>Quiz #2</i>
8	11/11	[30]	MANIFESTING THE NEW AGE: JESUS'S MIRACLES <u>Primary:</u> John 2:1-11; Q 7:1-10; Mark 1:23-34, 40-45; 2:1-12; 3:1-6; 4:35-5:43; 6:32-44; 8:22-26; John 11:1-44 <u>Secondary:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 179-94; online class prep <u>Group Presentations:</u> N. T. Wright, Bart D. Ehrman
	11/13	[40]	OPPOSITION, FINAL DAYS & EXECUTION <u>Primary:</u> Luke 4:16-30; Mark 3:1-6; 8:27-9:10; John 11:1-12:26; Mark 11:1-19; 12:18-34; Q 12:41-46; Mark 14:1-17, 22-25; 14:32-15:47 <u>Secondary:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 197-238; online class prep <u>Group Presentations:</u> John Dominic Crossan, Amy-Jill Levine ⇒ <i>Outline of Research Paper due</i>
9	11/17-19		⇒ <i>On Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday you'll meet with the professor for 5-15 minutes to discuss your research paper</i>
	11/18	[38]	FROM JESUS TO CHRIST <u>Primary:</u> Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-20; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-21:25 <u>Secondary:</u> Murphy, <i>HJFD</i> 239-56; Levine, <i>A Misunderstood Jew</i> 53-72; online class prep <u>Group Presentation:</u> Paula Fredriksen ⇒ <i>Quiz #3</i>
	11/20	[-]	CLASS CANCELLED <i>The professor will be traveling to Boston for the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. It's recommended that you use the time you gain here to work on your research.</i>
	11/24-28		<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>

UNIT 5. A JEWISH CRITIQUE OF HISTORICAL JESUS WORK

- 10 12/2 [30] A JEWISH CRITIQUE OF HISTORICAL JESUS WORK
Secondary: Levine, *A Misunderstood Jew* 87-117; online class prep
- 12/4 [36] A JEWISH CRITIQUE OF HISTORICAL JESUS WORK; COURSE EVALUATIONS
Secondary: Levine, *A Misunderstood Jew* 119-57; online class prep
- 11 12/10 ⇒ *Research Papers due to my office (Kenna 323B) or my mailbox (Kenna 323) by 10:00 a.m.; You must also submit an electronic copy to TurnItIn.com by midnight tonight in order for the assignment to count toward your final grade.*