Instructor: Shelly Matthews, Professor of New Testament

Description of Content: This introductory course for Master’s level students is designed to lay a foundation for lifelong critical and constructive interpretation of the New Testament. The course will provide a historical introduction to the writings of early Jesus followers contained within the New Testament, along with related sources from the first and second centuries of the common era. It will introduce students to tools for interpreting the New Testament, provide practice in close reading of biblical texts, and offer opportunity for reflection on reading the New Testament from a variety of critical perspectives.

Class Procedures: Lecture and discussion

Requirements: This course will incorporate a modified contract grading procedure, with different levels of requirements for those pursuing different grade levels.

a) Requirements for students to pass at the B, C or D level:
   1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
   2. Occasional pop quizzes on the daily reading
   3. Mid Term Exam and Final Exam
   4. Two exegesis papers (4-6 pages each)

b) Requirements for students to pass the course at the A level

   Requirements 1-4 listed above and

   5. Ten, one-page responses to assigned readings.

Texts: Required

1) Any Annotated Version of the NRSV with Apocrypha (Oxford Annotated, Harper Collins, New Interpreter’s Study Bible, etc)


Recommended: The following books will be on reserve at the library. Some students may be interested in purchasing one or more of them for their own libraries.


5) Bart Ehrman, *A Brief Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd edition. Oxford, 2008. ISBN-10: 0199740313. $22.95. [Note a third edition of this is also available, but students are advised to seek out the less expensive 2nd addition, which works equally well, and should be less costly]


**Grading Procedures:** this course will operate on a contract grading policy.

**Grading for those wishing to pass the course:**
1) Must score at 60% or better on the following items:
   Class Participation; Mid term and final exams; Two exegesis papers

**Grading for those contracting at the C level:**
1) Must score at 60% or better on the following items
   Mid-term exam; first exegesis paper
2) Must score at 70% or better on the following items:
   Class Participation; Quizzes; final exam; final exegesis papers

**Grading at the B level:**
1) Must score at 70% or better on the following items:
   Mid-term exam; First exegesis paper
2) Must score at 80% or better on the following items:
   Class Participation; Quizzes; final exam; final exegesis paper

**Grading at the A level:**
1) Must score at 80% or better on the following items:
   Mid-term exam, first exegesis paper
2) Must score at 90% or better on the following items:
   Class participation; Quizzes; final exam; final exegesis paper
3) Must turn in 10 typewritten response papers related to class readings