

**The King's University**  
**BIBL5305 - The Life of Jesus in Historical Context**  
**Dr. John Spurling**  
**817-552-3776**  
**Fall Semester 2015**

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on a multifaceted examination of the life and teachings of Jesus. An emphasis will be placed on the significance of references to Jesus through history including the incarnation and humanity of Jesus as a “typical” rabbi of the Second Temple period. Also, this course will trace the significant events in Jesus life and their impact on the fulfillment of prophecy.

**Course Purposes:**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course participants will be able to:

- A. develop a living portrait of the historical Jesus from the biblical text and other related sources.
- B. explore the various human characteristics of Jesus as a Jewish rabbi from the second temple period.
- C. gain insight into the teaching ministry of Jesus, through a detailed examination of the world of Jesus.
- D. understand the setting of Christ's life with its social, political, and spiritual aspects.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course participants will have:

- A. Understood the value of Christ's incarnation to humanity and the overall Kingdom of God.
- B. Realize the universal and personal importance of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ.
- C. Comprehend how Christ responded to the many different elements of society in which He lived.
- D. Know how to model the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord, God, King, Master and Savior in their life and ministry.

**Required Text:**

Sweet, Leonard and Viola, Frank. *Jesus: A Theography*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2012. 412 pages.

Keener, Craig. *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2009. 831 pages. (selected readings)

\* *Additional reading assignments provided by the Professor during the semester.*

### **Recommended Reading:**

Wilson, Marvin. *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publisher, 1990. 395 pages.

Stein, Robert H. *Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ*. IVP Academic, 1996. 290 pages.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic Publishing, 2009. 512 pages. (selected pages).

### **Course Requirements:**

- A. **Book Critiques:** Read the assigned pages in the required reading and provide a three-page, typed, double-spaced critic of the books. **Due Date: October 28<sup>th</sup>.**
- B. **Online Video Assignments:** View a series of two or three video teachings assignments and write a 500-750 word reaction for EACH teaching. **Due Date: Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
- C. **Mid-Term Exam:** An examination of the first seven weeks of this course will be given during the week of **September 28<sup>th</sup> - October 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
- D. **Jesus Teaching Research Project:** Complete a biblical review and evidence supporting the rabbinic teaching methodology used by Jesus. **Due Date: Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.**
- E. **Research Paper:** Write a 14-16 page paper on a selected topic from a specific topic option provided by the professor. **Due Date: Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.**
- F. **Final Exam:** An examine covering the second half of course content will be given during finals week.

### **Course Evaluation:**

A. Book Critiques	10%
B. Online Video Assignment	10%
C. Mid-Term Exam	20%

D. Jesus Teaching Method Research Project	10%
E. Research Paper	20%
F. Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

**Cell Phone and Internet Class Policy:** All students are to refrain from any cell phone usage during class. Also, to enhance the learning experience, do not engage in personal internet activity during class time unless instructed by the professor. Computers should be used for note taking ONLY during class.

### **Life of Jesus Class Bibliography**

Allison, Dale C. *Constructing Jesus: Memory, Imagination, and History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Historical Christ and the Theological Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2009.

Bader, Gershom. *The Encyclopedia of Talmudic Sages*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1988.

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2006.

Beilby, James K., and Paul R. Eddy. *The Historical Jesus: Five Views*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

Bird, Michael F. *Jesus Is the Christ: The Messianic Testimony of the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012.

Bivin, David. *New Light on the Difficult Words of Jesus: Insights from His Jewish Context*. En-Gedi Resource Center, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Understanding the Difficult Words of Jesus: New Insights from a Hebrew Perspective*. Treasure House, 1994.

Blizzard, Roy B., Dr. *Mishnah and the Words of Jesus*. Austin, TX: Bible Scholars, 2013.

Blomberg, Craig, and Jennifer Foutz. Markley. *A Handbook of New Testament Exegesis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2007.

- \_\_\_\_\_. *Interpreting the Parables*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Preaching the Parables: From Responsible Interpretation to Powerful Proclamation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Bock, Darrell L., and Gregory J. Herrick. *Jesus in Context: Background Readings for Gospel Study*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_., and Mitch Glaser. *The Gospel According to Isaiah 53: Encountering the Suffering Servant in Jewish and Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2012.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Who Is Jesus?: Linking the Historical Jesus with the Christ of Faith*. New York: Howard, 2012.
- \_\_\_\_\_., and Robert L. Webb. *Key Events in the Life of Historical Jesus: A Collaborative Exploration of Context and Coherence*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2010.
- Booker, Richard. *No Longer Strangers: Rediscovering the Chosen People and the Jewish Roots of Christianity*. Woodlands, TX: Sounds of the Trumpet, 2002.
- Borg, Marcus J., and N. T. Wright. *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2007.
- Bowman, Robert M., and J. Ed. Komoszewski. *Putting Jesus in His Place: The Case for the Deity of Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2007.
- Boyarin, Daniel. *The Jewish Gospels: The Story of the Jewish Christ*. New York: New, 2012.
- Boyd, Gregory A., and Paul R. Eddy. *Lord or Legend?: Wrestling with the Jesus Dilemma*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2010.
- Burge, Gary M. *Encounters with Jesus: Uncover the Ancient Culture, Discover Hidden Meanings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus and the Land: The New Testament Challenge to "Holy Land" Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus, the Middle Eastern Storyteller: Uncover the Ancient Culture, Discover Hidden Meanings*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.

- Buxbaum, Yitzhak. *The Life and Teachings of Hillel*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004.
- Charlesworth, James H. *The Historical Jesus: An Essential Guide*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2008.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus and Archaeology*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2006.
- Chilton, Bruce, and Jacob Neusner. *Judaism in the New Testament: Practices and Beliefs*. London: Routledge, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography*. New York: Image, 2002.
- Cohen, Abraham. *Everyman's Talmud: The Major Teachings of the Rabbinic Sages*. BN Publishing, 2007.
- Dunn, James D. G. *A New Perspective on Jesus: What the Quest for the Historical Jesus Missed*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Partings of the Ways: Between Christianity and Judaism and Their Significance for the Character of Christianity*. 2nd ed. London: SCM, 2006.
- Eddy, Paul R., and Gregory A. Boyd. *The Jesus Legend: A Case for the Historical Reliability of the Synoptic Jesus Tradition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and times of Jesus the Messiah*. McLean, VA: MacDonald, 1886.
- Edwards, James R. *The Hebrew Gospel and the Development of the Synoptic Tradition*. Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2009.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *Misquoting Jesus: The Story behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2007.
- Evans, Craig A. *Fabricating Jesus: How Modern Scholars Distort the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *From Jesus to the Church: The First Christian Generation*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox, 2014.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The World of Jesus and the Early Church: Identity and Interpretation in Early Communities of Faith*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2011.

- Falk, Harvey. *Jesus the Pharisee: A New Look at the Jewishness of Jesus*. Eugene, Or.: Wipf and Stock, 1985.
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- Flusser, David, and Azzan Yadin. *Judaism of the Second Temple Period*. Vol. 2. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009.
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- Fredriksen, Paula. *From Jesus to Christ: The Origins of the New Testament Images of Jesus*. 2nd ed. New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 2000.
- Freyne, Seán. *Jesus, a Jewish Galilean: A New Reading of the Jesus Story*. London: T & T Clark, 2004.
- Frymer-Kensky, Tikva Simone. *Christianity on Jewish Terms*. Boulder, CO: Westview, 2002.
- Gordon, Nehemia. *The Hebrew Yeshua vs. the Greek Jesus: New Light on the Seat of Moses from Shem-Tov's Hebrew Matthew*. Chicago: Hilkiyah, 2005.
- Howard, Kevin, and Marvin J. Rosenthal. *The Feasts of the Lord*. Orlando, FL: Zion's Hope, 1997.
- Hunt, Steven A., and Marvin R. Wilson. *Perspectives on Our Father Abraham: Essays in Honor of Marvin R. Wilson*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2010.
- Jeremias, Joachim, and K. C. Hanson. *Jesus and the Message of the New Testament*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2002.
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- Johns, Loren L., and James H. Charlesworth. *Hillel and Jesus: Comparative Studies of Two Major Religious Leaders*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997.

- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Brother of Jesus, Friend of God: Studies in the Letter of James*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2004.
- Juster, Daniel C. *Jewish Roots: A Foundation of Biblical Theology*. Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image, 1995.
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- Keener, Craig S. *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2009.
- Keith, Chris, and Larry W. Hurtado. *Jesus among Friends and Enemies: A Historical and Literary Introduction to Jesus in the Gospels*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Keller, Timothy J. *Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions*. New York, NY: Penguin Group, 2013.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God*. New York, NY: Riverhead, 2013.
- Kendall, R. T. *The Parables of Jesus: A Guide to Understanding and Applying the Stories Jesus Taught*. Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen, 2008.
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Wilson, Marvin R. *Exploring Our Hebraic Heritage: A Christian Theology of Roots and Renewal*.

Witherington, Ben. *The Indelible Image: The Theological and Ethical Thought World of the New Testament: Volume One: The Individual Witness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_. *What Have They Done with Jesus?: Beyond Strange Theories and Bad History -- Why We Can Trust the Bible*. New York: HarperOne, 2007.

Wright, N. T., and N. T. Wright. *The Last Word: Beyond the Bible Wars to a New Understanding of the Authority of Scripture*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.

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