

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: HUMAN 10.2    Title: EARLY CHRISTIAN LIT  
Full Title: Early Christian Literature  
Last Reviewed: 5/13/2019

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable  
Grading: Grade or P/NP  
Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP  
Also Listed As:  
Formerly: HUMAN 10B

**Catalog Description:**  
An historical-critical study of the origins and early development of Christianity, by investigating the whole range of Christian texts from the first two centuries against the background of comparative Jewish and Greco-Roman literature and archaeology.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: An historical-critical study of the origins and early development of Christianity, by investigating the whole range of Christian texts from the first two centuries against the background of comparative Jewish and Greco-Roman literature and archaeology (Grade or P/NP)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:  
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1981	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1981	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Account for the foreign and sometimes difficult structure of biblical narrative.
2. Distinguish between the assumptions and hermeneutic techniques of traditional biblical exegesis and the methodology and conclusions of modern biblical criticism.
3. Delineate critically and aesthetically the distinctive portraits of the life and teachings of Jesus in the Gospel accounts.
4. Describe and explain the contribution of Paul to the growth of the early Church over and against the complex cultural background of the Hellenistic Roman world.
5. Discuss the centrality of the contemporary quest of the historical Jesus in the development of modern biblical criticism.
6. Describe the connection between Orthodox and Gnostic Christianity and the process of scriptural canonization.

### **Topics and Scope:**

1. Contrasting traditional and modern critical methods of interpretation
2. The Greek conquest and Hellenism, its impact on Judaism, the Septuagint
3. Antiochus IV and the Maccabean Revolt
4. Daniel and the birth of apocalyptic eschatology
5. The development of Roman dominance; occupation of Israel
6. Source Criticism: the four-source theory of the synoptics, Q
7. Form and redaction criticism and access to oral tradition
8. Paul's life, missions and letters

9. Johannine literature and theology
10. Catholic and pastoral letters in the canon; letters of Clement and Ignatius
11. Instruction and liturgical literature: Hebrews and the Didache
12. Gnosticism and Gnostic-oriented Gospels: e.g. Mary, Thomas, Judas
13. Christian apocalyptic literature: e. g. Revelation, Shepherd of Hermas.
14. Women in early Christianity
15. Institutionalization and canonization
16. The history and current state of "The Quest for the Historical Jesus"

### Assignment:

1. Regular reading assignments of 40-70 pages per week from course texts.
2. Critical response essays of 2-3 pages which will interpret and evaluate biblical texts and integrate the observations of contemporary New Testament scholarship.
3. One or more midterm examinations based on individual units, e.g. the Gospels and Pauline Literature.
4. A final examination based on classroom lecture/discussion and the critical text book for the course.
5. A research paper of 5-7 pages requiring the student to report and evaluate 3 or more scholarly interpretations of a biblical passage.

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Reading reports and essays

Writing  
25 - 70%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Analytical interpretations

Problem solving  
10 - 25%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances, performance exams, oral presentations

Skill Demonstrations  
10 - 25%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, true/false, matching items, text analysis

Exams  
10 - 30%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Class and participation

Other Category  
0 - 5%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

A Brief Introduction to the New Testament. Ehrman, Bart. Oxford University Press: 2004.  
The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings, 3rd Edition.  
Ehrman, Bart. Oxford University Press: 2004.  
The Complete Gospels, 2nd Ed. Miller, Robert J. Polebridge Press: 1994.  
The Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature. Casiday, Augustine, Young, Frances,  
Ayres, Lewis and Louth, Andrew. Cambridge University Press: 2007.