RELS 22 Course Outline as of Fall 2013

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: RELS 22   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 10.2

Catalog Description:
An historical-critical study of the origins and early development of Christianity by investigating a range of Christian texts from the first two centuries against the background of comparative Jewish and Greco-Roman cultural contexts.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: An historical-critical study of the origins and early development of Christianity by investigating a range of Christian texts from the first two centuries against the background of comparative Jewish and Greco-Roman cultural contexts. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent
Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	**Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1981	
IGETC:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1981	

CSU Transfer: Transferable   Effective: Fall 1981   Inactive:

UC Transfer: Transferable   Effective: Fall 1981   Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Locate on a continuum the Christological content of Christian Gospels, Letters, Acts and Apocalypses both within and outside of the New Testament.
2. Summarize and evaluate the evidence for the historical Jesus.
3. Explain and assess the canonical process and the triumph of Orthodoxy.

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 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. Weekly reading assignments of between 20-50 pages
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. 2-4 exams of objective or essay or combined format
4. Final exam (objective, essay or a combination)
5. A research paper of 5-7 pages
6. Optional field trips and oral presentations

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, research paper and essays	Writing 25 - 60%

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

Analytical interpretations: Class performances or performance exams	Problem solving 10 - 25%

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

None	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%

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

Multiple choice, true/false, matching items, text analysis	Exams 20 - 40%

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

Classroom participation, optional: oral presentations, reports on interviews, museum visits, or field trips.

Other Category 0 - 10%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings, 3rd Edition. Ehrman, Bart. Oxford University Press: 2004 (Classic).

The Complete Gospels, 2nd Ed. Miller, Robert J. Polebridge Press: 1994 (Classic).

The Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature. Casiday, Augustine, Young, Frances, Ayres, Lewis and Louth, Andrew. Cambridge University Press: 2007.

Did Jesus Exist? The Historical Argument for Jesus of Nazareth. Ehrman, Bart. HarperOne, 2012