

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Religious Studies 1028/2227 Spring 2012

Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospels

Time: Monday: 2:30 - 4:30
Wednesday: 2:30 - 3:30 **Location:** Room 304

Course Director: Dr. Theresa O'Donovan **Office:** 177
Phone Number: 432-8353 (ext: 28243) **Office Hours:** Mon. 12:30 - 1:30;
e-mail: todonova@uwo.ca Tues. 11:30 - 12:30; Thurs. 11:30 - 12:30
(or by appointment)

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to New Testament studies. It will introduce the documents that make up the New Testament, but focus on the gospels: their content, literary features, major themes and distinctive theological emphases. This exploration of the New Testament literature includes a study of contemporary tools of biblical scholarship and of the socio-cultural world in which the gospels were written.

3 hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisites for 1026: The former Religious Studies 145 and all 1020 level Religious Studies courses except Religious Studies 1026F/G and 1029.

Antirequisites for 2227: Religious Studies 1028F/G, 2202F/G and 2212F/G.

Course Requirements - 1028:

Article Review	15%	Mid Term Test	25%
Presentation and Paper	25%	Final Exam	35%

Course Requirements - 2227:

Four 2–3 page Reflection Papers	20%	Mid Term Test	25%
Presentation and Paper	20%	Final Exam	35%

Required Texts:

- Stephen Harris, *Understanding the Bible*, 8th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2011.
- Any recent scholarly edition of the bible such as The New American Bible, The New English Bible, The New Revised Standard Version, The New Jerusalem Bible. Paraphrases of the Hebrew scriptures are not acceptable. A link to an on-line New Revised Standard Version can be found on WebCT.

Description of Requirements:

Article Review (15%) – RS 1028 Only

This task requires that you find, read and review a recent article relating to some aspect of New Testament studies from the list of scholarly journals below. Spend some time skimming through the journals until you find an article of interest to you, and read the article.

Once you have read and understood the article, prepare your review, 4-5 pages in length.

Provide a *brief summary* of the article. This section should be no more than about one half of your entire review.

Analyse the article. For example, is it a survey article or argumentative (on one or another side of a question)? What is new in this article? What is its contribution to understanding the New Testament?

What is *your response* to the article? You may want to comment on what you learned or how your own thinking was challenged. What new way of thinking about the topic in question opened up to you as a result of your reading? Were the questions or concerns which led you to choose this article answered? What questions remain?

Pass in a photocopy of your article along with your review. This copy should include the front page of the journal so that the name of the journal, volume number, date of publication, etc., are obvious.

Journals: The Bible Today. Issues of this journal can be found in the Brescia Library, and there is a link to it on WebCT. Articles in this journal tend to be accessible to a general readership. For more challenging articles, consider **Biblical Interpretation**, **Biblical Research** or the **Journal of Biblical Literature**. These three have full-text articles available on-line through the ATLA database.

Reviews of articles from sources other than these will not be accepted.

Due Date: March 12

Reflection Papers (20%) – RS 2227 Only

This task affords you the opportunity to respond to certain aspects of the course more deeply, to formulate your own analysis of the concepts presented, and to assess both the material presented and your appraisal of it.

These papers are not meant to be confessional: your personal belief system, while important, is not germane to this task. Rather, you are asked to report on your thoughtful appropriation and scholarly critique of the question at hand. You may make use of secondary sources in preparing these papers, but you are under no obligation to do so. If you do choose to use secondary sources, refer to the guidelines regarding academic integrity.

Four of these questions are required. If you choose to do five, marks for your best four will be recorded.

Due dates are as follows:

1st paper: January 25

2nd paper: February 8

3rd paper: March 5

4th paper: March 19

5th paper: April 2

Please refer to the course page on WebCT for the questions and relevant rubric.

Presentation and Paper (1028: 25%; 2227: 20%)

This task asks you, individually or in small groups, to select from a list of topics representing some aspect of the course, research that topic and present it to the class. Presentation dates and groups should be established within the first two weeks of the course. Your 15-25 minute presentation should be informative, interesting and interactive. It is your chance to engage the class in some dynamic way. This precludes simply reading! Use your creativity and imagination to prepare a presentation that will be memorable and academically oriented.

Each student will submit his/her own 6-8 page formal essay on the subject of the presentation (typewritten, double-spaced, one-inch margins). Your research should encompass a minimum of three (3) academically oriented print and/or Internet sources, in addition to your text book.

As part of your paper, please include *at least* a one page *personal* reflection on the importance of the topic and/or what you learned from your research. Include in both your presentation and paper the relevance of your topic to the great themes of the New Testament and the significance of your topic to an overall understanding of the Scriptures.

This paper is due within a week of your presentation, with the exception of those who present in the first month of the course. Those students are to submit their paper within two weeks of their presentation. See General Expectations, number 1, below.

Be sure to document your paper carefully. I recommend MLA style (see point three (3) below). You must document your sources for any idea or content you take from any source, and not only that which you quote directly. Failure to document your sources constitutes plagiarism – see point two (2) below.

Mid Term Test (25%) and Final Exam (35%)

Definitions, short answers and essays. The use of electronic devices is not permitted during exams.

Mid-Term Test: February 27; Final Exam: April exam period

Instructional Objectives: *Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- Define key terms relating to New Testament study
- Identify key people, events and themes in canonical and non-canonical gospels
- Describe aspects of the socio-cultural world in which the New Testament was written
- Discuss contemporary issues in current New Testament scholarship
- Apply various scholarly approaches for understanding the New Testament
- Assess the interrelationship between text and history
- Discuss thematic and theological differences among the four canonical gospels
- Appraise the contemporary relevance of biblical texts
- Display critical thinking skills through close reading of the texts and in dialogue with others in the learning community.

General Expectations:

1. Deadlines: Deadlines are firm, and must be met. Absence from class on the day work is due does not constitute an extension. Any extension must be negotiated with the instructor prior to the due date. Any work submitted after the due date for which you have not followed this procedure may be penalized at five (5) percent per day.

It is particularly important that presentation dates are honoured. Failure to present on the specified date will be penalized by not less than 35%.

A medical accommodation for work valued at less than 10% of your total grade can be established with your instructor. For all other cases, please refer to Western's policy regarding "Medical Accommodation Policy," available at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

2. Academic Integrity: One operative assumption of this course, as with all university courses, is that all work you submit for marking will be **your** work. You must **properly cite all the sources** from which you gather your ideas and phrasing, and not only the directly quoted material.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Plagiarism may be penalized with a failing grade in the assignment and an offence record that will be held in the Dean's office.

3) Academic Style: There are a number of acceptable styles of documentation: Chicago, MLA and APA. The MLA (Modern Language Association) style is preferred for this course.

The MLA recommends a Name-Page method. A link to an on-line document guide can be found on WebCT.

4) Inclusive Language: Use non-sexist, non-discriminatory language in your writing. Language that reinforces sexism (or racism, ethnic bias, homophobia, or other forms of prejudice and discrimination) should not be used. Some general points: In English, there is a tradition of using male terms to refer to the whole human population: “man,” “mankind,” “he,” and “his” are often employed in the generic sense. Since these terms refer also to exclusively male populations, using the same term for the two different meanings is ambiguous. Be specific: if you mean all people, males and females, say so. Instead of man/mankind -- use humanity, human beings, human race, people, person(s), individual(s), men and women, women and men.

5) A Respectful Learning Environment: A respectful learning environment is a collective responsibility. We will listen to each other with openness and consideration, respecting individual differences and honouring each person’s right to hold her or his own beliefs. This does not preclude discussion and/or disagreement, but does call for a considerate sharing of opinions and ideas.

6) University-wide grade descriptors:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg104.html>

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. If documentation is from Student Health Services, the student should sign a release of information form. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2010/pg117.html>.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year and or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the McCann Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website is at <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/registrar/>, Academic Support and Advising is at <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/advising/> and the McCann Student Services Centre is <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/services/>. The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.

January

Mon.			Wed.		
	Topic and Readings	Presentation Possibilities		Topic and Readings	Presentation Possibilities
Jan. 9	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course overview and requirements • Overview of the New Testament 		Jan. 11	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harris, Chapter 1, 1-2; 8-11 • Harris, Chapter 2 	
Jan. 16	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Political / Religious World of NT Times</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harris, Chapter 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Essenes and the Dead Sea Scrolls 	Jan. 18	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Political / Religious World of NT Times</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Gospels: Form and Purpose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harris, Chapter 10 • Harris, Chapter 11, 347-350: The Synoptic Problem 	
Jan. 23	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Gospel of Mark</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel of Mark • Harris, Chapter 11, 333-346 		Jan. 25	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Gospel of Mark</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RS 2227: Response Paper #1</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus the Exorcist
Jan. 30	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Gospel of Mark</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in Mark's Gospel 			

February

			Feb. 1	<i>The Gospel of Mark</i>	
Feb. 6	<i>Gospel of Matthew</i> • Gospel of Matthew • Harris, Chapter 11, 350-365		Feb. 8	<i>Gospel of Matthew</i> <u><i>RS 2227: Response Paper #2</i></u>	• The Sermon on the Mount
Feb. 13	<i>Gospel of Matthew</i>	• Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew	Feb. 15	<i>Gospel of Matthew</i> <i>Review</i>	
Feb. 20	<u><i>Reading Week</i></u>		Feb. 22	<u><i>Reading Week</i></u>	
Feb. 27	<u><i>Mid-Term Test</i></u>		Feb. 29	<i>Gospel of Luke</i> • Gospel of Luke • Harris, Chapter 11, 366-380	

March / April

Mar. 5	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gospel of Luke</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RS 22276: Response Paper #3</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the Birth Stories in Matthew and Luke 	Mar. 7	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gospel of Luke / Acts of the Apostles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts of the Apostles • Harris, Chapter 13, 414-430 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurrection Appearances in Luke
Mar. 12	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Acts of the Apostles</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RS 1028: Article Review Due</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jerusalem Conference 	Mar. 14	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Gospel of John</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel of John • Harris, Chapter 11, 380-395 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seven “I Am’s”: Theological Significance
Mar. 19	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Gospel of John</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RS 2227: Response Paper #4</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in John’s Gospel 	Mar. 21	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Gospel of John</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare / Contrast the Crucifixion in Mark and John
Mar. 26	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Outside the Canon</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harris, Chapter from another of Harris’ texts – to be provided by the instructor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel of Thomas 	Mar. 28	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Outside the Canon</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Infancy Gospel of James
April 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Quest for the Historical Jesus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harris, Chapter 12 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RS 2227: Response Paper #5</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Non-Christian Historical References to Jesus 	April 4	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Quest for the Historical Jesus</i></p>	
April 9	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Judeo-Christian Bible and Subsequent History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Cohen, “Legitimization Under Constantine” (See Link on WebCT) <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Review</i></p>		April 11	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Review</i></p>	