

Religion 840:202:01: The New Testament

Professor Tia Kolbaba

Department of Religion

64 College Avenue

kolbaba@religion.rutgers.edu

“Office” hours (I will be available on Zoom for anyone who wants to talk.): Monday and Wednesday, noon to 2.

Appointments also available on request—just send me an email.

Preliminary Syllabus

What follows is an abridged syllabus designed to give students a clear idea of what the course covers and how much work is involved. It is NOT the complete syllabus, which will be available by August 25, 2020.

Required books:

Bart Ehrman, *The New Testament. A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, 7th edition.

You also need a BIBLE for the course. The best translation for academic study of the Bible is the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]. I recommend an annotated study Bible such as the *Harper Collins Study Bible* or *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*. **If you already own a Bible, you may use that on two conditions: (1) It may NOT be the King James Version; errors in that translation make it unsuitable for use in the classroom; (2) you must also learn how to compare your Bible’s translation to the NRSV using biblegateway.com. The Professor will explain this as needed.**

All material for the course is arranged in modules.

Each module is designed to take one week.

Progress in the course and grading

You will need to keep up with the schedule in order to submit assignments on time, collaborate with other students, and participate in discussions. There will be some sort of assignment due or short quiz to take each week. These assignments will be worth a total of 90 points.

An additional 10 points in the course will be based on analysis (available through Canvas) of a student’s consistency in viewing online content, taking self-quizzes, and keeping up with the course schedule.

Course grades: 90-100 A, 88-89 B+, 80-87 B, 76-79 C+, 65-75 C, 50-64 D, <50 F.

Workload: what to expect

You should plan to spend about 3 hours per week “in class”—that is, online. Requirements will include watching and listening to lectures and videos, annotating texts, taking short ungraded quizzes to assure yourself that you are learning the necessary material, taking longer graded quizzes. You may break this

three hours up in any way that fits your schedule, but (to repeat!) you need to keep up with weekly assignments and discussions.

You should also plan at least 4 hours per week “out of class”: reading and completing homework assignments, participating in online forums, collaborating with classmates.

All assignments will be described in the modules and posted on the Calendar on Canvas, but at this early point you may find it most useful to know the **general outline of assignments and grade distribution:**

Week of August 31-September 4

Introduction to the course and professor. Online approximately 80 minutes.

Week of September 7-11

Assignment due Sept. 11 (5 points): timeline related to Paul

Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians

Ehrman (textbook): Chapters 3, 4, and 19

Approximately 3 hours online work

Week of September 14-18

Assignment due September 18 (10 points): contribute to threaded discussion/forum online

Bible reading: 1 Corinthians

Ehrman (textbook): pp. 373-387 (sections on 1 and 2 Corinthians)

Approximately 3 hours of other online work.

Week of September 21-25

Assignment due September 25 (5 points): short summary of Gospel of Mark, discussed with a partner

Bible reading: The Gospel According to Mark

Ehrman chapter 6-7

Approximately 3 hours of online work.

Week of September 28-October 2

Assignment due October 2 (5 points): general timeline

Ehrman chapters 1, 2, and 8

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of October 5-9

Take by October 9, 5 p.m., Vocabulary quiz (5 points)

Bible reading: The Gospel According to Matthew chapters 16, 22, 24, 26-28

Ehrman chapter 9

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of October 12-16

Assignment due October 16 (10 points): contribute to threaded discussion/forum online

Bible reading: The Gospel According to Luke, chapter 1-4, 9-11, 14-16, 21-24

Ehrman chapter 10

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of October 19-23

Assignment due by October 23 (5 points): contribute to "Hypothesis" annotating of text online

Bible reading: The Acts of the Apostles 1-12

Ehrman chapter 17

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of October 26-30

Assignment due October 30 (10 points): contribute to threaded discussion/forum online (10 points)

Bible reading: The Acts of the Apostles 13-28; Galatians

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of November 2-6

Assignment due by November 6 (5 points): a list of ten differences between the Gospel of John and the Synoptic Gospels

Bible reading: The Gospel According to John

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of November 9-13

Take by November 13, 5 p.m.: Vocabulary quiz (5 points)

Bible reading: 1 John

Ehrman chapter 11

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of November 16-20

Assignment due November 20 (10 points): contribute to threaded discussion/forum online

Bible reading: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

Ehrman chapter 23

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of November 30-December 4

Assignment due December 4: contribute to discussion of final projects—format to be determined (5 points)

Work on final projects: researching a contemporary use of the Bible in political or social debates. Professor will explain details by mid-semester.

Approximately 3 hours of online work

Week of December 7-10

Assignment due December 10 (10 points): final projects. Professor will explain details by mid-semester

Approximately 3 hours of online work