

University of Calgary  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Religious Studies

RELS 383 L01, Fall 2007

*August 30, 2007*

## ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY 100 BCE – 200 CE

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ayse Tuzlak  
CLASS MEETS: MW 15:00 – 16:15 in ST 129

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
SS 1330

To make an appointment outside of these times, please e-mail  
[ayse.tuzlak@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ayse.tuzlak@ucalgary.ca).

This course will explore the development of Christianity, paying particular attention to the religion's roots in Greco-Roman culture and Second Temple Judaism. We will read a number of canonical texts from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, along with extracanonical texts including Gnostic sources, early Christian apologia, popular apocalypses, and second-century sermons.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

**Note that every student is expected to bring a Bible to each class.** Modern scholarly translations such as the NRSV and the NIV are preferred. If you do not already own a Bible, Oxford Study Bibles are available for purchase at the Bookstore. Even if you do own a Bible, please consider buying a Study Bible anyway, since it includes excellent notes, maps, charts, timelines, and other resources.

The following texts are also required, and are available at the campus bookstore:

Bart D. Ehrman, *A Brief Introduction to the New Testament*

Bart D. Ehrman, ed., *After the New Testament: A Reader in Early Christianity (ANT)*

## GRADING:

Written assignment (3-5 pages, due <b>October 15</b> )	20%
In-class examination ( <b>November 19</b> ):	40%
Final Paper (8-10 pages, due <b>December 10</b> )	40%

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. At the end of the course, an overall letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme.

A+	100 – 96	A	95 – 90	A-	89 – 85
B+	84 – 80	B	79 – 75	B-	74 – 70
C+	69 – 65	C	64 – 60	C-	59 – 55
D+	54 – 53	D	52 – 50	F	50 or less

### THE FINE PRINT

*No extra credit work will be offered.* Missed exams or assignments will not be rescheduled except in the case of a *documented* medical or family emergency.

*Attendance is important.* You are always urged to bring up questions and comments during lectures, and friendly debate is encouraged.

*Please be punctual.* I consider lateness rude and distracting. Please show respect to me and to your classmates by coming in on time.

*You are responsible for the material covered in all the lectures.* I do not re-deliver lectures in my office for students who miss classes, and I will not write out “everything you missed” in e-mail either. If you must miss a class, find a classmate to share his or her notes with you, or do extra research beyond the required readings.

*E-mail is not “instant.”* I’m glad to schedule meetings with students, but I need at least 24 hours lead time. Please note that I do not generally check my work e-mail on weekends or holidays.

I reserve the right to answer any cell phone that rings in class.

## SCHEDULE:

- September 10 – 12:** **The Greco-Roman Setting of Early Christianity**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapter 2
- September 17 – 19:** **Christianity's Jewish Roots**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapter 3  
Genesis 15:1 – 18:15  
Exodus 19  
2 Samuel 7  
Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
- September 24 – 26:** **Jesus, The Sufferer**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapter 5  
The Gospel of Mark
- October 1 – 3:** **Jesus, The Great Teacher**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapters 6 and 7  
The Gospel of Matthew  
The Gospel of Luke
- October 8:** **NO CLASSES. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**
- October 10:** **Jesus, The Saviour**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapter 7  
The Gospel of Luke
- October 15** **SHORT WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE**
- October 15 – 17:** **Jesus, The God**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapter 9  
The Gospel of John
- October 22 – 24:** **Visions of The Young Christian Church**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapter 8  
Acts of the Apostles  
The Acts of Peter (*ANT* #42)
- October 29 – 31:** **Paul the Apostle**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapters 12 and 16  
Galatians  
Romans
- November 5 – 7:** **Paul's Eager Fans**  
*Readings:* *Brief Introduction*, chapter 17  
1 and 2 Thessalonians  
1 and 2 Timothy
- November 12** **NO CLASSES. STUDY HARD!**

- November 14:**  
*Readings:* **Jesus, The Cosmic Warrior**  
*Brief Introduction*, chapter 20  
Daniel 7 – 8 and 10 – 11  
Revelation  
The Apocalypse of Peter (*ANT #49*)
- November 19:** **IN-CLASS EXAMINATION**
- November 21**  
*Readings:* **Are Christian Still Jews? Should They Be?**  
*Brief Introduction*, chapter 19  
Hebrews  
The Letter of Barnabas (*ANT #15*)  
Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho* (*ANT #16*)
- December 3 – 5:**  
*Readings:* **Other Jesuses, Other Christianities**  
The Gospel of Thomas (*ANT #37*)  
The Secret Book of John (*ANT #22*)  
The Proto-Gospel of James (*ANT #39*)  
The Infancy Gospel of Thomas (*ANT #40*)

FINAL PAPER  
DUE IN MY MAILBOX AT **12:00 NOON ON DECEMBER 10**

NO LATE PAPERS. NO E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS. NO EXCUSES. NO EXCEPTIONS.  
**I AM NOT KIDDING AROUND.**

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

#### GNOSIS:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.