

SCS 502 Bible History: Christian 3 Credits 4 CEUs  
Mondays and Wednesdays 8 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. Spring 2008

Instructor Name	E. J. Niles
Office Hours	Monday and Tuesday 1 – 4 p.m.
Telephone	816-348-5528 816-896-7715
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:nilesej@unityonline.org">nilesej@unityonline.org</a> <a href="mailto:ejniles@etbible.org">ejniles@etbible.org</a>
Required Texts	Ehrman, B. D. (2004) <i>The New Testament, A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings.</i> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Ed.) New York: Oxford University Press Saunders, E. P, (1991), <i>Paul, A Very Short Introduction</i> , New York: Oxford University Press
Other Required Reading	Handouts
Recommended Reading	Ehrman, B. D., (2005), <i>Misquoting Jesus</i> . San Francisco: Harper Mack, B. I> (1996) <i>Who Wrote the New Testament</i> . San Francisco: Harper Collins

### Course Description

This class presents an introduction to the writings of the Christian Scripture. It covers the timing of the writing, and the primary authors. The reasons for the differences in each of the Gospels portrayal of Jesus are explored. Pauline and non-Pauline writings are covered from the standpoint of their relationship to the early Christian Church.

### Learning Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of how the Christian Bible as we know it came into being.
2. Relate the sequence of writing of the books in the Christian Bible
3. Assess the differences among the Gospel writers in the portrayal of Jesus
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of the Pauline and non-Pauline writings in the Christian Bible
5. Explain the purpose of the Book of Revelation and its relationship to present day times.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity: MD-4

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry: C-4

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies: MA-1

## Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Paper/Exam/Activity
1a	2/11	How the Christian Bible came into Being	The New Testament (Ehrman) Chapters 1&2	
1b	2/13	Discussion		
2a	1/18	How the Christian Bible came into Being – Sequence of the books	Chapter 29, Ehrman	Take home exam
2b	2/20	Discussion		
3a	2/25	The First Gospel - Mark	Chapter 5, Ehrman	
3b	2/27	Discussion		
4a	3/3	The Synoptic Problem – & the Q Gospel	Chapter 6, Ehrman	
4b	3.5	Discussion		Take home exam
5a	3.10	Matthew	Ehrman, Chapters 7&8	
5b	3/12	Discussion		
6a	3/17	Luke and Acts	Chapters 8&9	
6b	3/19	Discussion		
7a	3./24	Gospel of John	Chapter 10	
7b	3/26	Discussion		
8a	3/31	The Pauline Letters	Chapters 20 and 21 Ehrman Chapters 4,6,7 and 11 Sanders	Paper Due
8b	4/2	Discussion		
9a	4/7	The non-Pauline Letters	Chapter 23, Ehrman	
9b	4/9			
10a	4/11	The Book of Revelation	Chapter 28, Ehrman	
10b	4/13			

**Assignments for the Master of Divinity:**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
2 Take home exams	20 points each	1 - 4
1 paper 20 pages	55 points	3 or 4
Class participation	5 points	1-4

**Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
2 Take home exams	20 points each	1 - 4
1 paper 15 pages	55 points	3 or 4
Class participation	5 points	1-4

**Assignments for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
2take home exams	20 points each	1 - 4
1 paper 20 pages	55 points	3 or 4
Class participation	5 points	1-4

**Final Grade Determination for all**

90 - 100 points A

80 - 89 points B

70 - 79 points C

**Standards for Term Paper**

- Ø A cover page which includes: Course name, Instructor's name, Due date
- Ø Student's name (at end of paper)
- Ø All direct quotes or references cited using APA standards
- Ø All pages numbered and double spaced
- Ø Preferred method of submission is electronically. Hard copy is acceptable.

**Evaluation of the paper is based on the following factors (in order of relative importance):**

- Ø Depth of knowledge, insight
- Ø Comprehensiveness of response
- Ø Clarity in communicating ideas
- Ø Use of outside resource material
- Ø Grammar, sentence structure, spelling

**Expectations of Students:**

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it. Students are expected to comply with classroom protocol. Cell phones are to be turned off prior to entering the classroom.

### Classroom Protocol

See the Student Handbook for Classroom Conduct

### Late Assignment Policy

Term papers received after the due date may be assessed a penalty up to 2% per day or 10% per week

### Incomplete Assignments Policy

### Attendance Policy

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. Students missing a class are responsible for obtaining the handouts, information and/or directions from another student.

### Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work..If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An "F" for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, which will be kept in the student's permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

### Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.

### Selected Bibliography

Funk, R. Hoover, R. and the Jesus Seminar (1993). *The Five Gospels*. Santa Rosa, CA: Polebridge Press

Mack, B. (1994) *The Lost Gospel, the Book of Q*. San Francisco: Harper Collins

Meyer, M. (1982). *Who do People Say I AM?* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

O'Dell, D. (2006) *How the Bible Became the Bible*. West Conshohocken, PA: Infinity Publishing

Spong, J.S. (2005) *The Sins of Scripture*. San Francisco: Harper Collins

White, L. M (2004). *From Jesus to Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper Collins