

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Arts and Humanities

RELS422

Life and Teachings of Jesus

3 Credit Hours

8 Week Course

Prerequisite(s): None

**** IMPORTANT – Print out this Syllabus and *read the entire document* prior to submitting any of the assignments ****

Course Description

Jesus Christ has impacted the world unlike any other person in history. Profound and multifaceted, Jesus' life and teachings are explored through the careful study of the history, culture, miracles and teachings presented in the four ancient Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Course Scope

A detailed eight week study of the historical context, culture, miracles and teachings of Jesus Christ as portrayed in the four ancient Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the historical circumstances of the period between the writing of the Old and New Testaments,
2. Analyze the various critical methods that scholars use to study ancient documents,
3. Determine the unique historical, literary and theological characteristics of each of the

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

- four Gospels,
4. Determine and synthesize Jesus' primary teachings and activities, and
 5. Describe and evaluate the major issues surrounding the historicity and theology of Jesus.

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded Forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Real learning takes place as you *carefully process* the information through higher order thinking skills such as comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation (it is not simply taking in information from outside sources - a book, teacher, web site, field experience, etc). Your performance in this class will be based on your demonstration of your learning, not by simply repeating back basic facts (your knowledge of the facts will become clear as you demonstrate higher order thinking skills). In all you that do in this class, you should always remember to use higher order thinking skills, as described below:

1. Comprehension: demonstrates the ability to grasp meaning, explain, and restate ideas,
2. Application: demonstrates the ability to use learned material in new situations,
3. Analysis: demonstrates the ability to separate material into component parts and show relationships between parts,
4. Synthesis: demonstrates the ability to put together the separate ideas to form a new whole, to establish new relationships, and
5. Evaluation: demonstrates the ability to judge the worth of material against stated criteria.

Course Materials

Required Texts

Blomberg, Craig. Jesus and the Gospels : An Introduction and Survey. 2nd ed. Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman & Holman, 2009.

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Strauss, Mark. Four Portraits, One Jesus. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2007.

An English translation of the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) that you readily understand.

Important: To access any e-books that are required for this course, please click on this link to read the FAQ - [http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=http://ebooks.apus.edu/E-book FAQs.docx](http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=http://ebooks.apus.edu/E-book%20FAQs.docx)

Software Requirements

Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat Reader

Evaluation Procedures

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Forum Participation | 35% |
| Current Affairs Essay | 10% |
| Research Essay | 25% |
| Midterm Exam | 15% |
| Final Exam | 15% |
| ----- | |
| Total Course Grade | 100% |

Readings

Each week you will be required to complete all of the assigned readings from the textbook(s) each week. In addition to the assigned readings from the textbook, you will be asked to complete the assigned readings from one of the four Gospel accounts found in The Holy Bible. These readings, when combined together, will provide great depth, meaning, and application to the course. Other material will be assigned for reading as determined appropriate by the instructor.

Forum Participation (8)

Forum postings are a critical component of this course and will seek to guide our discussions on the "Life and Teachings of Jesus." The requirements for your discussion forum will include your active participation with substantive responses to each of the assigned weekly forum questions. To receive full credit for your participation in the weekly forum, each student will be required to provide a substantive response to the weekly question. The Initial Response to the question should be relevant, incorporates direct quotes and citations from the readings to support your viewpoints, and demonstrates an understanding and application of the course material with the use of 250-300 words (minimum). You will also be expected to reply to at least two (2) other

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

students with a substantive reply that includes the same material as above with at least 150 - 200 words (minimum).

A special note about the Week #1 Introductory Forum: You are required by the university to reply to the Week #1 Introductory as a means for assessing your active attendance in the class for the first week. Failure to participate in this Forum may result in you being removed and dropped from the course for failure to check in the first week as required by Federal mandates. Please be sure that you respond to this forum and do so early with your replies to avoid any future complications in the course.

Your grade for the Forum posting therefore includes both your initial answer and your student replies. While composing your answer, use proper English. Do not use abbreviations or contractions. Before you post the answer, check your grammar; please note that the way you talk is not the way that you need to write your answer. Lastly, ensure that you do not have any spelling errors. It is often best to compose your posting in a word program and after you check it for grammar and spelling, copy it into the discussion forum posting.

Please note that your Forum posting will be graded as a single unit only when both the initial response AND the two (2) student replies have been posted. Your Forum will be graded according to following rubric:

| Forum Rubric Categories | Points |
|---|---------------|
| Both the Initial Post and the two (2) Student Replies are included as required and they directly address the issues raised. | 4 |
| Post demonstrates an understanding of the issues raised. | 6 |
| Examples, direct quotes, or other instructional materials are used to support claims and arguments in both responses. | 6 |
| Post is well-written and clear using appropriate grammar, spelling, punctuation, structure, and meets the word minimums for each posting. | 4 |

Essays (2)

Students will prepare two (2) Essays for the course that will enable them to expand one's study and application of the course principles in very practical and relevant ways. The following Essays are required for each student to complete:

A. Current Affairs Review:

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Many people in our society and the world today indicate that the life and teachings of Jesus Christ are outdated and irrelevant for life in a Post-Modern world. The purpose of this assignment is for the student to research what scholars and others are saying or not saying about the practical application of Christ's teachings in the world today as it is being communicated in the media through such sources as the television, Internet new agencies, local newspapers, magazines, journals, and other religious and secular sources, and how it applies to the study of this course.

Assignment Requirements:

Seek out a Current Affairs (2006 - 2013) topic of interest that is related to the study of this course using one (1) of the different resources listed above and write a 3-5 page review and analysis that will include the following components:

- Provide all of the required bibliographical material and citations for locating the source including title, resource, date of publication, publisher if known, website, and date of retrieval, etc..
- Summarize the main content of the article or event and how it is related to the course of study.
- Provide details as to why you selected the article and what you found of interest as to why you did or did not like the article.
- What new insights did you discover about the teachings of Jesus? What was the author seeking to accomplish with the information? How might this current event provide practical insight into your faith life or that of someone else?
- Be sure to use good grammar, writing skills, and include direct quotes and citations as required for all essays at this level of education.

| Grading Rubric for the Current Affairs Review Due at the end of Week 3 | Points |
|--|---------------|
| Purpose: The writing engages the reader through a clear presentation of complex ideas and interrelated ideas presented in the Current Event article or resource. All required bibliographical materials are presented in the essay for further research and are dated between 2006-2011. | 20 |
| Support: The writing provides a detailed description of the topic. The writing identifies the scriptural or theological origins of each characteristics. Claims are supported by reliable and relevant evidence based on appropriate research. Quotes and examples are used appropriately to support and clarify ideas and claims with in-text citations in the MLA format. | 20 |
| Student Input: The student clearly provides input into the writing by offering personal details, likes and dislikes, synopsis of the current affair, and application in relation to the course principles. | 20 |

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Organization and Clarity: The writing flows smoothly and reasonably from a well-defined thesis. Ideas and concepts are fully developed, clear, and organized. 20

Syntax, Style, Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation: The writing contains sentences that are always complete and grammatically correct, free of confusion and ambiguity. 20

Total Possible Points: 100

B. Research Essay:

The purpose of the Research Essay is for the student to research a specific topic of personal interest from among the Teachings of Jesus to expand their learning base and to practically apply the principles of this course in a scholarly and academic manner.

Assignment Requirements

- Select a topic of personal interest to you that is related to our study in this course and the teachings of Jesus. Possible topics include: One aspect from the life of Christ, one Gospel writer, one critical method of study, social setting or impact of one Gospel, historical nature of Christ, a parable of Christ, a miracle, the significance of Christ's teaching, and any other topic you just want to learn more about.
- Eight to ten (8-10) pages of text, not including the Title Page and the Works Cited Page.
- You will want to use a minimum of five (5) resources from a variety of sources.
- You will want to use at least 11-12 fonts that are double-spaced .
- You will want to use good grammar, writing and research techniques, MLA Citation Formats, write from the third person perspective to avoid the use of "I", avoid the use of contractions, and provide a scholarly approach to your topic.
- Remember - a research essay seeks to find out what others have to say about your thesis which will either prove or contradict your hypothesis. You need not seek a solution that you have found or developed.

- You are required to use Turnitin.com prior to submitting the Research Paper.
 - If you do not already have an account with Turnitin.com, go to www.turnitin.com and click on "New Users". Register and make a new user profile. Access information will be provided in the Week #1 Announcements as to the Class ID and the Enrollment Password.
 - You are required to upload the Turnitin.com "Originality Report" into the APUS classroom assignment area at the same time that you upload your paper into the APUS classroom for grading.
 - You need to submit your paper to Turnitin a minimum of 24 hours before you plan on submitting your paper to the APUS classroom for grading, as it may take

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

that long for the Originality Report to be produced. Do not wait until the last minute to use Turnitin.

- For detailed information on using Turnitin.com, see www.turnitin.com/static/pdf/StudentManual.pdf. Email support is available from the “helpdesk” link, from within your Turnitin account, at the bottom of the screen. You may also contact librarian@apus.edu if you have more questions about APUS’s Turnitin service.

- Your Current Affairs Essay will be graded according to the following rubric:

| Grading Rubric for Category for Research Paper Due at the end of Week 7 | Points |
|--|---------------|
| Purpose: The writing engages the reader through a clear presentation of complex ideas and interrelated ideas. The writing accurately and clearly supports or contradicts the thesis of the essay. Essay submitted to Turnitin.com with Originality Report. | 20 |
| Support: The writing provides a detailed description of the topic. The writing identifies the scriptural or theological origins of each characteristics. Claims are supported by reliable and relevant evidence based on appropriate research. Quotes and examples are used appropriately to support and clarify ideas and claims with in-text citations in the MLA format. | 20 |
| Use of Resources: The writing includes at least five (5) different resources to provide support for the research. | 20 |
| Organization and Clarity: The writing flows smoothly and reasonably from a well-defined thesis. Ideas and concepts are fully developed, clear, and organized. | 20 |
| Syntax, Style, Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation: The writing contains sentences that are always complete and grammatically correct, free of confusion and ambiguity. | 20 |

Exams (2)

A. Midterm Exam:

The student will complete a Midterm Exam at the end of Week #4. This exam will cover all of the material, assignments, readings, and Forums including Week #1 - Week #4. It will be a three (3) hour timed exam and students are free to use their notes and class materials as needed to complete the exam. Please note that the exam will time out and any unanswered questions will be deducted. You will want to know your material and use your time wisely.

B. Final Exam:

The student will complete a Final Exam at the end of Week #8. This exam will cover all of the material, assignments, readings, and Forums including Week #5 - Week #8. It will be a three (3) hour timed exam and students are free to use their notes and class materials as needed to complete the exam. Please note that the exam will time out and any unanswered questions

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

will be deducted. You will want to know your material and use your time wisely.

1. Undergraduate Level Writing Rubrics are found [here](#).
2. There are no extra credit assignments.
3. Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

Course Outline

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Topic(s)</u> | <u>Reading(s)</u> | <u>Assignment(s)</u> |
|-------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | Historical Background Critical Methods for Study | Blomberg, pp. 7-126 Strauss, pp. 23-92 Matthew 1-14 | Week #1 Forum Intro - ductions Week #1 Forum |
| 2 | The Gospel of Mark The Gospel of Matthew | Blomberg, pp. 127-158 Strauss, pp. 171-258 Matthew 15-28 | Week #2 Forum |
| 3 | The Gospel of Luke The Gospel of John | Blomberg, pp. 159-206 Strauss, pp. 259-348 Mark 1-10 | Week #3 Forum Current Affairs Review |
| 4 | The Historical Jesus Birth and Childhood | Blomberg, pp. 207-249 Strauss, pp. 349-412 Mark 11-16 Luke 1-6 | Week #4 Forum Mid-Term Exam |
| 5 | Beginnings of Ministry Galilean Ministry | Blomberg, pp. 250-330 Luke 7-18 | Week #5 Forum |
| 6 | Additional Teachings Judean Ministry | Blomberg, pp. 331-382 Luke 19-24 John 1-5 | Week #6 Forum |
| 7 | Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection The Theology of Jesus | Blomberg, pp. 383-482 John 6-15 | Week #7 Forum Research Paper |
| 8 | Conclusion and Review | John 16-20 | Week #8 Forum Final Exam |

Policies

1. Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.
 - a. [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
 - b. [Plagiarism Policy](#)
 - c. [Extension Process and Policy](#)
 - d. [Disability Accommodations](#)
2. **Classroom Technology Requirements** - Studying online requires that you use a computer, an internet connection and desktop productivity software to complete your degree. To

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

access the full functionality of our campus and classrooms you are expected to meet or exceed the requirements below. Some programs and classes may require additional software.

a. Basic Requirements

- Internet access
- Email client and an email address
- Windows XP or higher or Mac OS X
- Sound card and speakers and a microphone
- 20 GB of free hard disk space
- Monitor and video card (350MHz or better) capable of 1024x768 resolution
- Inkjet or laser jet printer
- 2 GB of RAM
- CD-ROM

b. Software Requirements

- The most recent version of Internet Explorer (IE 8) or Firefox (3.6.x)
- Microsoft Office 2003 or higher/ Open Office / Mac Office 08
- Adobe Flash Player 9 or higher
- Windows Media Player 7 or higher
- Java 1.5.0 or higher
- QuickTime 7 or higher
- Adobe Acrobat Reader 8 or higher
- A current Anti-virus software regularly updated according to the software manufacturer.
- .docx conversion pack

3. **Writing Expectations** - All written submissions must adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

- a. 11 or 12 point font in Arial or Times New Roman styles.
- b. Top, bottom and side page margins of 1 inch (2.5 cm).
- c. Double-spaced.
- d. Assignments must follow current [Modern Language Association](#) guidelines as summarized in the Online Library.
- e. Your assignments must be completed and uploaded in either Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx) or Rich Text (.rtf) format. I will not accept Works (.wps) files.

4. **Late Assignments** - Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

5. **Netiquette** - Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- a. **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- b. **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

6. **Disclaimer Statement** - Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

1. **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
2. **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
3. **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
4. **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

5. **Request a Library Guide** for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

- a. The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:
- b. Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
- c. Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name.
- d. If a guide you need isn't available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.