

University of Central Oklahoma
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Humanities & Philosophy
Fall 2019

HUM 4930: New Testament Apocrypha
CRN:

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Office Hours: by arrangement

Course Description:

This course investigates the texts that did not make it into the official canon of the Christian New Testament. Special emphasis will be given to (a) genres of writing of Christian religious texts, (b) the concept of 'canon' and its function in the development of Christianity, (c) connections between the apocrypha and canonical texts, (d) the use of apocryphal texts by the early Christian community, and especially by early Christian authority figures and intellectuals. When possible, we will also examine the original Greek texts to discuss issues of translation and transmission.

Student Learning Objectives: : Upon successfully completing this class, students will (1) be able to identify and define important concepts studied in the course, (2) understand and appreciate discussion of core texts in the class, (3) be able to apply, analyze, and critique on the methods of scholarship in religious studies, theology, and related fields, (4) contribute original research on course topics.

Transformational Learning Outcomes: The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered organization committed to Transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. Transformative learning goals (the "Central Six") have been identified as: *Discipline Knowledge*; *Leadership*; *Research*; *Scholarly and Creative Activities*; *Service Learning and Civic Engagement*; *Global and Cultural Competencies*; and *Health and Wellness*.

This course addresses four of the University's transformative learning goals:

Discipline Knowledge, by investigating some core questions and subfields of religious studies, theology, and related fields

Global and Cultural Competencies, by performing a sustained investigation of other cultures and historical periods

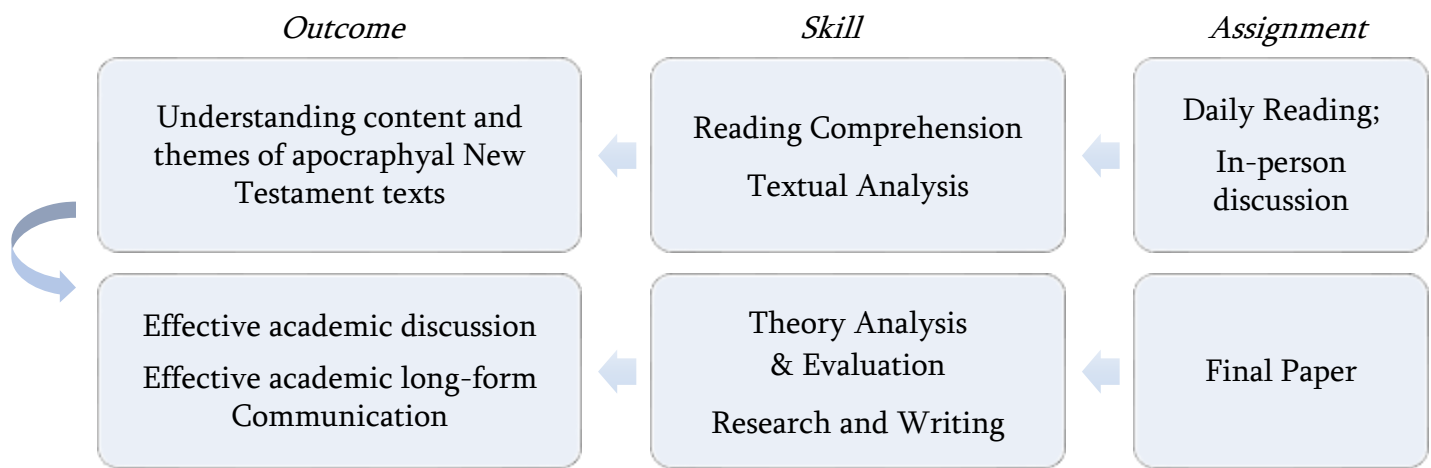
Course Materials

The following books are required for this course:

Ehrman, Bart (2005) *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ehrman, Bart (2003). *The Lost Scriptures: Books That Did Not Make It into the New Testament*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Assignments & Learning Outcomes



Reading

This course will be reading-intensive. We will cover a significant amount of very difficult material in a relatively short time.

Final Paper

The culmination of this class will be a final paper, more specifically, a 3000-4000 word research paper that makes some kind of original observation about course material or makes some kind of contribution to the scholarly debate about it. The goal is to write the kind of paper that would be accepted at an undergraduate research conference such as NCUR.

Grades

There are only two components to the grade for this course:

Participation: 10%

Final Paper: 90%

Participation means both regularly attending scheduled discussion sessions *and* being prepared to take the lead on a lengthy, in-depth conversation about the day's material. This course will run more as a tutorial than a lecture, so it is the student's responsibility to make discussion sessions worthwhile.

Schedule (Subject to Revision)

Week 1: Introduction

Weeks 2-5 Non-Canonical Gospels

Weeks 6-7: Non-Canonical Acts

Weeks 8-10: Non-Canonical Epistles

Weeks 11-12: Non-Canonical Apocalypses

Weeks 13-15: Secondary Sources and Paper Research

Academic Honesty

Given that much of this course is devoted to intellectual and moral virtues, it should be no surprise that it also has high standards for academic conduct. You are expected to consult and understand the University's Academic Dishonesty Policy (<http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>); participation in this class constitutes an agreement to follow this policy.

My own policy is this: it is always better to ask for help than to cheat. Always. Cheating takes more work, with worse results, than simply attempting the assignment, even if you phone it in. If you are confused at any point about whether something constitutes academic dishonesty, ask. I am here to help. However, if you are caught engaging in academic misconduct, I will pursue whatever maximum penalties the University may apply, from a 0 to an assignment to an F for the course to expulsion from the University. Don't try it.

Note that UCO subscribes to the Turnitin.com plagiarism prevention service. Students, by taking this course, agree that all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com restricted access reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such assignments. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com website. Turnitin.com is just one of the various plagiarism prevention tools and methods that may be utilized by your instructor during the semester. The UCO Student Handbook describes the process for contesting allegations of plagiarism.

Tech Policy

Computers, tablets, e-readers, etc., will not be allowed during class time. I know it sounds paternalistic (it is) and lame (it isn't), but computers in class do [much more harm than good](#).

Three main reasons for this policy:

- 1) You might think you can multi-task well. [You are incorrect](#). Even if you were miraculously among the 2% of good multi-taskers, you would still distract those around you.
- 2) Electronic texts are much [less effective](#) than paper for the kind of reading we'll be doing.
- 3) [It is well-documented that taking](#) notes by hand is much more effective than typing. If you want a digital version of your notes, scan them or, better, type them out after class.

So, unless you have an accommodation from DSS (see below), no electronic devices in class.

Reasonable Accommodations Policy

Any student who needs extra time or resources to do their best work due to a physical, cognitive or emotional condition may qualify for academic accommodations. You should consult Disability Support Services for further information: <http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/dss/>

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible.

A bit of advice: *do not let shyness or embarrassment or pride stop you from getting the services you deserve*. I've seen too many students allow their grades to suffer because they didn't speak up to claim the accommodations they were entitled to. I will do everything I can to make sure that your accommodations stay between you, me, and DSS.

Title IX

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible. Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at (405) 974-3377 or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D. For more information about your options, including reporting and confidential resources, please visit:

<http://www.uco.edu/central/title-ix/index.asp>.

Physical and Mental Health

College can be a very stressful time, emotionally, socially, and academically. You don’t have to face these stresses alone. There are numerous resources on campus to help, including:

<http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/scc/>

<http://sites.uco.edu/wellness/shc/>

Student Information Sheet

More important info here: <http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>