

**RS 210B F8: The Gospels  
Course Syllabus and Outline**

**General Information:**

Semester: Fall 2009  
Credits: 4 hours  
Meeting time: Tues/Thurs 12:00 – 1:50 PM  
Class Room: Predolin Humanities Center 122  
Final Examination: Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00-1:50 PM

**Instructor Information:**

Name: Dr. Jill Kirby  
Office: Predolin Humanities Center 324  
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Email: [jkirby@edgewood.edu](mailto:jkirby@edgewood.edu)  
Office hours: Mon 9:00 – 10:00 AM (P324)  
Tues 2:00 – 3:00 PM (P324)  
Wed 1:00 – 2:00 PM (Phil's)  
Thurs 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (P324)  
By easy appointment

**Course Information:**

Catalog Description: A survey of the Bible using modern literary methods, recent historical and archeological findings highlighting themes of justice, religious experience, and the development of Jewish and Christian faith traditions

Prerequisites: EN 110

General Education Requirements: This course fulfills the F8 undergraduate foundations requirement

Learning Objectives:

Goal: This course is designed to assist students in learning the basic terminology necessary to engage the Hebrew and Christian scriptures and relevant theological literature of the Jewish and Christian worldview.

- Learning objective: Students will be able to articulate a definition of scripture and in a generic and sensitive manner.

- Learning objective: Students will be able to define and use terms and concepts specifically related to interpretative approaches and methods.
- Learning objective: Students will be able to label selected maps of significant Biblical areas and use a gazetteer to find locations.

Assessment will be primarily through quizzes and tests. Some of these terms and skills will also play a supporting role in various writing assignments.

Goal: This course is designed to assist students in recognizing and understanding central animating themes of the Jewish and Christian covenants, such as God, creation, sin, salvation, justice, compassion, and the community created of God and human beings.

- Learning objective: Students will be able to define selected themes and locate specific instances in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.
- Learning objective: Students will be able to compare and contrast the presentation of these themes by selected Biblical authors.
- Learning objective: Students will be able to critique the use of these Biblical themes in world literature or wider cultural contexts.

Assessment will occur through quizzes, tests, and written assignments.

Goal: This course is designed to assist students in acquiring introductory skills that facilitate historical-critical interpretation of scripture.

- Learning objective: Students will understand the relationship between historical-critical and other approaches.
- Learning objective: Students will be able to define and recognize selected genres and forms.
- Learning objective: Students will be able to analyze selected texts in order to identify underlying structural features and use these features in their interpretations.

Assessment: This goal will be assessed in quizzes, tests, and oral discussion. In particular, you may expect that this goal will be the central element on the final examination.

Educational experience: dialogue, online discussion, individual research, and writing

Instructional methods: lecture, reading, group projects, individual project, quizzes, tests

### **Curriculum Guidelines:**

Required texts:

Coogan, Michael D., ed. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., NRSV. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Keck, Leander. *Who Is Jesus? History in the Perfect Tense*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001

Sanders, E. P. *The Historical Figure of Jesus*. New York: Penguin Press, 1993

### Course Requirements:

Graded requirements:	Participation	75
	Quizzes (5)	150
	Project	50
	Online discussion	25
	Final Exam	200

Participation: this element of your grade will be based on short in-class activities such as discussions, unannounced quizzes, or participation in group projects. If you are absent, you cannot earn the points awarded in this area.

Quizzes: I have indicated the dates for five announced quizzes. These quizzes will have a varying number of possible points, but the total for all five quizzes will be 150 points.

Project: This project will challenge you to identify and critique the use of selected Biblical themes in works outside the Bible. Your results will be communicated in a paper; I will provide the format and details on Tuesday, October 27th. Your efforts are due Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Online Discussion: As we read Leander Keck's *Who is Jesus?* I will open an online discussion. You will be required to respond once to me and twice to comments from your classmates

Final Examination: The final examination will be given Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. This examination will be inclusive. During part of this test I will allow you to use your books and notes but you will also have to respond to a selection of challenges using just your Bible. Review sessions are scheduled during class the last week of the semester.

Extra Credit: At this time I have not offered any extra credit. Should a suitable opportunity arise, I may do so. If I offer extra credit at all, it will be a *very* minor contribution to your grade. Do not expect to make up missing or late work through extra credit.

Assessment Calculations: There are five hundred total points available in this class. Your grade at the end of the semester will be calculated as follows:

A	92-100	BC	78-81	D	62-67
AB	88-91	C	72-77	F	< 62
B	82-87	CD	68-71		

Class attendance: You are expected to attend all class meetings and to arrive at the correct time with the readings assigned for the day. In order to emphasize the importance of prompt arrival and attendance, these are the guidelines that will govern your classroom presence:

- If you anticipate missing a class you are responsible for notifying me.
- You may miss two classes without penalty. If you miss more than two classes I will reduce your final grade by 5% for each additional absence.
- If any assignment is due on the day that you miss class you are responsible for submitting the work *in the required format* prior to the scheduled class meeting.
- If there are unannounced graded assignments during the class you miss, you will not be offered the opportunity to make-up this work.
- If you are absent for two or more consecutive classes because of an acute illness or personal emergency you should notify me. Such absences are not covered by the guidelines above and I will help to ensure that you are able to complete missed work.
- If you anticipate being late, you must notify me as soon as you can.
- You may be late two times without penalty. If you are late three or more times, I will reduce your grade by 5% for each instance.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class. If you are late, I will reduce your grade on that assignment by 5% immediately and another 5% each day thereafter.
- Do not rely on extra credit to compensate for a failure to submit your work on time.

Class etiquette: A class is a learning community, and you are expected to play a positive role in the activities. To that end, these are the policies that govern your behavior:

- Cell phones must be “off.” If yours does ring I will answer it.
- Hats or other headgear must be removed.
- You may bring a drink to class but you may not eat in the classroom unless you bring enough for everyone.

### **Learning Support Services:**

Disability Accommodation Statement: If you are a student with a documented disability and are interested in accommodations for this course, contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator (Lili O’Connell) in Learning Support Services in the Student Resource Center. Each student shall be expected to make timely and appropriate disclosure and requests to effectively set up services. All requests for services and disabilities documentation are confidential. If you have questions about services, accommodations, or documentation contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator in DeRicci 206, 663-2281.

The Writing Center: located in DeRicci 206, the Writing Center is your one-stop shop for all your writing needs! No appointment is necessary but you should plan on spending at least thirty minutes with your tutor when you do visit. For more information, contact the professionals at [http://edgenet.edgewood.edu/lss/writingcenter/student\\_home.htm](http://edgenet.edgewood.edu/lss/writingcenter/student_home.htm)

## **Academic Honesty Policy:**

As members of a scholarly community dedicated to healthy intellectual development, students and faculty at Edgewood College are expected to share the responsibility for maintaining high standards of honesty and integrity in their academic work. Each student should reflect this sense of responsibility toward the community by submitting work that is a product of his or her own effort in a particular course, unless the instructor has directed otherwise. In order to clarify and emphasize its standards for academic honesty, the college has adopted this policy.

The following are examples of violations of standards for academic honesty and are subject to academic sanctions: cheating on exams; submitting collaborative work as one's own; falsifying records, achievements, field or laboratory data, or other course work; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting work previously submitted in another course, unless specifically approved by the present instructor; falsifying documents or signing an instructor's or administrator's name to any document or form; plagiarism; or aiding another student in any of the above actions.

Plagiarism, which is defined as the deliberate use of another's ideas or words as if they were one's own, can take many forms, from the egregious to the mild. Instances most commonly seen in written work by students in order from most to least serious are:

- Borrowing, buying or stealing a paper from elsewhere; lending or selling a paper for another's use as his or her own; using printed material written by someone else as one's own
- Getting so much help on a paper from someone else, including a college tutor, that the student writer can no longer legitimately claim authorship
- Intentionally using source material improperly, e.g., neither citing nor using quotation marks on borrowed material; supplying an in-text citation but failing to enclose quoted material within quotation marks; leaving paraphrased material too close to the original version; failing to append a works-cited page when sources have been used
- Unintentional misuse of borrowed sources through ignorance or carelessness

Sanctions recommended for dishonesty are an "F" on the assignment and/or an "F" in the course. More serious violations may be referred to the Academic Dean's Office for appropriate action.

**Changes to the Syllabus:** The above schedule, policies, and assignments are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances or by mutual agreement between the instructor and the students.

## RS 210B Course Outline: The Gospels

Date	Readings and Other Assignments
<b>Thursday 27 Aug</b>	Course Introduction
<b>Tuesday 1 Sep</b>	Reading: Alistair McGrath, "The Old Testament" (chap. 3) in <i>Christianity: An Introduction</i>
<b>Thursday 3 Sep</b>	Reading: Delbert Burkett, "The Making of the New Testament" in <i>An Introduction to the New Testament and the Origins of Christianity</i> (chap.8) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
<b>Tuesday 8 Sep</b>	Reading: <i>The New Oxford Annotated Bible</i> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> ed., "Textual Criticism" and "Translations of the Bible into English" (460-470 ES) (hereafter, NOAB)
<b>Thursday 10 Sep</b>	Reading: Paul J. Achtemeier, Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson, "The Nature of the Gospels" (chap. 3), in <i>Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology</i>
<b>Tuesday 15 Sep</b>	Reading: NOAB, The Gospel According to Mark (Mark 1-16)
<b>Thursday 17 Sep</b>	<b>Quiz:</b> McGrath, Burkett, NOAB on textual criticism and translations, Achtemeier, et.al., class notes, maps as assigned  Reading: E. P. Sanders, <i>The Historical Figure of Jesus</i> , chaps. 1-3
<b>Tuesday 22 Sep</b>	Reading: Sanders, <i>Jesus</i> , chaps. 4-5
<b>Thursday 24 Sep</b>	Reading: Sanders, <i>Jesus</i> , chaps. 6-7
<b>Tuesday 29 Sep</b>	Reading: Sanders, <i>Jesus</i> , chap. 8
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Quiz:</b> Sanders, chaps. 1-8

Date	Readings and Other Assignments
<b>1 Oct</b>	Reading: NOAB, Mark 1:1-3:6
<b>Tuesday 6 Oct</b>	Readings: NOAB, Mark 3:7-8:26 Sanders, chap. 9
<b>Thursday 8 Oct</b>	Reading: NOAB: Mark 8:27-10:52 Sanders, chap. 10
<b>Tuesday 13 Oct</b>	<b>Fall Break: No class</b>
<b>Thursday 15 Oct</b>	Readings: NOAB: Mark 11:1-13:37 Sanders, chaps. 11-13
<b>Tuesday 20 Oct</b>	Readings: NOAB: Mark 14:1-16:8 Sanders, chaps. 15-17
<b>Thursday 22 Oct</b>	<b>Quiz:</b> The Gospel According to Mark; Sanders, chaps. 9-17  Readings: NOAB: John 1:1-18
<b>Tuesday 27 Oct</b>	<b>Project Assigned:</b> "The Bible Outside the Bible: the Bible in..."  Reading: NOAB, John 1:19-4:54
<b>Thursday 29 Oct</b>	Reading: NOAB, John 5 – 8
<b>Tuesday 3 Nov</b>	Reading: NOAB, John 9-12
<b>Thursday 5 Nov</b>	Reading: NOAB, John 13-15
<b>Tuesday 10 Nov</b>	Reading: NOAB, John 16-17

Date	Readings and Other Assignments
<b>Thursday 12 Nov</b>	Reading: NOAB, John 18-19  <b>Project Due:</b> "The Bible Outside the Bible: The Bible in..."
<b>Tuesday 17 Nov</b>	Reading: NOAB, John 20-21
<b>Thursday 19 Nov</b>	<b>Quiz:</b> The Gospel According to John <b>Discussion Project Assigned</b>  Reading: Leander Keck, <i>Who Is Jesus? History in the Perfect Tense</i> (chap. 1)
<b>Tuesday 24 Nov</b>	<b>No class</b>  Reading: Keck, <i>Jesus</i> , chap. 2
<b>Thursday 26 Nov</b>	<b>Thanksgiving: No class</b>
<b>Tuesday 1 Dec</b>	Reading: Keck, <i>Jesus</i> , chap. 3
<b>Thursday 3 Dec</b>	Reading: Keck, <i>Jesus</i> , chap. 4
<b>Tuesday 8 Dec</b>	<b>Discussion Project Due</b>  Reading: Keck, <i>Jesus</i> , chap.5
<b>Thursday 10 Dec</b>	<b>Quiz:</b> Keck, <i>Jesus</i> , chaps. 1-5  <b>Course Review</b>
<b>Tuesday 15 Dec</b>	<b>Final Examination (12:00-1:50 PM)</b>