INTRODUCTION
TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

ACABS 122 / RELIGION 122
MW 10:00-11:30 A.M.
1202 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION BLDG.

INSTRUCTOR: GABRIELE BOCCACCINI

GRAD. INSTRUCTORS:
JAMES WADDELL & RONALD RUARK

SYLLABUS: www.umich.edu/~gbocca/syllabi.htm

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
WINTER 2003
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

(1) Mon Jan 6, 2003
An Overview of the New Testament
The New Testament as a Selection of Early Christian Literature
Early Christian Literature as Theology on Jesus
Text-book: Harris (ch 1 pp 1-19)

PART I
THE BEGINNINGS OF CHRISTIANITY AS A JEWISH SECT:
FROM THE DEATH OF JESUS TO THE DESTRUCTION
OF THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE (30-70 CE)

(1) Wed Jan 8, 2003
The Beginnings of Christianity
Christianity as a Messianic Movement Within Judaism (Acts of Apostles 1-12)
The Apostles and the Brothers. Peter, John, James, Stephen.
The Relationships of Christianity with the Other Jewish Groups
Readings: The Acts of Apostles (chs 1-12)
Text-book: Harris (ch 13 pp 277-286)

(2) Mon Jan 13, 2003
The Founder of Christianity: Jesus
The Troubled World Into Which Jesus Was Born
Documentary: “From Jesus to Christ (I)”
[Frontline, PBS, 1998] – Discussion
Text-book: Harris (ch 4 pp 57-75)

(3) Wed Jan 15, 2003
Judaisms and their Messiahs
The Diverse World of First-Century Judaisms
Sadducees, Pharisees (and Zealots), Essenes (and Qumranites)
Text-book: Harris (ch 5 pp 76-93)

[ Mon Jan 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day: no class ]

(4) Wed Jan 22, 2003 [at 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Angell Hall Aud. D]
The Beginnings of the Mission Toward the Gentiles
The Challenges of the New Hellenistic Environment.
Documentary: “From Jesus to Christ (II)”
[Frontline, PBS, 1998] – Discussion
Text-book: Harris (ch 3 pp 36-56)
5) Mon Jan 27, 2003
From Jerusalem to Rome (Acts 13-28)
Readings: Acts 13-28
Text-book: Harris (ch 13 pp 287-301)

[ Jan 28 and 30: 1st Mid-term (during discussion sessions) ]

Paul: Apostle to the Nations
Paul’s Letters (I): 1 Thessalonians
Readings: 1 Thessalonians (NT)
Harris (ch 14 pp 303-314; ch 15 pp 315-318)

7) Mon Feb 3, 2003
Paul’s Letters (II): 1 & 2 Corinthians
Leading an Eschatological Community
The Problem of Authority in the Church
Readings: Harris (ch 15 pp 318-331)

8) Wed Feb 5, 2003
Paul’s Letters (III): Galatians
The Problem of the Mosaic Torah
Readings: Galatians;
Text-book: Harris (ch 16 pp 332-336)

9) Mon Feb 10, 2003
Paul’s Letters (IV): Romans
Jews and Gentiles in the Church
Readings: Romans
Text-book: Harris (ch 16 pp 336-346)

10) Wed Feb 12, 2003
The Letters of James and Peter
James, the Brother of Jesus and the Jerusalem Church
The Reaction of the Christian Jews and the Mediation of Peter
Readings: James; 1 Peter;
Text-book: Harris (ch p; ch pp)

11) Mon Feb 17, 2003
Paul’s Letters (V): Philippians and Philemon
The Son as the Perfect Image of God
The Problem of Slavery
Readings: Philippians; Philemon;
Text-book: Harris (ch pp)

Wed Feb 19, 2003– 2nd Mid-term (during class hours)
PART II
AFTER THE YEAR 70 CE:
THE PARTINGS OF THE WAYS
BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND PHARISAIC JUDAISM

(1) Mon Mar 3, 2003
The Death of the Leaders (James, Peter, Paul) and the Destruction of Jerusalem
Documentary: “From Jesus to Christ (III)”
[Frontline, PBS, 1998] – Discussion

(2) Wed Mar 5, 2003
The Gospel of Mark
Continuing the Tradition of Peter
Jesus as the Hidden Messiah and the Eschatological Judge
Readings: Mark (NT)
Text-book: Harris (ch 7 pp 118-146)

(3) Mon Mar 10, 2003
The Gospel of Matthew
Continuing the Tradition of James
A Community of Christian Jews in Palestine
Jesus as the Greatest Jewish Teacher
Readings: Matthew (NT)
Text-book: Harris (ch 8 pp 147-177)

(3bis) Mon Mar 10, 2003 [Michigan League Ballroom, 7:30pm]
Special Session: «The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Jewish Context of Early Christianity»
Guest-lecturer: Lawrence H. Schiffman, New York University

(4) Wed Mar 12, 2003
Continuing the Tradition of Luke
A Community of Christian Jews and Gentiles living in the Diaspora
Jesus as the Savior for All Nations
Readings: Luke (NT)
Text-book: Harris (ch 9 pp 178-207)

(5) Mon Mar 17, 2003
The Book of Hebrews
The Son of Man is far above the Angels
Readings: Hebrews (NT)
Text-book: Harris (ch 19 pp 376-380)
(6) Wed Mar 19, 2003
Continuing the Pauline Tradition
The Deutero-Pauline Letters: 2 Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians
The Delay of the End and the Divinity of the Son
Readings: 2 Thessalonians (NT); Colossians (NT); Ephesians (NT)
Text-book: Harris (ch 18 pp 358-365)

(7) Mon Mar 24, 2003
Outside the New Testament:
Continuing the Essene Roots of Christianity
The Didache -- The Shepherd of Hermas
Readings: Didache (AposFath); Shepherd of Hermas (AposFath)
Text-book: Harris (ch 19 pp 390-392)

(8) Wed Mar 26, 2003
Outside the New Testament
The Radical Hellenization of Christianity
The Gospel of Thomas – Secret Gospel of Mark
The Epistle of Barnabas (ca. 100)
Readings: Thomas; Letter of Barnabas (AposFath)
Text-book: Harris (ch 11 pp 240-245; ch 18 pp 370-371)

[ Apr 1 and 3: 3rd Mid-term (during discussion sessions) ]

(9) Mon Mar 31, 2003
The Gospel of John
Divine Wisdom Made Flesh (the Son as God’s Logos)
Readings: John (NT)
Text-book: Harris (ch 10 pp 208-236)

(10) Wed Apr 2, 2003
Continuing the Apocalyptic Hope
The Book of Revelation and Other Jewish/Christian Apocalyptic Works
Readings: Revelation of John (NT); excerpts from 1 Enoch, 4 Ezra (2 Esdras), and the Apocalypse of Peter
Text-book: Harris (ch 20 pp 395-419)

(11) Mon Apr 7, 2003
Outside the New Testament:
Structuring the Church
The Letter of Clement (ca. 96 CE) and the Seven Letters of Ignatius (ca. 110)
Readings: 1 Clement (AposFath); Letters of Ignatius (AposFath)
Text-book: Harris (ch 18 pp 369-370)
(12) Wed Apr 9, 2003
In the name of John and Paul
Structuring the Church
Letters from the Johannine Community: 1, 2 & 3 John
The Pastorals: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus
Readings: 1, 2 & 3 John (NT); 1 & 2 Timothy (NT); Titus (NT)
Text-book: Harris (ch 19 pp. 388-390; ch 18 pp 366-369)

(13) Mon Apr 14, 2003
Continuing the Tradition of James and Peter
The Letter of Jude (c. 100-150) -- The Second Letter of Peter (c. 100-150)
The Gospel of Peter -- The Infancy Gospel of Thomas -- The Infancy Gospel of James
Readings: Jude (NT); 2 Peter (NT); Infancy Gospel of Thomas (Harris p 247);
Infancy Gospel of James (Harris pp 249-250)
Text-book: Harris (ch 19 pp 385-388; ch 11 pp 245-250)

(14) Wed Apr 16, 2003
How the New Testament Was Formed and Handed Down to Us
The Judeo-Christian Bible and Subsequent History
Text-book: Harris (ch 2 pp 20-35; ch 21 pp 420-428)

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2003, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Final Written Exam in 1202 SEB

Instructor
Dr. Gabriele Boccaccini (PhD University of Turin, Italy),
Associate Professor of New Testament and Second Temple Judaism at the
University of Michigan since the Fall of 1992.
Major publications: Middle Judaism: Jewish Thought, 300 BCE to 200 CE
(Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991); Middle Judaism in Scholarship and Arts
(Turin: Zamorani, 1992); Beyond the Essene Hypothesis: The Parting of
the Ways between Qumran and Enochic Judaism (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans,
1998); Roots of Rabbinic Judaism: An Intellectual History, from Ezekiel
to Daniel (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002).
Addresses: Department of Near Eastern Studies, 2091 Frieze Bldg; e-
mail: <gbocca@umich.edu>; tel. (734) 763.1595 (o) and (734) 741.1556;
fax (734) 936.2679.
Office hours: immediately after class, or MW 12:00-2:00pm (office), or
by appointment
Literature (available at Shaman & Drum):


(4) Handouts by the Instructor

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Grading System and Requirements

1. Read this section of the syllabus very carefully. The syllabus is like a contract between the student and the instructor, which we all are bound to respect.

2. ATTENDANCE. The course is based on lectures by the Instructor, weekly discussion sessions with the G.S.I., and four exams. Regular attendance is compulsory. If you happen to miss a session, it is your responsibility to ask the Instructor or the G.S.I. or a classmate for information about what was discussed in class. Students whose attendance has been poor (that is, have missed 15-25% of either lectures or discussion sessions without justification) will see their final grade reduced of half point. Students who have not attended the class regularly (that is, have missed more than 25% of either lectures or discussion sessions without any justification), or have not fulfilled each and all the requirements of the course, will not be graded and will receive a NR report.

3. GRADING SYSTEM. The final grade is based on three elements:

   (a) Participation  10%  
       Attendance Regular [Poor (-half point); Insufficient (=NR)]

   (b) First Midterm  10%  50 multiple-choice questions
       Second Midterm  30%  100 multiple-choice questions
       Third Midtern  10%  50 multiple-choice questions

   (c) Final Exam  40%  200 multiple-choice questions

   (a) Quality of participation in class and discussion sessions makes 10% of the final grade. The evaluation will be made conjunctly by the Instructor and the G.S.I. on the basis of the student’s attention, attendance, comments, questions, commitment for an enjoyable environment, etc.

   Outstanding  (A+ = 100% )
   Good  (A = 95% )
   Average  (B = 84% )
   Poor  (C = 73% )
   Very Poor  (D = 62% )
(b) The three midterm exams [10%, 30%, and 10% of the final grade, respectively] are a series of multiple-choice questions from the lectures and the textbook. The results of the tests will be discussed in class and in the discussion sessions. The grade is determined proportionally to the amount of questions correctly answered [unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect], as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100%-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97%-93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92%-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89%-87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86%-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81%-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78%-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75%-71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%-68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%-65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64%-60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>59%-57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>56% or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Instructor's goal is to help the deserving student, who may have some initial difficulties, to improve their grade.

The first mid-term [50 questions] is aimed to be a sort of preparation to the more important second mid-term (no retaking allowed).

The second mid-term [120 new questions + 30 questions from the first mid-term] will in fact include some of the same questions of the first mid-term. In addition: if your grade is B or less, after restudying the material and if you wish to do so, you will be given the opportunity to retake the exam (50 old questions + 20 new questions), by the following three weeks. If your grade is F, you must submit a written petition (via e-mail) to the Professor and receive written permission (via e-mail) to continue the class, provided that your attendance is good. Failure to fulfill each and all of the above-mentioned requirements, results into an NR (no report).

By retaking the exam, you may receive a maximum increase of 10 points in the percentage of your grade, depending on the number of correct answers, as follows:

- 50 or less: no increase
- 51 to 55: 3-point increase
- 56 to 60: 5-point increase
- 61 to 65: 8-point increase
- 66 to 70: 11-point increase

For example, if the percentage of your grade was 60% (D) and in the retake you answer correctly 67 questions, your grade will be calculated as 71% (C) [60% + a 11-point increase]; if you answer correctly 63 question, your grade will be calculated as 68% (C-) [60% plus a 8-point increase]; if you answer correctly 58 questions, your grade will be calculated as 65% (D+) [60% plus a 5-point increase]; etc. etc. In no case, however, the final percentage of your midterm will be calculated more than 87% (B+). If for example, the percentage of your grade was 80% (B-) and you get a 11-point increase, your final percentage will still be calculated as 87% (B+) [not 91% (A-)].

The third mid-term [50 new questions] also is aimed to be a sort of preparation to the final and most important exam (no retaking allowed).
(d) The final exam [40% of the final grade] is a series of 200 questions aimed to a general review of the entire course. The exam will present 160 new questions, covering all the parts of the class with special emphasis on the second half of the course, and will include 40 questions from the previous midterm exams. The grading system will follow the same criteria as the midterm exam, but no possibility of retaking will be offered.

VERY IMPORTANT !! If you have any questions or something goes wrong, or you realize that your attendance is going to be poor or insufficient, please do not wait until the very last moment to express yourself. I will be always available to talk to you immediately after the class or during my office hours or, if necessary, scheduling a meeting at a different time. We can find together a solution to (almost) every problem. But, please, don't ask the impossible when there is no more time.

!! BE SMART AND RESPONSIBLE: ENJOY THE CLASS !!
INFORMATION SHEET
TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE STUDENT AND RETURNED AT THE END OF JANUARY

YOUR NAME (printed): _____________________________________________
last           first          middle

STUDENT ID: ___________________  YOUR E-MAIL _____________________

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

OTHER CLASSES IN RELIGION:

MOTIVATIONS FOR ATTENDING THE COURSE:

FIRST IMPRESSIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, QUESTIONS:

(please use the back of the sheet for additional comments)

I READ VERY CAREFULLY THE SYLLABUS. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE GRADING SYSTEM AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CLASS. IN PARTICULAR, I AM AWARE THAT ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY, THAT POOR ATTENDANCE WILL AFFECT MY FINAL GRADE, AND THAT I WILL NOT BE GRADED NR (NO REPORT) IF I MISS MORE THAN 25% OF EITHER LECTURES OR DISCUSSION SESSIONS WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION.

____________        _________________________________
(date)                (signature)

(to be filled out by the Professor)

|   First  |  Second  |   Third  | Final | Commit. ||  Final  ||
| mid-term | mid-term | mid term | exam  | Partic. || grade  ||
| (10%)    | (30%)    | (10%)    | (40%) | (10%)  || (10%)  ||
|          |          |          |       |         ||         ||
|          |          |          |       |         ||         ||
|          |          |          |       |         ||         ||
Attendance: R (regular); P (poor); I (insufficient)