

Second Century Christianity  
RS 116B  
Spring Quarter 2011

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website: [www.religion.ucsb.edu/faculty/thomas/classes/RS116B.html](http://www.religion.ucsb.edu/faculty/thomas/classes/RS116B.html)

BOOKS (all required)

Bart D. Ehrman, *Lost Scriptures: Books that Did Not Make It into the New Testament* (2003).

W. H. C. Frend, *The Early Church* (1982).

R. Joseph Hoffmann, *On the True Doctrine: A Discourse Against the Christians* (1987).

Cyril Richardson, *Early Christian Fathers* (1970).

Other materials are posted on the course website:

<http://www.religion.ucsb.edu/faculty/thomas/classes/RS116B.html>

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Readings should be completed BEFORE the lecture.

W= website, in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

### I. The Parting of the Ways with Judaism

28 March: *The Acts of Paul* and Basic Issues in Second-Century Christianity

📖 Frend, 4-14 on the Roman world; *The Acts of Thekla* in Ehrman, 113-21.

30 March: Judaisms in the Roman Empire, Including Christianity

📖 Frend, 15-34 on Judaism in the Roman empire

4 April: The Beginnings of Differentiation. The Jerusalem Community of James

📖 Frend, 35-48 on the Old Israel and the New

6 April: Early Christianity and Judaism: Hostile Takeover or Direct Continuation?

📖 *Epistle of Barnabas* and *The Homilies of Clement*, Ehrman, 219-35, 195-200.

### II. Finding a Place within the Empire: Christian Apologetic

11 April: Persecution of Nascent Christianity: Its Legal and Social Basis

📖 W: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PLINY AND TRAJAN; ACCOUNT OF THE SCILLITIAN MARTYRS; Ignatius, *Epistles to the Philadelphians*, and *to the Smyrnaeans*, in Richardson, 107-16.

13 April: Apologetic Redefinition of Jewish Heritage

📖 W: JUSTIN MARTYR, *DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO*; *Epistle to Diognetus* in Richardson, 213-24.

18 April: The Beginnings of Christian Philosophy

📖 W: CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA, *CHRIST THE EDUCATOR*.

20 April: The Christian Apologists as Philosophers

📖 Athenagoras in Richardson, 300-40; Justin Martyr, *Apology*, in Richardson, 242-89.

## 25 April: In-Class Midterm

### III. The Life of the Church: Liturgy, Canon, and Popular Piety

27 April: The Formation of the Christian Canon

📖 W: ON MARCION; *Canon of Eusebius* in Ehrman 337-38; *Muratorian Fragment* in Ehrman, 334-36.

2 May: Christian Stories about Jesus, Mary, and the Apostles

📖 *The Proto-Gospel of James* in Ehrman, 63-72; *The Infancy Gospel of Thomas* in Ehrman, 57-62; *The Acts of Thomas* in Ehrman, 122-34.

4 May: Worship and Community Organization

📖 *Acts of Peter* in Ehrman, 135-54; *The Acts of Paul* in Ehrman, 109-12; *Didache* in Ehrman, 211-17; W: ODES OF SOLOMON.

### IV. The Gnostics

9 May: The Classic Gnostic Myth

📖 Frend, 49-57 on Gnosticism; *The Hymn of the Pearl* in Ehrman, 324-28; *The Secret Book of John* in Ehrman, 297-306.

11 May: The Gnostic Schools: Basilides, Valentinus

📖 Ptolemy's *Letter to Flora* in Ehrman, 201-6; *Treatise on the Resurrection* in Ehrman, 207-10.

16 May: Irenaeus and the Response of the “Orthodox” to the Gnostics

📖 Irenaeus in Richardson, 358-97

### V. Other Christianities and the Problem of the Rome Empire

18 May: “Thomas Christianity” and Montanism

📖 *The Coptic Gospel of Thomas* in Ehrman, 19-28; W: THE BOOK OF THOMAS THE CONTENDER; THE MONTANIST ORACLES; ANTI-MONTANIST WRITINGS.

23 May: Tertullian and Early Christian Martyrs

📖 Frend, 58-71 on martyrs, Celsus, and the Montanists; W: TERTULLIAN; *The Martyrdom of Polycarp* in Richardson, 149-58; W: ACCOUNT OF THE MARTYRS OF VIENNE AND LYON; *THE ACTS OF PERPETUA AND FELICITAS*.

25 May: Celsus

📖 Hoffmann, 53-126; Frend, 72-84.

30 May: No Class: Memorial Day Holiday

1 June: Course Review

8 June: Final Exam, 8-11 am

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

If you are a student with a disability, and would like to discuss special academic accommodations, please contact me during my office hours, by phone or e-mail, or before or after class.

1. **Participation (10%).** Time will be devoted each week to class discussion. Minimal preparation represented by either asking or answering questions of value to the entire class in comprehending the course content will be recorded and evaluated. As preparation for class participation, students should formulate a question or two while reading the assignments.
2. **A midterm exam (40%).** Two short essay questions and identification of passages from ancient texts. A study guide will be circulated on Monday, 18 April. The exam will take place on **Monday, 25 April, during the usual class period.**
3. **A final exam (50%).** One long essay question and two short essay questions. A study guide will be circulated on 25 May. The exam will take place on **Wednesday, 8 June, at 8 am in the normal lecture room.**

## MAKEUP POLICY, LATE ASSIGNMENTS, INCOMPLETES

In the interest of fairness to the majority of students who complete their work adequately and on time, despite the numerous hindrances that all of us face in our daily lives, the instructors of this class wish to make the conditions under which work is produced and evaluated as equal as possible for everyone in the class.

Consequently, there will be **no makeup exams** for the mid-term and final examinations. Students needing to miss class on those days will need to acquire advance approval from the professor in order to miss the exam without losing credit. Students who are ill during the exam will similarly need a doctor's note. In each case, students will be given alternate writing assignments to earn the lost credit.

**Incompletes are generally not granted** for this class, because the instructor is not contracted to work over the summer and hence cannot evaluate late work. In the case of ongoing illness or catastrophic family situations, the best course of action is to withdraw from the class and retake it later.

## POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Student Code of Conduct clearly sets out a standard of academic honesty and responsibility by which a student's work must be his or her own work. The faculty in Religious Studies believes that plagiarism is one of the most serious infractions of student conduct and of the intellectual environment of the university. All faculty members have agreed that we will pursue disciplinary actions in all cases of plagiarism and that we will ask the Dean of Students and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies not only to suspend the offending student from the university but also prohibit the student from taking any further courses in Religious Studies.