

## **RELI 365: Paul and the New Testament**

Rice University, Fall 2013, 2:00-2:50pm MWF, Sewall Hall 307

### **Instructor**

Grant Adamson  
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### **Office hours**

Though I do not have an office, I am on campus during the week and will be available. If you would like to meet at the pavilion, please send me an email to schedule a time.

### **Course description**

Examines the growth of Christianity from its origins as a Jewish group to a religion in the mid-second century that distinguished itself from Judaism. Includes discussion of Acts, Paul's letters, Johannine corpus, Gospel of Thomas, Pastorals, Catholic letters, Hebrews, and Revelation.

### **Required texts**

Title: *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*.  
Edition: 4<sup>th</sup> (or other)  
Editor: Michael D. Coogan  
ISBN: 9780195289602

Title: *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*.  
Edition: 5<sup>th</sup>  
Author: Bart D. Ehrman  
ISBN: 9780199757534

Title: *Paul the Convert: The Apostolate and Apostasy of Saul the Pharisee*.  
Author: Alan F. Segal  
ISBN: 9780300052275

### **Course requirements and grade policies**

*Attendance, Preparation and Participation 30%*

0-3 points/day

0 = absent

1 = was not prepared and (so) did not participate (meaningfully)

2 = prepared and participated partially

3 = prepared and participated fully

*Mid-Term Exam 35%, Final Exam 35%*

The mid-term exam will be in class on Friday 10/11. The final exam will be a take-home exam that will be distributed on the last day of class and will be due at 5pm on Wednesday 12/18, the end of finals. They will be based on the reading, including the companion website to Ehrman (especially the review quizzes), class lecture and discussion of the reading.

### *Grading Scale*

100-94 (A), 93-90 (A-), 89-87 (B+), 86-84 (B), 83-80 (B-), 79-77 (C+), 76-74 (C), 73-70 (C-), 69-67 (D+), 66-64 (D), 63-60 (D-), 59-0 (F).

1. “Students are *expected* to attend *all* scheduled activities for all of the classes for which they are registered during the entire course of the academic semester for which they are enrolled *emphasis added*,” according to university academic policies and procedures (*emphasis added*). See <http://ga.rice.edu/Home.aspx?id=223&libID=243>.

Furthermore, in this course I require attendance. The material is engaging, and I am confident that you will want to discuss it together. The give and take of discussion and human interaction between instructor and student as well as between the students themselves are an essential part of learning that isolated study, as essential as it is, simply cannot get at. Also, while I personally dislike rolls and believe that the best kind of learning is at will, I dislike reporting low grades even more, and those few students who invariably do not attend class when it is not required often do less than well overall in my experience.

2. “No student should be given an extension of time or opportunities to improve a grade that are not available to all members of the class, *except for verified illness or justified absence* from campus,” according to university grading guidelines (*emphasis added*). See [http://professor.rice.edu/professor/grading\\_guidelines1.asp](http://professor.rice.edu/professor/grading_guidelines1.asp).

To verify an illness or justify an absence otherwise (primarily in the case of medical or family emergency), please send me an email in advance if possible, and if not, then please send me an email as soon as possible after the fact. At any rate, please do so before returning to class.

3. “The university understands that students participating in university-sponsored extracurricular activities *may, on rare occasions*, need to miss a class session during the semester. As a matter of course, students should inform their instructors *in advance* of absences resulting from participation in university-sponsored activities, and faculty normally will give a reasonable opportunity to make up work missed on such occasions ... Absences for activities other than university-sponsored events *may be negotiated* on an informal basis between the student and the faculty member,” again according to university academic policies and procedures (*emphasis added*). See <http://ga.rice.edu/Home.aspx?id=223&libID=243>.

In case of rare absence due to university-sponsored extracurricular activities, please send me an email in advance. To negotiate any other absence, please do the same. At most, 3 total absences may be excused in either case.

4. Reading is to be completed *before* class. General highlighting, note taking, outline making, etc., are recommended but at your discretion. \*However, as part of your grade, you are required to prepare a brief written response to a prompt each time we read from Ehrman. More details under no.7, below.

5. The main required text by Ehrman has a companion website:

<http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199757534/student/>

You are encouraged to use it regularly. For each chapter, it features a student guide, flashcards, and a review quiz.

6. In order to facilitate and ground our discussion of the reading, please bring your text book/s with you to class each day.

7. Class will be a mix of lecture and discussion. Discussion will focus on the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” and “Take a stand” throughout the chapters of Ehrman. You are required to prepare a written response to one of these prompts each time we read from Ehrman. Choosing which prompt to respond to is up to you. Your response should be about 1 page, typed or handwritten. It may consist of talking points, lists of evidence, or your complete thoughts in sentences and even paragraphs—whatever you find most helpful. You will not turn in your written responses but will bring them to class. You will then be sure to be prepared when I call on you individually and in groups as we discuss. Not only will they benefit our discussion, your written responses will also aid you in preparing for the exams.

8. While you are welcome to form study groups, it is expected that all written responses done before class will be under the Honor System, as will the Mid-Term Exam in class and the take-home Final Exam.

### **ADA Statement**

Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will need to contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center, Room 111.

### **Proviso**

The information contained in this course syllabus, other than the absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

### **Schedule**

Week of 8/26-30

M: first day of class

W: read Ehrman chs.1-3 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 15, 28, 41, 45, 47

F: read Ehrman chs.4-6 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 67, 78, 80, 87

Week of 9/2-6

M: Labor Day, no class

W: read Gospel of Mark in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.7 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 93, 95, 97, 100, 103

F: read Ehrman ch.8 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textbox labeled “Take a stand” on page 112; color code the double and triple tradition in Matthew and Luke following instructions on handout

Week of 9/9-13

M: read Gospel of Matthew in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.9 and prepare a written response to one

of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 117, 119, 128, 131, 132

W: read Gospel of Luke in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.10 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 140, 141, 146, 150, 152

F: read Acts of the Apostles in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.11 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 156, 159, 163, 174

Week of 9/16-20

M: read Gospel of John in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.12 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 189, 193, 197

W: read 1-3 John in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.13 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textbox labeled “Take a stand” on page 216

F: read Gospel of Thomas (via Olwspace); read Ehrman ch.14 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 222, 235

Week of 9/23-27

M: read Ehrman chs.15-16 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 246, 251, 258

W: read Ehrman ch.17 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textbox labeled “Take a stand” on page 273

F: read Ehrman ch.18 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 276, 277, 278, 280, 285, 292, 293

Week of 9/30-10/4

M: read Ehrman ch.19 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 298, 299, 302, 304

W: read Ehrman ch.20 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 316, 322

F: read Segal introduction, appendix, ch.1

Week of 10/7-11

M: read 1 Thessalonians in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.21 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 335, 336, 337

W: read 1-2 Corinthians in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.22 (to pg.354) and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 352, 370 (#1 or 3)

F: **Mid-Term Exam, in class**

Week of 10/14-18

M: Midterm Recess, no class

W: read Segal ch.2  
F: read Segal ch.3

Week of 10/21-25

M: read Galatians in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.22 (to pg.363) and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 357, 359, 370 (#2 or 3)

W: read Philippians, Philemon in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.22 (to the end) and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 366, 370 (#3)

F: read Segal ch.4

Week of 10/28-11/1

M: read Segal ch.5

W: read Segal ch.6

F: read Romans in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.23 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 376, 378, 384

Week of 11/4-8

M: read Segal ch.7

W: read Segal ch.8

F: read Ehrman ch.24 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 389, 390, 395

Week of 11/11-15

M: read 2 Thessalonians in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.25 (to pg.403) and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textbox labeled “Take a stand” on page 419 (#1 choosing 2 Thess)

W: read Colossians, Ephesians in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.25 (to pg.410) and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” on pages 405, 409

F: read 1-2 Timothy, Titus in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.25 (to the end) and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textbox labeled “Take a stand” on page 419 (#2)

Week of 11/18-22

M: read Ehrman ch.26 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 428, 431, 433

W: read Hebrews in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.27 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 437, 440, 447, 452

F: read 1 Peter; read Ehrman ch.28 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 457, 466, 472

Week of 11/25-29

M: annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature; no class

W: read James in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.29 (to pg.484) and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 481, 483, 488 (#1)

F: Thanksgiving Recess; no class

Week of 12/2-6

M: read Jude, 2 Peter in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.29 (to the end) and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textbox labeled “Take a stand” on pages 488

W: read Revelation in Coogan; read Ehrman ch.30 and prepare a written response to one of the prompts in the textboxes labeled “What do you think?” or “Take a stand” on pages 495, 500, 506

F: last day of class; **Final Exam distributed (take-home)**

Week of 12/9-13

study days and finals

Week of 12/16-20

W: end of finals, **Final Exam due at 5pm**