



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Syllabus

5210 New Testament World

Fall Semester Aug. 14-Dec. 08, 2023

Class Meets Tuesdays Aug. 15-Dec. 05, 2023 , 1:00-3:45 PM

Harding School of Theology

Prof. Richard E. Oster, Jr.

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My GA: Eric Brandell ebrandell@harding.edu

Your required signature is for both the syllabus statement and the honor code. Your signature is required on this document and due on the date of the first class meeting. You may submit this to me in person or send a scanned copy to me as an attachment via Canvas.

I have read this syllabus in its entirety and agree to follow it.

HONOR CODE:

I swear/affirm that I will neither give nor receive assistance on quizzes and exams in this course, and will report to the professor if I know anyone who has.

Signature

Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: roster@hst.edu

Office Phone Number: *(please use my cell # and leave a message, 901-335-4296)*

Credit Hour Workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Textbooks

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library Resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the "library" tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

If I need to contact you outside of Canvas, I will use your Harding University/HST email address, so please make sure you check it regularly; or, have your mail from it forwarded to another email address of your choice that you check regularly. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check their HST email site.

The following material is adapted from a handout kindly provided by Prof. Carlus Gupton [LU]:

Course Etiquette for HST Live

HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.

All absences, late arrivals, and early departures should be respectfully requested by the student and approved by the professor prior to beginning of class session, whenever possible. It is the professor's call to grant (or not grant) the exception. It is considered unprofessional to simply inform the professor that you will be early/late, especially during class.

“Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted ONLY in extreme cases such as illness, family emergency, church funeral (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all calendared sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.

Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (e.g. a chair at a desk in your office). It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc.

Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. For example, if you must go to the rest room, except during class breaks, mute your audio/video, go quickly, return to your screen, un-mute, and resume with the class.

Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free [as possible REO] (e.g. no background family noise, TV, etc.)

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

CANVAS ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure and convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail

account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

If you wish to contact me via email and it is unrelated to a course, it is best to email me directly at roster@harding.edu.

HST LIVE INTERACTIVE VIDEO EDUCATION (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9014327718>.

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

Students new to HST LIVE should watch the HST LIVE orientation video before the first day of class. The video can be found at <https://hst.edu/students/canvas-online-learning/>.

Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation
- Exploration of the Internet to identify resources (e.g., dialogue groups, professional organizations, professional writings).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Ferguson, Everett, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; 3 edition, 2003. This book is for the entire course.
2. Klauck, Hans. J. *The Religious Context of Early Christianity--A Guide to Graeco-Roman Religions*. This book is for the 2nd half of the course.

3. There will be *Ad Fontes* documents of 100+ pages consisting of texts, PowerPoints, and videos/iconography that will be co-ordinated with the lecture materials throughout the course. You will receive this through Canvas after the semester begins. These *Ad Fontes* materials are for the entire course.

REQUIRED READINGS

NB In the case that someone might question that there are so many pages of "Required Readings," please observe that I am not requiring you to write a research paper!

Duhaime, Jean. "War Scroll (1QM)," in The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 2010, pp. 1329-1330. 2 pp.

Harland, Philip and John Kloppenborg, <https://philipharland.com/greco-roman-associations/regulations-of-a-bacchic-association-the-iobacchoi/> 2 pp.

Harlow, Daniel. "Messianic Apocalypse (4Q521)," in The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 2010, pp. 937-938. 2 pp.

Heard, W. J. and Yamazaki-Ransom, K., "Revolutionary Movements," in Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, 2nd ed. 2013, pp. 789-799. 10 pp.

Levine, Lee I. "Temple, Jerusalem," in The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 2010, pp. 1281-1291. 10 pp.

Mason, Steve. "Josephus," in The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 2010, pp. 828-832. 4 pp.

Metso, Sarianna. "Rule of the Community (1QS+fragments)," in The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 2010, pp. 1169-1171. 2 pp.

Niehoff, Maren R. "Philo, Allegorical Commentary," in The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 2010, pp. 1070-1072. 2 pp.

_____. "Philo, Exposition of the Law," in The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 2010, pp. 1074-1076. 2 pp.

Oster, Richard E. "When Men Wore Veils to Worship: The Historical Context of 1 Corinthians 11:4." New Testament Studies 34 (1988):481-505. **[optional]**

Peters, D. M. "Dead Sea Scrolls," in Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, 2nd ed. 2013, pp. 166-172. 5 pp.

Pucci Ben Zev, Miriam. "Jews Among Greeks and Romans," in The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism, eds. John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 2010, pp. 237-255. 18 pp.

Smith, Dennis. From Symposia to Eucharist. The Banquet in the Early Christian World. 2003. pp., 13-18, 87-131. 49 pp.

Smith, Mark D. "Ancient Bisexuality and the Interpretation of Romans 1:26-27." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 64 [1996] 223-56. 33 pp.

CLASS/LECTURE SCHEDULE

DATES	TOPICS
08.15.2023	Intro. to course; pros and cons of the historical method; <i>ad fontes</i> —primary sources; HST access to primary sources; expectations of HST students.
08.22.2023	Value of term Judaisms. S. Sandmel "Parallellomania"
	I. Social/historical/theological evolution from OT through Second Temple Judaism
	1. Resurrection, 2. "Messiah", 3. Demons/Satan, 4. Eschatology, 5. Missiology
	II. Institutions (synagogues; Sanhedrin/Council; Herod's Temple and Diaspora non-scriptural (Egyptian) Jewish Temples
	III. Second Temple Judaism sources (e.g., LXX; Philo; Josephus; Hellenistic Jewish authors; Pseudepigrapha; Dead Sea Scrolls; Papyri; Inscriptions; Numismatics)
	IV. Topics within the broader cultures 1. anti-semitism, 2. God-fearers; 3. proselytes; 4. Jewish special relationship with Rome; 5. Jewish thaumaturgy in broader culture
08.29.2023	DSS Communities and Texts
09.05.2023	DSS Communities and Texts, Pt 02
09.19.2023	DSS Communities and Texts Pt 03
09.26.2023	Pharisees & Sadducees & Samaritans & Synagogues (Delos synagogue inscriptions) & Synagogues (3rd century BC Egypt; Julia Severa; Nero era inscription that uses " <i>synagōgē</i> for people and for building [H. Key and R. Oster debate]; 1st century AD Theodotus Inscription; Crimean Inscriptions
10.03.2023	1st Jewish Rebellion (Josephus <i>War</i>); Destruction of Jerusalem/Temple (Josephus <i>War</i> ; Masada (Movie clips); Arch of Titus (Archaeology slides)
10.06.2023 (Friday)	Fall Break
10.09-10.14.2023	Week of D. Min. Seminar and Intensives/Study Week NT World does not meet 10.10.2023

MIDTERM EXAMINATION-Covers 1st half of course

The Midterm Exam will NOT be given during the regular class lecture period of 10.17.2023. In consultation with your proctor and my GA you will pick a

block of time, approximately 2.5-3.5 hours, beginning on 10.18.2020 @ 9:00 AM CST and to be completed no later than @ noon on 10.24.2023 CST.

- 10.17.2023 Overview of literary and non-literary resources for reconstructing the non-Jewish backgrounds of the early church. Contours of the Persian Empire, Hellenistic Kingdoms, and the Roman Empire; Languages; *Pax Romana* (Philo, Pliny, Vergil, Aelius Aristides, Athenagoras); Eratosthenes and the later *Periplus*, Travel (e.g., Zeuxis epigraph from Hierapolis), “missionary” impulse of some religions (Serapis, Isis, *Artemis Ephesia*)
- 10.24.2023 Philosophers (e.g., Socrates; Plato’s Parable of the Cave; Cleanthes, “Hymn to Zeus”; Musonius Rufus; Epictetus; Diogenes of Oinoanda)
- 10.31.2023 1 Corinthians and pagan backgrounds (sexual behaviors; Flee idolatry; Roman head coverings in worship; communal meals).
- 11.07.2023 Continued, 1 Corinthians and pagan backgrounds (sexual behaviors; Roman head coverings in worship; communal meals)
- 11.14.2023 Pliny-Trajan Letters. Official and private attitudes against believers
- 11.21.2023 **THANKSGIVING WEEK. NT World does not meet this week**
- 11.28.2023 Roman culture of violence & death; crucifixion of Jesus and co-crucifixion of believers
- 12.05.2023 **FINAL EXAMINATION-Covers last half of course**