

Introduction to Christianity – Spring 2010
01/20/10-05/14/10

REL 270, Section 39318
W 7:10-9:45; Room AD2E

Instructor: Matthew Wenzlau

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Required Text:

Bart D. Ehrman. *A Brief Introduction to the New Testament* (2004).

Suggested Text:

Seife, Charles. *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea*.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic history and significant themes of Christianity. In addition to lectures, we will engage in discussion, formulate group activities and watch films/documentaries. Not only are the homework assignments a required part of the reading assignments, but reading the assigned materials will greatly enhance your ability to grasp the concepts.

Course Outline:

Introduction/Early Christianity - Chapters 1-4

The Gospels of Christianity; Acts; John - Chapters 5-9

The Pauline Epistles - Chapters 10-18

Maturing Christianity - Chapters 19-20

Attendance:

Class attendance is required and roll will be taken. Attendance is taken via the class sign-in sheet. It is the student's responsibility to ensure their name is on the roll. **Only five (5) unexcused absences will be allowed for the semester**, the sixth could be grounds for being dropped for the course or lead to grade reduction. Do not expect that you will be automatically dropped; however, if you wish to withdraw from the course, either do so personally or request that the professor withdraw you.

Grading:

There will be two (2) examinations for this course; a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will occur after module two and the final exam will cover modules three and four. There are homework assignments that will be due every Wednesday. The homework assignments, and especially the lectures, are a good indication for the material on your examinations. In addition, the homework will be graded and included in your overall course grade. Finally, you will be assigned to a small group, which will be involved in the group debates/presentations at the end of the semester.

The four (4) components for the final grade are comprised as follows:

Grading Scale:

Mid Term Examination	100 points
Final Examination	100 points
Group Project Presentation	100 points
Home Work Assignments	100 points
Participation Points	100 points
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>500</u>

A	450 - 500
B	400 - 449
C	350 - 399
D	300 - 349
F	299 point or less

Homework:

Homework will be graded on correctness/completeness of answers, clarity of presentation, and timeliness. Homework papers may be accepted late, but points will be drastically reduced. In general, the most successful homeworks are those, which are detailed and typewritten. This, however, is not a guarantee as to points, but rather, a general guideline.

Special Needs:

If any of you have special needs owing to a disability, please contact me with the proper documentation that details whatever accommodations you require.

Make-Up Policy:

The make-up of any missed work, whether assignments, tests or the presentation will be solely at the discretion of the instructor. **Assignments are due on the scheduled day and will not be accepted late.** *If you know that you are going to be absent it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the homework assignment is received the by instructor on the due date.*

MCC Early Alert Program (EARS)

Mesa Community College is committed to the success of all our students. Numerous campus support services are available throughout your academic journey to assist you in achieving your educational goals. MCC has adopted an Early Alert Referral System (EARS) as part of a student success initiative to aid students in their educational pursuits. Faculty and Staff participate by alerting and referring students to campus services for added support. Students may receive a follow up call from various campus services as a result of being referred to EARS. Students are encouraged to participate, but these services are optional. Early Alert Web Page with Campus Resource Information can be located at: <http://www.mesacc.edu/students/ears> or locate the "Early Alert" selection at the "mymcc" link from MCC's home page.

NOTE:

You are encouraged to drop by my office, or call/email me, to talk about the course. If you are unable to come to my office during my office hours, please feel free to set up an appointment. I expect that we'll have a great learning experience this semester. However, please note that if you have any problems or concerns about this course, MCC policy states that you must try to work the problem out with me first – the Chair cannot get involved until that point. Also, the Chair cannot change your grade on any assignment or for the course!

Homework Assignments/Calendar Rev. 01/17/10

(Unless noted or on a Holiday, the Homework Assignments are due on first day of class for the week).

- 1. Week One – Syllabus/Overview/Chapter 1** **1/20/10**
- 2. Week Two – Chapter 2; Chapter 3**
p. 30, #1, 3, 4; p. 50, #1,3,4 **Due Date 1/27/10**
- 3. Week Three – Chapter 4; Chapter 5**
pp. 63, #1,2,5,6; p80 #1,7,8 **Due Date 2/03/10**
- 4. Week Four – Chapter 6; Chapter 7**
p 98 1, 5; p 115 #1,3,5 **Due Date 2/10/10**
- 5. Week Five – CLASS MOVIE – “Contact”** **2/17/10**
- 6. Week Six – Chapter 8, Chapter 9**
p. 132 #6; p 157 #2, 4, 6 **Due Date 2/24/10**
- 7. Week Seven – CLASS MIDTERM;** **Wednesday, March 3, 2010**
- 8. Week Eight – Chapter 10, Chapter 11**
p.184 #4,6,7; p 194 #3,4 **Due Date 3/10/10**
- 9. Week Nine -** **(SPRING BREAK; NO CLASS 3/15/10-3/21/10)**
- 10. Week Ten – Chapter 12, Chapter 13**
p. 211, #1, 3,6; p 226, #3 **Due Date 3/24/10**
- 11. Week Eleven- Chapter 14, Chapter 15** **Due Date 3/31/10**
p. 243 , #2,3; p. 260 #1, 2
- 12. Week Twelve – CLASS MOVIE – “The Case for Christ” v. “Religulous”**
4/07/10
- 13. Week Thirteen – Chapter 16, Chapter 17**
p. 274, #4,5; 294, #6 **Due Date 4/14/10**
- 14. Week Fourteen – Chapter 18, Chapter 19**
pp. 306, #1, 2, 3; p 329 #1,2, 6 **Due Date 4/21/10**
- 15. Week Fifteen – Chapter 20**
p. 351, #1,4,5 **Due Date 4/28/10**
- 16. Week Sixteen – Group Presentation** **Due Date 5/05/10**
- 17. Week Seventeen - CLASS FINAL;** **Wednesday, May 12, 2010**