



**Crandall**  
U n i v e r s i t y

Religious Studies 2203Y (Life of Jesus)

Spring Semester, 2011

Monday, Wednesday; 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.; Room MH292

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

## 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to reconstruct as completely as possible the life of Jesus. This includes both the “outside” of his life and the “inside.” The “outside” of his life is a description of the various, empirically-observed data constitutive of it; it is the answers to the questions of when, where, what and how. The “inside” of his life is the aims of Jesus, both the overarching aim informing most or all of Jesus’ actions and the specific aims tied to individual events and flowing from the overarching aim; it is the answer to the question of why. Necessarily Jesus’ life is to be interpreted against the background of Second-Temple Jewish religious-history.

All lecture material is on the Internet. The URL of the RS 2203 website is: <http://www.abu.nb.ca/Courses/NTIntro/LifeJ/IndexLife.htm>. It is on this material that the mid-term test and final examination will be based. Class work is designed to explain and elaborate on the material on the Internet. You are expected to read the relevant material on the Internet before the class in which that material is discussed; not reading the material beforehand will put you at a disadvantage in class. In addition, half-hour tutorial sessions will be held in order for you to discuss in groups the contents of *Background Readings for Understanding Jesus* (BRUJ), available as pdf files on the website (see Course Outline below). The question that you are to ask of each background reading is its relevance for understanding the life of Jesus.

## 2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

You will accomplish the following course objectives:

2.1. To understand the Second-Temple Jewish religious-history forming the background of the life of Jesus.

2.2. To understand the “outside” and “inside” of Jesus’ life.

### **3. TEXTBOOKS**

3.1. Gary Habermas and Michael Licona, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus* (Kregel Publications, 2004).

3.2. *Background Readings for Understanding Jesus* (On-line).

### **4. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

4.1. Answers to Lecture Questions: You will answer the questions found in the on-line lectures; copies of the questions and space to write your answers are available in two pdf files on the course website ("Lecture Questions"). You are to print copies of the two files for yourself and write your answers in them. Part one will be handed in on or before the day of the mid-term test (June 15), and part two on or before the last day of classes, the day of the final examination (June 29).

4.2. Mid-Term Test: You will write a midterm test on June 15 on material covered up to and including June 13.

4.3. Book Review: You will write a review (critical evaluation) of Gary Habermas and Michael Licona, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Your review is to be 500-750 words in length and is due two weeks after the end of the course (July 13).

4.4. Research Paper: You are to do a research paper on one of the following passages: Luke 1:1-4; Matt 11:7-10, 13-15; Mark 12:28-34; Matthew 11:20-24; John 2:1-11; Luke 11:14-20; Mark 2:1-12; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43; Matt 22:1-10 and Luke 14:16-21; Mark 10:35-45; Mark 14:54-65. Or, if none of these is to your liking, you can choose your own passage from the gospels. Your paper is to be c. 1,200 words, and is due two weeks after the end of the course (July 13).

4.5. Final Examination: On June 29, you will write a final examination on the material covered in the course since the mid-term test (June 15).

### **5. COURSE EVALUATION**

5.1. Answers to Lecture Questions	10%
5.2. Midterm Test	15%
5.3. Book Review	15%
5.4. Research paper	30%
5.5. Final examination	30%

## 6. COURSE OUTLINE

Wed., May 11: Introduction; Sources and Method; Jesus' Birth	Mon., June 13: The Kingdom of God in a Non-Rejection Context: Kingdom of God as Present (2); The Kingdom of God in a Non-Rejection Context: Kingdom of God as Future (1) BRUJ: <i>Antiquities 17</i>
Wed., May 25: John the Baptist; Jesus' Baptism and Temptations (No Classes on May 16, 18, 23)	Wed., June 15: <b>Mid-Term Test</b> ; The Kingdom of God in a Non-Rejection Context: Kingdom of God as Future (2) BRUJ: <i>Antiquities 18</i>
Mon., May 30: Jesus and the Law BRUJ: <i>2 Maccabees</i>	Mon., June 20: The Kingdom of God in a Rejection Context; Jesus' Teaching in Gospel of John BRUJ: <i>Pirqe Abot</i>
Wed., June 1: Jesus as Miracle Worker; Jesus as Healer BRUJ: <i>First Enoch</i>	Wed., June 22: Jesus' Interpretation of his Death; Jesus' Arrest and Trial BRUJ: <i>Mishnah Shabbat</i>
Mon., June 6: Jesus as Exorcist; Time of Forgiveness BRUJ: <i>Psalms of Solomon</i>	Mon., June 27: Jesus' Titles; Other Teaching
Wed., June 8: The Kingdom of God in a Non-Rejection Context: Jesus as Teacher and Pedagogical Method; The Kingdom of God in a Non-Rejection Context: Kingdom of God as Present (1) BRUJ: <i>Book of Tobit</i>	Wed. June 29: <b>Final Examination</b>