

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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TITLE: The Quest for the Historical Jesus

TERM: Spring 2024-2025

PROFESSOR: Tucker Ferda

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____

UNLIMITED X

AUDITORS: instructor permission required

NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Quest for the Historical Jesus investigates the centuries-long endeavor to construct Jesus as a figure in history. In addition to introducing students to the practice of historical reconstruction and the use of literary and archaeological resources in the study of the ancient world, the course explores hermeneutical developments undergirding the quest, significant reconstructions of Jesus the last two hundred years, and the presentation of the historical Jesus in contemporary popular culture. The course also attends to theological questions raised by the quest and its resultant portraits of Jesus.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- to introduce the history of scholarship on the historical Jesus;
- to examine debates about historical method in Jesus research;
- to evaluate a number of historical questions concerning Jesus' life, ministry, and teaching;
- to familiarize students with the larger historical examination of Christian origins;
- to address the value of the Quest for modern theology and the life of the Church, if any;
- to assess the impact of the Quest on modern American culture.

PREREQUISITES:

None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS:

- Helen Bond, *The Historical Jesus: A Guide for the Perplexed* (T & T Clark, 2012), ISBN: 978-0567033178, \$34.95
- Additional texts TBA

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Presentation and final research essay

ATTENDANCE: Required. In-person