A. Course Description: A study of the historical, social, cultural, and religious setting of early Christianity, with systematic analysis of selected Jewish, Greek, and Roman literary and artifactual remains, as they have bearing upon the New Testament.

B. Textbooks

C. Tests
1. May 24
2. May 31

D. Requirements
1. Regular and prompt attendance. Because of the compact nature of the course, attendance at each class period is crucial. It is assumed that every person will attend every class unless there is some illness or other serious emergency. A grade penalty will be enforced for anyone who is not in regular attendance.

2. Spend at least three or four hours browsing some of the many websites now available that illuminate the social and historical context of early Christianity. Some specific sites will be recommended in class.

3. A research paper bringing some aspect of the environment of early Christianity to bear on the interpretation of the New Testament. Approximate length: fifteen typed, double-spaced pages. Topics may relate to one or more archaeological discoveries, texts, ideas, institutions, practices, etc., as these shed light on some specific passage or theme in the New Testament. Research must include relevant primary sources as well as secondary scholarly works, and all information must be fully documented with footnotes and bibliography.
Due dates:
- brief statement of topic, May 28
- preliminary bibliography, May 31
- final paper, June 28

The following are illustrative, but by no means exhaustive, of appropriate topics. You should feel free to be creative and pursue your special interests, but you must work in close consultation with me to ensure that the topic is appropriate and manageable, to define its scope, and to gather pertinent resources.

The Concept of Justification in Paul and Qumran
The Lord's Prayer and Ancient Jewish Prayers
Jewish Antecedents of Christian Baptism
Mystery Initiation and Christian Baptism as Described in Romans 6
I Enoch and the Epistle of Jude
Flesh-Spirit Dualism in Paul and His World
Pauline Ethics and Hellenistic Moral Philosophy
Traditions About Melchizedek in Early Judaism and in the Epistle to the Hebrews
Traditions About Adam in Early Judaism and in Romans 5
Paul as Pastor in the Light of Hellenistic Philosophic Models
Gnosticism and the Johannine Epistles
The Logos in Philo and the Johannine Prologue
The Pharisees in Matthew in the Light of Recent Scholarship
Messianism at Qumran and in the New Testament
“Son of Man” in Jewish Apocalyptic Literature and the Gospels
Jewish and Hellenistic Roots of the Title “Son of God”
The Use of the Old Testament in Matthew and the Qumran Scrolls
The Book of Revelation and Jewish Apocalyptic
The Concept of Ekklesia: Jewish and Greco-Roman Models
The Jewish and Hellenistic Background of Paul’s Concept of “Mystery”
Women’s Roles in Ancient Jewish Synagogues
1 Corinthians 15 in Light of Jewish Views of Resurrection
Natural Theology in Stoicism, Hellenistic Judaism, and the New Testament
The Lord’s Supper and Hellenistic Cult Meals
Emperor Worship and the Book of Revelation
John the Baptist and Qumran
Philemon and Slavery in the Greco-Roman World
Patron-Client Relationships in the Greco-Roman World and the Pauline Churches

Note: Content, rather than style, is of primary importance in these written assignments. Nevertheless, careful attention should be given to style of writing. Complete the research early enough to allow ample time for planning and writing a clear and coherent paper. No paper with excessive errors of spelling, grammar, or punctuation will receive better than a “C.” Follow the sample forms on the attached pages for footnotes and bibliography.

E. Grades: For purposes of determining a letter grade for the course, the various assignments will be weighted approximately as follows.

1. Two tests, 60% (30% each)
2. Research paper, 30%
3. Daily preparation and contribution to class discussion, 10%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 20</td>
<td>Introduction; The Roman Political Context: From Republic to Empire</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 21</td>
<td>History of Judaism from Alexander to Hadrian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ferguson, <em>Backgrounds</em>, pp. 1-44</td>
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<td>Ferguson, <em>Backgrounds</em>, pp. 373-406</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 22</td>
<td>Jewish Factions</td>
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<td>Ferguson, <em>Backgrounds</em>, pp. 480-502</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 23</td>
<td>Jewish Literature</td>
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<td>Ferguson, <em>Backgrounds</em>, pp. 406-480</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 24</td>
<td>Religious and Social Aspects of Judaism</td>
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<td>Ferguson, <em>Backgrounds</em>, pp. 502-546</td>
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<td>Cohen, <em>Maccabees to Mishnah</em>, pp. 60-231</td>
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<td>Monday, May 27</td>
<td>Memorial Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 28</td>
<td>Social History of the Greco-Roman World</td>
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<td>Stambauch, <em>Ancient Roman City</em></td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 29</td>
<td>Social History of the Greco-Roman World, continued</td>
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<td>Ferguson, <em>Backgrounds</em>, pp. 45-136</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 30,</td>
<td>Greco-Roman Religions and Philosophies</td>
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<td>Ferguson, <em>Backgrounds</em>, pp. 137-298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 31</td>
<td>Greek and Latin Literary Sources; Miscellaneous Topical Studies</td>
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<td>Ferguson, <em>Backgrounds</em>, pp. 299-371</td>
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Sample Forms for Bibliographical Entries

Book:


Commentary or other book in a series:


Article in a book of collected essays:


[Use “ed.” for a single editor and “eds.” for two or more.]
Journal article:


[Note that book titles and journal titles are underlined or italicized. Titles of articles within books or journals are placed in quotation marks.]

Primary Sources:


[Use “*et al.*” (“and others”) when there are more than three authors or editors.]
Sample Forms for Footnotes

General:
[Note that the specific page numbers are cited, rather than the total page numbers as in the bibliographical entry. Use “p.” for a single page and “pp.” for multiple pages.]

Subsequent reference to a source cited earlier:
1Ibid., p. 128.
[Use “ibid.” only when referring to the same source as in the footnote immediately preceding. For all other subsequent references, use the author’s last name and a shortened title as in the following.]
2Harrington, Matthew, pp. 116-17.

Primary Sources
1Josephus Antiquities 13.11.3.
2Mishnah Pesachim 8.8.
[Note that it is not necessary to give the publication data here; this information is available in the bibliography. Give only the primary source reference.]
Multiple works that make the same point can be cited together in one note:


“Content” Footnotes: Supplementary argumentation or subsidiary discussion can be carried on in footnotes in order to keep the main text flowing smoothly.


2Hugh Montefiore, “Revolt in the Desert?” *New Testament Studies* 8 (1962) 135-36. Montefiore is aware of theories which separate out verses 30-34 as Markan redaction, but he finds the case unconvincing and argues that these introductory verses are continuous with the traditional feeding story which follows.