

# RELS 300: THE LIFE OF JESUS

Course Syllabus

Fall, 2017 – Web course

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This is a Web course and will be taught on Blackboard. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, go to the IT Division – Blackboard Support website (<https://www.wku.edu/it/blackboard>) for assistance. If you have any trouble using Blackboard over the course of the semester, contact the IT Help Desk, *not* me.

Since this is an online course, we will not meet together in a physical classroom. Nor do I have an office on campus. The best way to contact me about personal matters (e.g., something that might cause you to turn in an assignment late) is through email. The Blackboard site will have a Questions/Discussions Forum available for raising questions about the material that we will be covering together. *Please use those forums for course-related questions.*

You are expected to read this Course Syllabus and *all Blackboard links* mentioned on the syllabus *during the first week of class*. Failure to do so runs the risk of hurting your grade for the course.

See further “**How To Use the Course Blackboard Site**” on the **Blackboard: Trafton Posts** page for this course.

## **PURPOSE AND CONTENT**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to serious historical study of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Our focus will be on the four Gospels in the New Testament.

## **TEXTBOOKS/READINGS**

an English translation of the Bible

Robert H. Stein, *Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996)

N. T. Wright, *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999)

See further “**About the Textbooks**” and “**About the Trafton Posts**” on the **Blackboard: Trafton Posts** page.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

(1) Fifteen weekly writing assignments, worth 5 points each, for a total of 75 points. See “**Instructions for Weekly Writing Assignments**” on the **Blackboard: Assignments** page.

(2) A book summary of Wright’s book, worth 15 points. Further details about the book summary will be given later.

(3) A final paper, worth 10 points. Further details about the final paper will be given later.

### **GRADING**

Possible points:

Weekly writing assignments	75 points
Book Summary	15 points
<u>Final paper</u>	<u>10 points</u>
Total	100 points

Grading scale:

A	90-100 points
B	80-89 points
C	70-79 points
D	60-69 points
F	below 60 points

### **READING SCHEDULE**

Week 01	Aug 21-25	Matthew, Mark
Week 02	Aug 28-Sept 1	Luke, John
Week 03	Sept 4-8	Stein, Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1
Week 04	Sept 11-15	Stein, Chapters 2-3
Week 05	Sept 18-22	Stein, Chapters 4-5
Week 06	Sept 25-29	Stein, Chapters 6-7
Week 07	Oct 2-6	Stein, Chapter 8
Week 08	Oct 9-13	Stein, Chapter 9
Week 09	Oct 16-20	Stein, Chapter 10
Week 10	Oct 23-27	Stein, Chapters 11-12
Week 11	Oct 30-Nov 3	Stein, Chapters 13-14
Week 12	Nov 6-10	Stein, Chapter 15
Week 13	Nov 13-17	Stein, Chapters 16-17
Week 14	Nov 20-24	Stein, Chapter 18
Week 15	Nov 27-Dec 1	Stein, Chapter 19

### **ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

Monday, August 28	Week 01 Paper Due
Monday, September 4	Week 02 Paper Due
Monday, September 11	Week 03 Paper Due
Monday, September 18	Week 04 Paper Due
Monday, September 25	Week 05 Paper Due
Monday, October 2	Week 06 Paper Due
Monday, October 9	Week 07 Paper Due
Monday, October 16	Week 08 Paper Due
Monday, October 23	Week 09 Paper Due
Monday, October 30	Week 10 Paper Due
<b>*Thursday, November 2</b>	<b>Book Summary Due</b>
Monday, November 6	Week 11 Paper Due
Monday, November 13	Week 12 Paper Due
Monday, November 20	Week 13 Paper Due
Monday, November 27	Week 14 Paper Due
Monday, December 4	Week 15 Paper Due
<b>*Thursday, December 7</b>	<b>Final Paper Due</b>

**SPECIAL NOTE ON PLAGIARISM: You have EVERYTHING YOU NEED in this course through a combination of the textbooks, my posts, and your own thinking. The use of ANY OUTSIDE SOURCE (e.g., Internet, Study Bible) for ANY writing assignment will be considered PLAGIARISM. If I catch you plagiarizing, you will receive a ZERO for the assignment. If you do it a SECOND time, you will receive a ZERO for the assignment *AND* YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY ONE LETTER. A THIRD offense will result in a FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE.**