



St. George's School of Theology

Spring 2020

Syllabus

Dates & Location

January 19th – May 25th

18 Total Sessions/Sundays, No Class Easter (Apr. 12th). Meets every Sunday in the Parish Hall at 9:30am

Schedule and Overview

This course is intended to explore the historical claims of the Christian faith and defend those claims based on a reasonable assessment of historical data. This will be accomplished by exploring the reliability of the New Testament manuscripts, surveying the archeological data related to the New Testament period, and examining the historicity of the bodily Resurrection of Jesus.

Part 1 – Faith Grounded in History

- Jan 19th – You Mean This Stuff Is True?

Part 2 – The Reliability of the New Testament

- Jan 26th – Encountering the Manuscripts
- Feb 2nd – Ehrman vs. Wallace
- Feb 9th – Dating the New Testament
- Feb 16th – How did the Bible become the Bible?
- Feb 23rd – Christology: High & Late, Low & Early, or Vice Versa?
- Mar 1st – Dan Brown, Gnostics, and Bad Historiography
- Mar 8th – The Gospels as Ancient Biography
- Mar 15th – Jesus and the Eyewitnesses
- Mar 22nd – Unintended Coincidences

Part 3 – Historicity of the Resurrection

- Mar 29th – If Christ Be Not Raised...
- Apr 5th – Making Sense of the Four-fold Accounts
- Apr 12th – *Easter, No Class*
- Apr 19th – Who Rolled Away the Stone?
- Apr 26th – Risen Indeed: Further Reasons for the Resurrection

Part 4 – NT Archaeology

- May 3rd – Was Jesus a Real Person?
- May 10th – Real People in the NT Confirmed by Archeology
- May 17th – Archaeological Finds from the New Testament, Pt.1
- May 24th – Archaeological Finds from the New Testament, Pt.2

Part 5 – Apologetics

- May 31st – A Reasonable Defense of the Faith: Final Exam (will review in class time permitting)

Materials

- Bible (a reliable English translation such as the ESV, NIV, NRSV, or NASB; other contemporary translations like the Good News Bible, CEV, or paraphrases like The Message are not recommended)
- Recommended Texts
 - *The Canon of Scripture* by F.F. Bruce
 - *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel
 - *Fabricating Jesus* by Craig A. Evans
- Optional Texts (each Part will also have additional recommended further reading)
 - *Hidden in Plain View: Undesigned Coincidences in the Gospels and Acts* by Lydia McGrew
 - *Jesus and His World: The Archaeological Evidence* by Craig A. Evans