



BIBS 226/326

Jesus in the New Testament

Distance/Campus Course Description

Lecturer: Prof Paul Trebilco

Brief Introduction to the Paper

This paper focuses on the way the New Testament presents the person of Jesus. One way to consider this is by looking at the portrait of Jesus in some key New Testament texts – the Gospels of Mark and of John, the writings of Paul, and the Book of Revelation. How do these texts portray Jesus? What do they regard as the important features of who Jesus is?

We will also look at some key titles used of Jesus in the New Testament – Son of God (as part of looking at Mark's Gospel) and Lord (as part of looking at Paul's Christology). How do these titles help us to understand who Jesus is for New Testament authors? What is the background of the titles, and what is their significance for different New Testament authors?

An important part of the topic is looking at 'the historical Jesus' – what can we know about Jesus as a figure of history, and about his ministry, its aims and outcome? We will investigate this by looking at the work of some key New Testament scholars who have looked at this topic – Ben Meyer, Tom Wright and James Dunn.

We will also discuss some important themes or areas of study related to our topic – the way belief about Jesus developed in the very early years of the Christian Church, belief in Jesus' resurrection, and the ways that feminist scholars have studied New Testament Christology.

Assessment

BIBS 226: This paper is assessed by means of a long essay of 2,500 words (35%), a short essay of 1,200 words (15%), and a two-hour examination (50%).

BIBS 326: This paper is assessed by means of a long essay of 3,000 words (35%), a short essay of 1,200 words (15%), and a two-hour examination (50%).

Teaching schedule

The **campus class** will be taught through 2 x 1hr lectures per week.

The **distance class** will be taught through 6 two-hour video-conferences, plus a teaching day. The teaching day is either in-person in Wellington, or online (depending on travel restrictions).

Timetable details are available at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/> (See the hyperlinks under “Timetables”, on the right hand side)

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the paper at 200-level should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the various portraits of Jesus in a range of New Testament documents.
- Explain the common features of different New Testament Christologies, and outline the unique features of different strands of the New Testament.
- Explain the development of Christology, as this is evident in the New Testament.
- Demonstrate understanding of various Christological titles, and Christological themes.
- Identify key issues in the interpretation of selected New Testament texts.

In addition to these learning outcomes for BIBS 226, students who successfully complete the paper at 300-level should be able to:

- Critique arguments put forward in the literature of the discipline, through in-depth discussions of particular topics, which demonstrate advanced understanding of critical approaches to New Testament Christology.
- Demonstrate understanding of the implications of topics studied in the course for New Testament Studies in general.

For more information

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

theology@otago.ac.nz Phone: 03 479 863