

**Canadian Nazarene College**  
**Jesus of Nazareth BL 376a (UoC Sr Hum)**  
**Fall 1998, T/Th 1:00-2:15 pm**  
**Professor: Dave Neale**  
**Office: 571-2550, ext 32; E-mail: Dave.Neale@cnaz.ab.ca**  
I. Course Objectives

This course is designed to explore the figure of Jesus in ancient literature, history, modern theology and culture. In the first term we will explore the life and teachings of Jesus from the perspective of the synoptic gospels and a wide body of secondary literature on the subject. In the second term we will continue the course using the Gospel of John as the primary source.

II. Course Outline

**Jesus' Social, Religious and Political Position**

- Sept 8 Introduction
- 10 Jesus' Social, Religious and Political Position
- 15 Video: *From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians, Part One*
- 17 Discussion Day: [www.pbs.org/frontline](http://www.pbs.org/frontline)
- 22 Video: *From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians, Part Two*

**Jesus: Teacher and Wonder Worker**

- 24 Discussion Day: [www.pbs.org/frontline](http://www.pbs.org/frontline)
- 29 Jesus' teaching methods: Sermon on the Mount
- Oct 1 Sermon on the Mount
- 6 Discussion Day: *What Jesus Thinks About the Family*, **Position Paper due.**
- 8 Parables
- 13 Parables
- 15 Discussion Day: *What Jesus Thinks About Getting to Heaven*, **Position Paper due.**
- 20 Jesus the Wonder Worker
- 22 Jesus the Wonder Worker, contd.
- 27 Jesus the Wonder Worker, contd.

**The Jesus Debate**

- 29 From Reimarus to Schweitzer - **Declare your research paper topic**
- Nov 3 Discussion Day: **Read MacLeans magazine article *Is Jesus Really God*, Dec. 1997**
- 5 Discussion Day: *The Jesus Quest*, Chapter 2
- Nov 10 Discussion Day: *The Jesus Quest*, Chapter 3
- 12 No Class – Mid-Term Break
- 17 Discussion Day: *The Jesus Quest*, Chapter 4
- 19 Discussion Day: *The Jesus Quest*, Chapter 5
- 24 Modern Portraits
- 26 Discussion Day: *What Jesus Thinks About the Future*, **Position Paper due.**
- Dec 1 Discussion Day: *Jesus at Thirty*
- 3 Discussion Day: *Jesus at Thirty*
- 7 **Paper due by 4:30 pm in Dave's 5<sup>th</sup> floor mail box.**

III. Course Requirements

<i>What Jesus Thinks About...</i> 3 papers @ 10%	30%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	40%

N.B. No late papers will be accepted, except when an extension is granted prior to the class.

**What Jesus Thinks About...:** Research what Jesus thinks about the assigned issue using the synoptics as your only sources. Use a concordance to find all the material in the synoptic gospels that pertain to your topic. Summarize and communicate as clearly as possible what your reading of the gospel evidence yields about Jesus' opinions on the subject. Write up your results in a 2-3 page double spaced paper. In an end note, indicate every passage you looked at in your research. The paper should include only your analysis, not quotations from the Bible. You will want to include references to a passage in parentheses at points, e.g. (Mk 12.45). The paper is due at the beginning of the class, Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 10.

**Research Paper** This is an opportunity to pick a topic about Jesus you want to explore and do a research paper. 10-12 pages, type written, double spaced. Minimum 10 sources, include at least four journals.

**Final Exam** The final exam will be an essay type with three questions. One from Witherington, *The Jesus Quest*; one from Miller, *Jesus at Thirty*; and the third question will be the simple question "Who was Jesus?"

#### V. Texts

#### **Required:**

John W. Miller, *Jesus at Thirty: A Psychological and Historical Portrait*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

Ben Witherington III, *The Jesus Quest: The Third Search for the Jew of Nazareth*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

#### VI. Absence Policy

Regular attendance at all classes is expected. After 3 unexcused absences per term the professor reserves the right to require a student to withdraw from the class. A late arrival to class equals .5 absence.