

<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Fall 2023</b>
NT 621	Life of Jesus	<b>Prerequisite:</b> OT 502 or NT 502
		<b>Credits:</b> 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Delivery:</b>	Hybrid	<b>Instructor:</b>	Jonathan W. Lo, PhD	<b>First Day of Classes:</b>	Sep 6, 2023
<b>Days:</b>	Wednesday	<b>Email:</b>	Jonathan.Lo@ambrose.edu	<b>Last Day to Add/Drop:</b>	Sep 17, 2023
<b>Time:</b>	1:00-4:00 pm	<b>Phone:</b>	(403) 407-9501	<b>Last Day to Withdraw:</b>	Nov 20, 2023
<b>Room:</b>	RE104	<b>Office:</b>	L2064		
<b>Final Exam:</b>	N/A	<b>Office Hours:</b>	By Appointment	<b>Last Day to Apply for Extension:</b>	Nov 23, 2023
<b>Zoom Link:</b>	Zoom Meeting Details <a href="https://ambrose.zoom.us/j/95545320982?pwd=dHhPL2p6VWgzQWY0THhhQUc2M25xQT09">https://ambrose.zoom.us/j/95545320982?pwd=dHhPL2p6VWgzQWY0THhhQUc2M25xQT09</a>  Meeting ID: 955 4532 0982 Passcode: 367859				

### Important Dates and Information

For a list of all important dates and information regarding participating in classes at Ambrose University, please refer to the Academic Calendar at <https://ambrose.edu/academic-calendar>.

### Course Description

An examination of the earliest sources on the life of Jesus (canonical and extrabiblical) to understand his identity, mission, and impact. Historical methods in their application to the study of the life of Jesus (including Jesus' social context) will be put in dialogue with his followers' claims and devotion to him which formed the Christian Church.

### Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to complete the following tasks:

1. Describe the significance of Jesus' ministry within the contexts of his first century Jewish and Greco-Roman social worlds.
2. Critically engage the historical and philosophical questions raised by Life of Jesus research.
3. Articulate the role of historical research within Christian faith in Jesus and theological formulations about him.

4. Give an account of the phenomenon of early Christian devotion to and worship of Jesus.
5. Reflect on the theological implications of encountering Jesus as the biblical authors intended their readers to do.

### Required Textbooks and Readings

Bond, Helen K. *The Historical Jesus: A Guide for the Perplexed*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2012.

Powell, Mark Alan. *Jesus as a Figure in History: How Modern Historians View the Man from Galilee*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2013.

Eddy, Paul Rhodes & James K. Beilby. "The Quest for the Historical Jesus: An Introduction." In *The Historical Jesus: Five Views*, ed. James K. Beilby and Paul Rhodes Eddy, 9-54. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

*Essay can be downloaded within Moodle course portal.*

Reinhartz, Adele. *Jesus of Hollywood*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. *Required chapters (1-3) can be downloaded within Moodle course portal.*

### Course Schedule

Date	Lecture	Reading
Sep 6	1. An Introduction: The Academic Study of the Life of Jesus	Powell, "Historians Discover Jesus"
Sep 13	2. The Quests for the Historical Jesus	Eddy & Beilby, "An Introduction"; Powell, "Contemporary Images of Jesus"; Bond, "In Quest"
Sep 20	3. Considering the Sources and Methods for Studying Jesus' Life	Powell, "Sources and Criteria"; Bond, "Sources"
Sep 27	4. The birth and infancy of Jesus	Bond, "Birth"
Oct 4	<i>NO CLASS: Deeper Life Conference</i>	
Oct 11	5. Jesus' Baptism and Temptations	Bond, "Galilean origins," "John the Baptist"
Oct 18	6. Jesus' Teachings	Bond, "Jesus' message"
Oct 25	7. Jesus' Deeds	Bond, "Healer and exorcist"
Nov 1	8. Jesus, Apocalyptic, and the Restoration of Israel	Bond, "Family and supporters"
Nov 8	<i>NO CLASS: Reading Week</i>	
Nov 15	9. Conflict and Controversy	Bond, "Opposition in Galilee," "Jerusalem"

Nov 22	10. Film Viewing and Discussion	Reinhartz, <i>Jesus of Hollywood</i> (chs. 1-3)
Nov 29	11. Jesus' Passion and Resurrection	Bond, "Trial and Execution," "Resurrection"
Dec 6	12. Christology and the Early Christian Worship of Jesus	Powell, "The Quest Continues"

### Course Requirements:

1. Summary of One Historical Jesus Quest - *Due at 9pm on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>* 25%  
A concise written summary (2000 words max., including footnotes) of the aims and people involved within a particular HJ quest, noting its assumptions, emphases, and its contributions and limitations.
  
2. Theological Interaction (Choose option A or B) - *Due at 9pm on Nov 29<sup>th</sup>* 25%  
A: A theological interaction (2000 words max., no footnotes) with a modern book, film, play, musical, or other agreed upon substitute based on a comparison with the aims and mission of Jesus.  
B. A written response to the Downey Lectures (1000 words max., no footnotes) explores the connections between the content and themes from this class and the lecture(s) of Dr. Munther Isaac on "Bible, Empire, and the Holy Land." <https://ambrose.edu/downey-lectureships>
  
3. Major Assignment (Choose option A, B, or C) *Due at 9pm on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>* 50%
  - A. Exegetical Paper  
A 5000-word exegetical paper on a paragraph from the canonical Gospels, that deals responsibly with the exegetical issues and interacts with relevant scholarly literature.
  - B. Artistic Expression
    1. An academically and theologically competent paper of 2000 words on some aspect of the Life of Jesus which serves to inform the accompanying artifact (this paper must reflect a thorough awareness of and interaction with the scholarly literature).
    2. A piece of art, poetry, narrative writing, music, drama, architectural design, photographic essay, multimedia presentation, or other agreed upon media based on the theological reflection (the artifact must show evidence of requisite time investment, and must not have been produced for any other purpose prior to the class, and should be of an acceptable standard for a master's program).
  - C. Research Essay  
A 5000-word research essay on any aspect of Jesus studies, e.g. Jesus and the Law, Jesus' Use of the OT, the Temple Cleansing, Jesus' Eschatology, the Humanity of Jesus, the reasons for the conflict between Jesus and Israel's Religious Authorities, Jesus' Christological Titles, etc.

### Grade Summary

1. HJ Quest Summary	25%	(DUE: October 18 <sup>th</sup> )
2. Theological Interaction	25%	(DUE: Nov 29 <sup>th</sup> )
3. Major Assignment (A, B, or C)	50%	(DUE: December 15 <sup>th</sup> )

All assignments are to be submitted via the course Moodle platform in PDF format, with the document file name as follows: Name\_Assignment\_CourseCode.pdf E.g. JonathanLo\_MajorAssignment\_NT621.pdf

Late Policy: Unless an extension is granted at least one week prior to the due date, 5% of the grade will be deducted from late assignments every additional day that it is due. E.g. An assignment that is due on Thursday, but submitted after 9pm on Monday will incur a penalty of 10% (2 days late).

Please document using Chicago style. For assistance with citation and other writing skills, see:

<https://ambrose.edu/learning-services/resources>

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/03/>

[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)

If there are any questions about how to submit assignments electronically, the IT department is ready to provide assistance. ([helpdesk@ambrose.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ambrose.edu)).

#### Rubric for Grading Written Assignments:

Elements of an Excellent Essay	Argument Contents of the essay directly address the research question	Reasoning Evidence of Critical Thinking	Originality Evidence of Independent Thinking	Research Use of Sources (Sufficient, Relevant, Accurate, Engaging)	Writing Clarity, Structure/Transitions, Style/Mechanics, Formatting
<b>100% Total</b>	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

#### Grade Summary:

Grade		Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	100	Mastery: Complete Understanding of Subject Matter	4.00
A	96-99		4.00
A-	91-95		3.70
B+	86-90	Proficient: Well-Developed Understanding of Subject Matter	3.30
B	81-85		3.00
B-	76-80		2.70
C+	71-75	Basic: Developing Understanding of Subject Matter	2.30
C	66-70		2.00
C-	61-65		1.70
D+	56-60	Minimal Pass: Limited Understanding of Subject	1.30
D	51-55		1.0
D-	50		
F	Below 50	Failure: Failure to Meet Course Requirements	0.00
P		Pass	No Grade Points

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

## **Bibliography**

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Bock, Darrell L. *Who is Jesus? Linking the Historical Jesus with the Christ of Faith*. Brentwood, TN: Howard Books, 2012.

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## Ambrose University Important Policies & Procedures:

### Registration

Registration is the process of selecting and enrolling in classes for upcoming semesters. Only students who are registered will be permitted to attend class and receive a grade for the course. You are responsible for ensuring that the courses you take are appropriate for your program, that they do not have any scheduling conflicts, that they have the necessary prerequisites and that they meet all degree requirements.

### Withdrawal From A Course

Prior to the Add/Drop deadline: through the student registration system whereby course(s) will be removed with no academic or financial penalty. After the Add/Drop deadline and until the Withdrawal deadline: through submission of the 'Withdrawal from Course' form whereby course(s) will remain on the permanent academic record/transcript with the symbol 'W'. (See [ambrose.edu/registrar/request-forms](http://ambrose.edu/registrar/request-forms).) Students who withdraw from more than 30 credits attempted at Ambrose University will be required to withdraw from their program. Students considering withdrawing from courses are encouraged to discuss with their Faculty Advisor and/or the Office of the Registrar questions relating to their withdrawal decision specifically relating to financial assistance, study permit requirements, prerequisites for subsequent courses, readmission, and/or graduation timeline. Students who do not formally withdraw from a course are still considered registered in the course, even if they are no longer attending classes. In this case, students will be assigned a grade based on coursework completed as per the course syllabus and are responsible to pay the tuition and fees assessed for the course. Under extenuating circumstances, students may request from the Office of the Registrar a course(s) withdrawal after the Withdrawal deadline and until the last day of classes. Extenuating circumstances typically consider situations such as medical emergencies, compassionate grounds, or unforeseen conditions/situations beyond the students' control that arise after the start of the semester and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation from a physician or Registered Health Professional must accompany this request.

### Coursework Extensions

Should a request for a time extension on coursework exceed the end of the term, a *Coursework Extension Application* must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Registrar. The extension (if granted) will be recorded on the student record. Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and registrar. If granted, time extensions do not excuse you from a final examination where one has been scheduled for the course. More conditions apply.

### Exam Scheduling

Students who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a *Revised Final Exam Time Application* to the Office of the Registrar by the deadline noted in the Academic Calendar. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; or 2) the scheduled final examination slot results in three consecutive examination periods. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### Communication

Your Ambrose email account is the University's primary and official mode of communication with you. Information delivered to your Ambrose email is considered official notification. Ambrose University is not responsible for your failure to receive important information delivered to your Ambrose email.

### Lecture Recording

The recording of lectures or any other classroom academic activity, other than an audio recording as an accommodation, is prohibited except at the discretion of the instructor. Any use other than that agreed upon with the instructor constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. Permission to allow a lecture recording is not a transfer of any copyrights, so such recordings may be used only for individual or group study with other students enrolled in the same class and may not be reproduced, transferred, distributed or displayed in any public or commercial manner. Student must destroy recordings in any, and all formats at the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in the class. All students recording lectures, must sign the Permission Form to audio record lectures which is available through the Office of the Registrar.

### Standards of Behaviour in the Classroom Setting

Learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and instructor and between student and student. Some topics covered within a class may lead to strong reactions and opinions. It is important that Students understand that they are entitled to hold contradictory beliefs and that they should be encouraged to engage with these topics in a critical manner. Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian imperative to pursue truth, which lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience. However, active discussion of controversial topics will be undertaken with respect and empathy, which are the foundations of civil discourse in the Classroom Setting. Primary responsibility for managing the classroom rests with the instructor. The instructor may direct a student to leave the class if the



student engages in any behaviour that disrupts the classroom setting. If necessary, Ambrose security will be contacted to escort the student from class.

### **Academic Integrity**

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

### **Academic Policies**

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. The academic calendar can be found at <https://ambrose.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

### **Privacy**

Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

## **Academic Success and Supports**

### **Accessibility Services**

Academic accommodation is provided to Ambrose students with disabilities in accordance with the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Provision of academic accommodation does not lower the academic standards of the university nor remove the need for evaluation and the need to meet essential learning outcomes. Reasonable accommodations are tailored to the individual student, are flexible, and are determined by considering the barriers within the unique environment of a postsecondary institution. It can take time to organize academic accommodations and funding for disability-related services. Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services as early as possible to ensure appropriate planning for any needs that may include accommodations. Staff can then meet with students to determine areas to facilitate success, and if accommodations are required, ensure those accommodations are put in place by working with faculty.

### **Ambrose Writing Services**

Ambrose Writing services provides academic support in the four foundational literacy skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It also assists students with critical thinking and the research process. Throughout the academic year, students can meet with a writing tutor for personalized support, or they can attend a variety of workshops offered by Academic Success. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. Academic Success serves all students in all disciplines and at all levels, from history to biology and from theatre to theology. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/sas/writing-services>

### **Ambrose Tutoring Services**

Ambrose Tutoring Services provides support in specific disciplinary knowledge, especially in high-demand areas such as chemistry, philosophy, math and statistics, and religious studies. These tutors also coach students in general study skills, including listening and note-taking. During the academic year, Ambrose Tutoring Services offers drop-in tutoring for courses with high demand; for other courses, students can book a one-to-one appointment with a tutor in their discipline. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/tutoring>.

### **Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

#### On Campus:

- Counselling Services: [ambrose.edu/counselling](https://ambrose.edu/counselling)
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention Skills and can help you access mental health support. See <https://ambrose.edu/student-life/crisissupport> for a list of staff members.
- For additional wellness resources go to the Ambrose wellness page: <https://ambrose.edu/wellness>

#### Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Alberta Mental Health Helpline - 1-877-303-2642 (Toll free)
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

### **Sexual Violence Support**

We are committed to supporting students who have experienced gender based sexual violence in the past or while at Ambrose. Many of the staff, faculty, and student leaders have received Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need and you can access information about reporting. Information about the Sexual Violence policy and on and off campus supports can be found on our website— [ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness](https://ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness).

#### Off Campus:

- Alberta's Oneline for Sexual Violence - 1-866-403-8000 call or text
- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

- Chat: [www.calgarycasa.com](http://www.calgarycasa.com)

**Note:** Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.