

SCAR 3PA3—THE BIRTH OF CHRISTIANITY SUMMER 2021
(DRAFT ONLY—SUBJECT TO REVISION)

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Lecture: Online (asynchronous)
Office Hours: By appointment

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Calender Description

A study of the controversial role played by Paul in the definition and expansion of early Christianity, based on the Acts of the Apostles and Paul’s own extant correspondence.

Course Description

This course examines the earliest documents relating to Christianity’s emergence in the first century C.E. This year we will focus on close readings of texts written by and attributed to Paul as well as the ways these texts have informed scholarly discussions about Paul’s thought and its impact on what became known as Christianity.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students will have:

- Become familiar with the contents of the New Testament, particularly the Pauline Epistles and the Book of Acts;
- Encountered a range of approaches to the academic study of the New Testament and its original socio-historical context;
- Explored some of the key questions and historical issues regarding the origin of Christianity.

Required Materials and Texts

- English Translation of the Christian Bible. (An ad-free [online version is available from the University of Michigan.](#))
- Links to Various eTexts as Required

Class Format

This course will be conducted online and asynchronously. New materials will be posted each Monday and Thursday before 6:00 pm ET and it is your responsibility to keep up with the readings, assignments and other learning tasks. **Please note NOT ALL the required readings are listed in this draft syllabus.** All work will be completed for individual credit; while class-related interactions are encouraged, there are no group assignments.

Course Evaluation

Nb: All times Eastern

- 20% One short exegetical paper (3-4 pages) due 2 July, 11:59 pm
- 25% One longer topical paper (5-7 pages) due 30 July, 11:59 pm
- 25% One take-home test due 13 August, 11:59 pm
- 20% One small group discussion with instructor week of 15 July (conducted with Zoom, schedule TBA)
- 10% Four quizzes @2.5%

Course Schedule (Note: No materials will be posted on 1 July or 2 August)

Class 1 (21 June) Introduction: What Do We Know and How Do We Know It?

- [Luke 1 - 3](#)
- [Acts 1](#)
- [Why \(and How\) are the Bible's Chapters and Verses Numbered?](#) by Chris Heard (Bible Odyssey)

Class 2 (24 June) A Closer Look at the Sources: The New Testament and Beyond

- ["How the Books of the New Testament were Selected"](#) by Richard Heard (Religion Online)
- [Acts](#)
- [Philemon](#)
- [Paul and Acts](#) by Todd Penner (Bible Odyssey)

Class 3 (28 June) Paul's World: The Mediterranean Region in the First Century C.E.

- [Oxford Bible Atlas, pp. 145 – 174](#) via Mac's library website (The electronic page numbers for download are 156 – 185)
 - [Jerusalem in the New Testament Period](#) by Mark A. Chancey (Bible Odyssey)
- Short Exegetical Paper (3-4 pages) due 2 July, 11:59 pm*

Class 4 (5 July) Paul and his Work

- [Introducing Paul](#) by Davina C. Lopez (Bible Odyssey)
 - [I Thessalonians](#)
- Quiz 1 due: 5 July, 11:59 pm*

Class 5 (8 July) Paul's Work: Galatians

- [Galatians](#)
- [Galatia](#) by Davina C. Lopez (Bible Odyssey)
- [Gentile Circumcision](#) by Matthew Thiessen (Bible Odyssey)

Class 6 (12 July) Paul's Work: I & II Corinthians

- [I Corinthians](#)
- [II Corinthians](#)
- [Corinth in the Ancient World](#) by David G. Horrell (Bible Odyssey)
- [The Corinthian Letters](#) by Caroline Johnson Hodge (Bible Odyssey)

Class 7 (15 July) Paul's Work: Philippians & Philemon

- [Philippians](#)
- [Philemon](#)
- [Philippi in the Ancient World](#) by Peter Oakes (Bible Odyssey)
- [Women Leaders in the Philippian Church?](#) by Nijay K. Gupta (Bible Odyssey)

Quiz 2 due: 15 July, 11:59 pm;

Small Group Discussion with Instructor - Times TBA

Class 8 (19 July) Paul's Work: Romans

- [Romans](#)
- [Rome](#) by Nicola Denzey Lewis (Bible Odyssey)

- [Paul and Judaism](#) by Paula Fredriksen (Bible Odyssey)
- [The New Perspective on Paul](#) by Davina C. Lopez (Bible Odyssey)
- [Origins of the New Perspective on Paul](#) by James D. G. Dunn (Bible Odyssey)

Class 9 (22 July) Paul's Legacy: Ephesians & Colossians

- [Ephesians](#)
- [Colossians](#)
- [Paul and Authorship](#) by Cavan W. Concannon (Bible Odyssey)

Quiz 3 due: 22 July, 11:59 pm

Class 10 (26 July) Paul's Legacy: I & II Timothy

- [I Timothy](#)
- [II Timothy](#)

Topical Paper (5-7 pages) due 30 July, 11:59 pm

Class 11 (29 July) Paul's Key Ideas: Theology, Christology, Soteriology, Identity

- [The Crucifixion in Paul](#) by David W. Chapman (Bible Odyssey)
- [Adam in the New Testament](#) by Mark D. Ellison (Bible Odyssey)
- [Paul and the Kingdom](#) by Paula Fredriksen (Bible Odyssey)

Class 12 (5 August) Conclusions

Quiz 4 due 6 August 11:59 pm

Take-Home Test due 13 August, 11:59 pm

Course/University Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments should be submitted to Avenue as .doc(x) or .pdf. Please **do not** include a cover page. Assignments submitted in other formats will not be graded. Please do not submit assignments by email attachment unless specifically instructed to do so. If you have a query about a grade for an assignment, please make an appointment and be prepared to explain, in some detail, why you believe your grade is incorrect. Your assignment will be reviewed before final marks are submitted to the Registrar's office. Your grade may be increased, may stay the same, or in very unusual circumstances, be decreased.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE	MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+	63-66	C
85-90	A	60-62	C-
80-84	A-	57-59	D+
77-79	B+	53-56	D
73-76	B	50-52	D-
70-72	B-	0-49	F
67-69	C+		

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated.

Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

If you find it necessary to submit the MSAF during this course, you must submit the missed work before the end of classes. I do not redistribute grades for missed assignments. ADDITIONALLY, it is not necessary to contact me to report your submission of the MSAF; simply submit your work as soon as possible.

Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Personal Email Policy

I try to respond to email messages within 24 hours on weekdays. If you email me on the weekend, expect a reply by Monday afternoon. If you do not receive an answer to your email within 24 hours on weekdays, please do not hesitate to email again. NOTE: I do not discuss grades, including requests for grade reviews, by email. Please make an appointment!

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.