

Christian Testament
Spring Semester
Mrs. James

This course focuses on the New Testament, particularly on the Gospels. Students will learn about the life and teachings of Jesus, study the historical and cultural context within which Jesus lived so as to understand his teachings, apply the Paschal Mystery as revealed through Jesus' death and Resurrection to their lives, and appreciate the Catholic understanding of Jesus as Redeemer and Son of God.

Required Texts

Jesus of History, Christ of Faith by Thomas Zanzig (Saint Mary's Press ISBN 978-0-88489-530-5)

Course Benchmarks and Performance Standards:

A student completing the second semester of the 9th grade course in theology will:

- Demonstrate recognition of the direct connections between Jewish and Christian scriptural texts
- Apply the basic skills necessary to read Scripture critically, demonstrate a familiarity with the structure of the Bible, and research biblical texts using a variety of scholarly references
- Explain and apply the Catholic approach to the gospels that is - that the four canonical gospels are not biographies, but rather are 'portraits' of Jesus that reflect the experience of his person, life and teaching among his early followers
- Understand the religious truth found in the message of Jesus by studying his words and actions in its proper historical and cultural context
- Appreciate the Church's understanding of Jesus as the Redeemer and the Son of God, and his significance to Christians today
- Grasp the role of Paul and his role in the spread of Christianity and the importance of his theology of Christ and the Church's necessary roles in the salvation of the world

Semester Schedule

Weeks 1-3 Overview of the New Testament and the Gospels (Chapters 1 and 2)

- Who is Jesus?
- The New Testament
- How Do We Read the Gospels?
- The Development of the Gospels
- The Gospels as Portraits of Jesus
- The Four Gospels

Weeks 4-6 The World of Jesus (Chapters 3 and 4)

- Understanding the Life and Times of Jesus
- The Political World of Jesus
- Palestine at the Time of Jesus
- Major Features of Judaism

Weeks 7-9 The Kingdom of God (Chapters 5 and 6)

- The Infancy Narratives
- The Beginning of Jesus' Public Life
- The Dream of Jesus: The Kingdom of God

- The Command to Love
- The Reign of Sin versus the Reign of God

Weeks 10-12 Jesus' Words and Deeds (Chapters 7 and 8)

- Jesus' Sayings and Stories
- Parables
- Works of Wonder

Weeks 12-15 The Death and Resurrection of Jesus (Chapters 9 and 10)

- Jesus' Final Days
- Understanding the Cross
- The Stories of the Resurrection
- Evidence for Resurrection
- The Meaning of Resurrection and the Paschal Mystery
- Recognizing the Risen Jesus Today
- The Ascension and Pentecost

Week 16-17 Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles (Chapters 11 and 12)

- Paul's Story
- Salvation Through Love
- The Church as the Body of Christ

Week 18 Review and Final Exams

GRADING AND EXPECTATIONS

Study materials – You are expected to bring your textbook, your notes in a designated folder, and writing materials to class every day, as well as your journal when requested for classroom activities.

Late Assignments – Review homework must be brought in on the date due to receive points. Non-review assignments will be accepted but will have points docked. Parents will be notified if there is a pattern of missing assignments. A valid request for an extension on any assignment or project will be considered *in advance* or in the case of a family or personal emergency. Please see me, as this will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

When using a computer for your assignments, SAVE OFTEN and PRINT EARLY! Malfunctioning computers, disks or printers are not acceptable excuses for late work *unless* accompanied by a note of verification from a parent. Consequences noted above will apply.

Attendance – If you are absent, it is *your* responsibility to find out about any assignments missed and to catch up on class notes. If you miss a quiz or a test, you must also meet with me to schedule an alternate testing period.

Tardiness and Personal Needs – You are expected to be on time for class with all the study materials necessary, and having taken care of all your personal needs such as snacks, beverages and bathrooms visits. Student will not be allowed to go to their lockers during class.

Class Participation – Students are expected to participate actively and respectfully in class with thoughtful questions, reflections, or other input. Disrespectful behavior such as interrupting others or making scornful remarks and facial expressions will reflect negatively on your participation grade. Participation is worth 10% of your final grade.

The final exam will be 20% of your final grade.

Completion of the 9th grade Community Service requirement and reflection paper is worth 10% of your final grade.

Plagiarism - Students are expected to comply with the school's policy against plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will be cause for disciplinary action.

Office hours are 2:50-3:30 p.m., Tuesday –Thursday by appointment in Aud. Room 103.