

**BN3020P/ BN3029P**  
**The Historical Jesus**

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**Semester 1:** Classroom-based (BN3020P)  
(Beginning Saturday, 7 March from 10am to 4pm and then weekly)

Online: (BN3029P- offered as online unit in Semester 2)

**Description**

This unit provides an introduction to the methodological, historical, theological and contextual issues at stake in scholarly reconstructions of the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Students will consider the significance of recent scholarship relating to social memory as a way of approaching historical study. The unit will then explore seven key issues in historical Jesus studies including: Jesus and prophetic eschatology/apocalyptic; Jesus and the Torah; Jesus' self-understanding; the parables of Jesus; Jesus' healings/exorcisms; Jesus and the temple/scribal elites; the reasons for Jesus' death. Throughout, students will be invited to consider the potential impact of early memories of Jesus of Nazareth on contemporary Christian faith and practice.

**Learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Critically discuss a number of methodological, historical, theological and contextual issues relating to the historical study of Jesus of Nazareth.
2. Interpret all relevant sources, and especially the synoptic gospels, in ways that elucidate the relationship between the sources and history.
3. Articulate the insights of the most recent scholarship on the historical Jesus.
4. Critically analyse one scholarly reconstruction of the historical Jesus.
5. Present a historical analysis of one main theme or topic related to the historical Jesus and its relation to contemporary Christian faith and practice.

**Assessment**

Assessment Type	Weighting
Book Review (1500 words or equivalent )	30%
Essay (3500 words or equivalent)	70%

**Pre-requisite:** 18 points or more of undergraduate study in BN: New Testament or equivalent.

**Lecturer:** Sean Winter

**Recommended reading**

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Allison Jr, Dale C. *The Historical Christ and the Theological Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

Bond, Helen K. *The Historical Jesus: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: T & T Clark International, 2012.

Crossan, John Dominic. *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1991.

Dunn, James D. G. *Christianity in the Making. Volume 1: Jesus Remembered*. Grand Rapids / Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2003.

Le Donne, Anthony. *Historical Jesus: What Can We Know and How Can We Know It?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.

Meier, John P. *A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus* (5 volumes) Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York / London / Toronto / Sydney / Auckland: Doubleday, 1987.

Sanders, E. P. *Jesus and Judaism*. London: SCM, 1985.

Schröter, Jens. *Jesus of Nazareth: Jew from Galilee, Savior of the World*. Translated by Wayne Coppins. Waco TX: Baylor University Press, 2014.

Theissen, Gerd and Annette Merz. *The Historical Jesus: A Comprehensive Guide*. Translated by John Bowden. London: SCM, 1998.

Wright, N. T. *Jesus and the Victory of God*. London: SPCK, 1996.

**BN9020P/ BN9029P**  
**The Historical Jesus**

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**Semester 1:** Classroom-based (BN9020P)  
(Beginning Saturday, 7 March from 10am to 4pm and then weekly)

Online: (BN9029P- offered as online unit in Semester 2)

**Description**

This unit provides an introduction to the methodological, historical, theological and contextual issues at stake in scholarly reconstructions of the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Students will consider the significance of recent scholarship relating to social memory as a way of approaching historical study. The unit will then explore seven key issues in historical Jesus studies including: Jesus and prophetic eschatology/apocalyptic; Jesus and the Torah; Jesus' self-understanding; the parables of Jesus; Jesus' healings/exorcisms; Jesus and the temple/scribal elites; the reasons for Jesus' death. Throughout, students will be invited to consider the potential impact of early memories of Jesus of Nazareth on contemporary Christian faith and practice.

**Learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Critically assess a number of methodological, historical, theological and contextual issues relating to the historical study of Jesus of Nazareth.
2. Evaluate relevant sources, and especially the synoptic gospels, in ways that elucidate the relationship between the sources and history.
3. Integrate insights of the most recent scholarship on the historical Jesus into the study of a specific topic.
4. Critically compare and adjudicate between competing scholarly reconstructions of the historical Jesus.
5. Present an in depth historical analysis of one main theme or topic related to the historical Jesus and its relation to contemporary Christian faith and practice.

**Assessment**

Assessment Type	Weighting
Report (1600 words or equivalent )	20%
Essay (6400 words or equivalent)	80%

**Pre-requisite:** 24 points or more of foundational PG study in BN: New Testament or equivalent.

**Lecturer:** Sean Winter

**Recommended reading**

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Allison Jr, Dale C. *Constructing Jesus: Memory, Imagination, and History*. Grand: Baker Academic, 2010.

Casey, Maurice. *Jesus of Nazareth: In Independent Historian's Account of His Life and Teaching*. London: T & T Clark, 2010.

Crossan, John Dominic. *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1991.

Dunn, James D. G. *Christianity in the Making, Volume 1: Jesus Remembered*. Grand Rapids / Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2003.

Holmén, Tom and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Handbook for the Study of the Historical Jesus*. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

Keith, Chris and Anthony Le Donne, eds. *Jesus. Criteria and the Demise of Authenticity*. London: T & T Clark International, 2012.

Le Donne, Anthony. *The Historiographical Jesus: Memory, Typology, and the Son of David*. Waco TX: Baylor University Press, 2009.

Meier, John P. *A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus* (5 volumes) Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York / London / Toronto / Sydney / Auckland: Doubleday, 1987.

Sanders, E. P. *Jesus and Judaism*. London: SCM, 1985.

Schröter, Jens. *From Jesus to the New Testament: Early Christian Theology and the Origin of the New Testament Canon*. Translated by Wayne Coppins. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2013.