

**Who Was Jesus?
RELIGST 2GG3-C01
Fall 2017**



Lectures

Instructor: Matthew Thiessen

Time: Monday, Thursday, 4:30–5:20

Location: TSH B106

Tutorial

Tutor: TBD

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course will consist of a close study of the New Testament gospels and their portrayals of Jesus. It will also deal with the literary relationships between the gospels and the question of the historicity of the gospel accounts. As time permits, we will also look at a number of gospels that did not make it into the New Testament.

Required Reading

- Various ancient gospels
- Amy-Jill Levine, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*.

Assignments

- *Attendance and Participation:* students will be assessed on their regular, prepared, respectful attendance and participation (10%).
- *Quizzes:* There will be four quizzes throughout the semester that will focus on key terms, dates, and ancient and modern figures in the study of Jesus. (20%)
- *Book Review:* Students will read Amy-Jill Levine's *Misunderstood Jew* and write a six-page review of the book. The first three pages must be devoted to a careful summary of her key arguments and the remainder should focus on assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the book. (25%)

- *Bibliography*: students will construct a 1.5-2 page bibliography on the topic they choose to write their essay on (see next bullet point). (5%)
- *Final Essay*: in consultation with the professor, students will choose a topic related to the gospels or Jesus on which they will write a 10-12 page paper. This paper will use the bibliography constructed to interact with modern scholarship and to help guide them in the reading of ancient texts. (40%)