



St. George's School of Theology

Fall 2020

Syllabus

Course Overview

This course is intended to explore the historical claims of the Christian faith and defend those claims based on a reasonable assessment of historical data. This will be accomplished by exploring the reliability of the New Testament manuscript record, surveying archeological data related to the New Testament period, and examining the historicity of the bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This fall session is the continuation and conclusion of material begun in the Spring and put on hold due to the coronavirus shutdown.

Schedule and Course Format

Class runs from September 13th – December 13th. Class meets every Sunday evening at 7:30pm via Zoom, unless otherwise indicated. Links to Zoom sessions will be email out weekly, along with links to teaching videos on YouTube, prepared by the instructor. It is required that participants view each week's teaching video and complete any assigned reading prior to the Zoom meeting on Sunday.

Part 1 – The Reliability of the New Testament

- Sept 13th – Review material from Spring
- Sept 20th – Unintended Coincidences

Part 2 – Historicity of the Resurrection

- Sept 27th – If Christ Be Not Raised...
- Oct 4th – Who Rolled Away the Stone?
- Oct 11th – Making Sense of the Four-fold Gospel Accounts
- Oct 18th – Risen Indeed: Further Reasons for the Resurrection
- Oct 25th – *Break, No Class*

Part 3 – NT Archaeology

- Nov 1st – Was Jesus a Real Person?
- Nov 8th – Real People in the NT Confirmed by Archeology
- Nov 15th – Archaeological Finds from the New Testament, Pt. 1
- Nov 22nd – Archaeological Finds from the New Testament, Pt. 2
- Nov 29th – *Break, No Class*

Part 4 – A Reasonable Defense of the Faith

- Dec 6th – The Reason for God
- Dec 13th – The Reason for Christianity

Materials

- Bible – a reliable English translation such as the ESV, NIV, NRSV, or NASB; other contemporary translations like the Good News Bible, CEV, or paraphrases like The Message are not recommended.
- Computer (desk or laptop) w/ video chat capabilities (audio & video) and internet connection
- Recommended Texts
 - *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel
- Optional Texts (each Part will also have additional recommended further reading)
 - *Hidden in Plain View: Undesigned Coincidences in the Gospels and Acts* by Lydia McGrew
 - *Jesus and His World: The Archaeological Evidence* by Craig A. Evans