

THE BIBLE IN CONTEXT: ANTI-JUDAISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

KNB 2561 HF

FALL 2004

Course Description: Study of the anti-Judaic polemic in the New Testament in the context of the first century, its role in subsequent Jewish-Christian relations and its implications for preaching and teaching. Class assignments and three short term papers. Prerequisite: TSB 1501H

Course Objectives:

In successfully completing this course, a student will be able to

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of post-holocaust biblical studies. This means an ability to
 - Situate anti-Jewish texts within the biblical context;
 - Describe manifestations of anti-Judaism within Christian history; and
 - Discuss their interaction with the Christian scriptures.
2. Apply this knowledge to Christian ministry and leadership, particularly as it applies to preaching and teaching.

Course Requirements:

The student will be expected to:

A. Write three papers:

1. The first paper will describe the nature of post-holocaust studies. It will include a description of the various perspectives and definitions of terms used in these studies. [Due October 5; Approx. 1000 words; 15% of mark];
2. The second paper will discuss the anti-Jewish bias in Matthew's gospel. [Due November 2; Approx. 1500 words; 20% of mark];
3. The third paper is two-fold in its expectations. In it the student will
 - choose a gospel or Pauline text from the 2004-5 lectionary texts for Holy Week;
 - situate it contextually;
 - construct a working translation;
 - outline how this text might be preached or taught in a responsible way. [Due November 30; approx. 2500 words; 40% of mark].

B. Prepare class presentation:

These presentations will describe historical activities against Jews and explore their possible relationship to the Christian scriptures [Due throughout term; Group based if registration permits; 25% of mark]

Course Policies:

Policies for courses are contained in the *TST Basic Degree Handbook* and the *Knox College Student Handbook*. In particular note:

Late Assignments Policy: 4 points deducted per week late (2 off by Tuesday, 2 more by Friday).

Completion of Course work: all course work (including any late work) must be completed by the end of term, the last day of exams. Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Basic Degree Committee and the Faculty.

Style Guidelines for Papers: see Knox “Style Manual” booklet and *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian.

Class participation: Students are reminded of the Knox College academic regulation requiring attendance. Failure to abide by this academic regulation will result in failure of the entire course, as per the regulation.

Attendance: Students are expected to see that in a professional program they must approach study as they would employment. To that end, it is a regulation of the Board of Governors of Knox College that a minimum of 80% attendance at lecture courses is required for credit: 100% attendance is required at seminar courses. Habitual lateness for class will be counted as absence.

Inclusive Language: Inclusive language is to be used in all class presentations and written assignments.

Computer use: It is anticipated that students will have access to resources posted on the world wide web. Any student who cannot access these resources needs to inform the instructor in writing by September 30th.

Email assignments: Papers and assignments are not accepted by email, except in rare cases by prior permission of the professor.

Plagiarism Policy: See *TST Basic Degree Handbook*

Consultation: Please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor about any questions you may have.

Grading Scheme

The grading scheme for this course is outlined in the *Basic Degree Handbook*.

Required Text:

A course reader has been prepared and is available at Alico’s Digital Copy Centre, 203A College Street (416-599-2342) entitled: *The Bible in Context: Anti-Judaism in the New Testament*. Cost \$42.61 plus taxes.

Course Structure

September 14 – What’s at Stake: The nature of post World War biblical studies;
In class hand-out: Lloyd Gaston, *Jesus and Paul after Auschwitz*

September 21 – A matter of Definitions: Anti-Semitism, Anti-Judaism, Jew, Christian/Jewish Christian, Supersessionism, etc.

Reader: John Gager, “Anti-Semitism and Anti-Judaism: The Modern Debate,” pp. 11-34.

September 28 – Setting the Context

Reader: Paula Frederickson, “The Birth of Christianity and the Origins of Christian Anti-Judaism,” pp. 8-30.

Segal, Alan F., “Communities in Conflict,” pp. 142-162

October 5 - Dangerous Distortions

Reader: Pawlikowski, John T. “Jesus and the Pharisaic Tradition,” pp. 93-107.

October 12 – “Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words....”: Translation issues

Reader: Tina Pippin, “‘For fear of the Jews’: Lying and Truth Telling in Translating the Gospel of John,” pp. 81-97.

David G. Burke, “Translating ‘The Jews’ (hoi Ioudaioi) in the New Testament; Comparing the Pertinent Passages in Recent English Versions,” pp. 63-87.

October 19 – **Reading Week**

October 26 and November 2 – Probing the Gospels: Matthew (individual papers), Mark, Luke, John in cultural context

Reader: Daryl D. Schmidt. “Anti-Judaism and the Gospel of Luke,” pp. 63-96
David L Balch and Allan J. McNicol, “Responses to Daryl D. Schmidt,” pp. 97-119.

Robert A. Guelich, “Anti-Semitism and/or Anti-Judaism in Mark?,” pp. 80-101.

Adele Reinhartz, “A Nice Jewish Girl Reads the Gospel of John,” pp. 177-193.

November 9 and November 16 – Law and Grace: Paul and Anti-Judaism

Reader: Sidney G. Hall, “In a Mirror Dimly,” pp. 52-66

Peter Richardson, “On the Absence of ‘Anti-Judaism’ in 1 Corinthians,” pp. 59-74.

Michele Murray, “Gentile Christian Judaising in the First and Second Centuries C.E.,” pp 29-41.

November 16 – Preaching and Teaching the Text: Lectionary and Translation

Reader: Clark M. Williamson and Ronald J. Allen, “Interpreting Difficult Texts,” pp. 36-42.

William H. Willimon, “Jews and Christians: All in the Family, A Sermon Based on Luke 15,” pp. 121-126.

Clark M. Williamson, “Case Studies in Selected Texts,” pp. 73-92.

November 23 – Preaching and Teaching the Text: Applied Exegesis
Practice makes perfect!

November 30 – Jewish Christian Relationships and Debates: Christians and Christology
Reader: Clark M. Williamson, “Christology”, pp. 167-201

December 7 – [Date to be changed] Jewish Christian Relationships and Debates: A
Jewish Struggle
Reader: Marc H. Ellis, “Auschwitz, Israel, and the End of Jewish Innocence”, pp.
12-31.

Suggested Class Presentations: (dates to be decided)

Attitudes toward Jews in the Greco-Roman World

Church Fathers and Anti-Judaism: The Example of John Chrysostom

Anti-Judaism in the Middle Ages: Blood Libel, Pogroms and Inquisition

The Reformation, Luther and Anti-Judaism

Modern Anti-Semitism

The Protestant Churches and the Holocaust: Examples of Collaboration and Resistance

The Canadian Context: Church, Society and the Keegstra case