GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
NT 950 The Death and Resurrection of Jesus
Fall 2014. Mondays 9:10–12:10 am
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
A study of the death and resurrection of Jesus from historical, literary, and theological perspectives. Students will read, interpret, and discuss relevant early Jewish, Greco-Roman, and New Testament texts as well as both older and more recent scholarly work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Students will consolidate their competency in diverse areas relevant for New Testament exegesis, both as regards to authors (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, Hebrews) and genres (historical narrative, early Christian sermons, theological exposition, ethical application, apocalyptic texts, doxology).
2. Students will develop their expertise in reading and analyzing texts in Hebrew and Greek in their original contexts and in the use of Old Testament texts in the New Testament.
3. Students will develop their expertise in interpreting historical narrative and legal texts with a focus on primary texts and their context.
4. Students will enhance their capability of engaging in theological argumentation both with regard to the interpretation of texts and the application of New Testament texts in the history of interpretation.
5. Students will learn to appreciated and critical significance of Jesus’ death and resurrection in the theology of the New Testament authors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Primary texts that every student is required to study are listed in the Course Calendar. Students must be ready to discuss the texts for discussion in class.
2. Articles and monographs that students are required to consult are listed for each session in the Course Calendar. It is not expected that students read the monographs and articles listed for each session in their entirety; rather, students should ascertain the main argument of the work, focusing on the introduction, summaries of chapters and sections, and conclusions.
3. Each student presents five research papers. The length of each paper is 2,000–3,000 words. A one-page synopsis of each paper will be distributed to the class. Topics are listed in the Course Calendar. Students sign up for research topics during the first class session.

Grading:
Each of the five papers: 15% of the final grade; participation in class discussion: 25%.
Course Calendar

Sep 8
Session 1: Jesus’ death and resurrection.
Sources and Methods. Introduction.

Sep 15
Session 2: The death of Jesus in recent discussion.
(a) Texts for discussion: Contemporary descriptions of Jesus’ trial and death.
(b) Each student introduces a publication on Jesus’ life and death (5-10 minutes each)
(c) General discussion


Sep 22
Session 3: Jesus’ last days in Jerusalem in archaeological perspective.
Reading: the articles on Gethsemane, the residence of Caiaphas, the palace of Herod (praetorium), the Sanhedrin, Gabbatha, and Golgotha in the Anchor Bible Dictionary (1992), Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels (2013), and The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land (2008).
(b) One student introduces the residence of Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin building
(c) One student introduces the palace of Herod / Praetorium
(d) One student introduces Gabbatha and Golgotha
(e) General discussion

Sep 29
Session 4: Jewish and Roman criminal law.
(a) Texts for discussion: mSanhedrin 7.10 (ed. C. Albeck, translation J. Neusner),³³ P. Hels. I 1 (cf. NewDocs IX 18) and the lex Iulia de maiestate (Ulpian, Digestae 48.4).
Reading: D. W. Chapman / E. J. Schnabel³⁴
(b) One student introduces mSanhedrin 7.10
(c) One student introduces P. Hels. I 1
(d) One student introduces Ulpian, Dig. 48.4
(e) General discussion
Oct 6

Session 5: Jesus’ trial before the Sanhedrin and the Roman trial before Pilate.

(a) Texts for discussion:


Reading: D. L. Bock.38

(b) One student introduces the Jewish trial
(c) One student introduces the charge of blasphemy
(d) One student introduces the Roman trial
(e) General discussion

Oct 20

Session 6: Crucifixion.

(a) Texts for discussion:

Jewish text: 11QMiqdash LXIV 6–13 (ed. E. Qimron39);
Roman text: Cicero, pro Rabirio 9–17 (ed. H. Grose-Hodge40);

Reading: M. Hengel,41 D. W. Chapman42

(b) One student introduces 11QMiqdash LXIV 6–13
(c) One student introduces Cicero, pro Rabirio 9–17
(d) One student introduces the critical discussion
(e) General discussion

Oct 27

Session 7: Jesus’ death: The Last Supper and the Evangelists’ perspectives.

(a) Texts for discussion:


Reading: Last Supper: J. Jeremias,43 I. H. Marshall;44 the Evangelists on Jesus’
death: J. B. Green,45 R. A. Culpepper46

(b) One student introduces critical questions on the Last Supper
(c) One student introduces the theological perspective of the Evangelists
(d) One student introduces the theological perspective of John 18–19
(e) General discussion

Nov 3

Session 8: The significance of Jesus’ death according to Paul.

(a) Texts for discussion: Rom 3:21–26 and 1Cor 1:18–2:5.

Reading: J. D. G. Dunn,47 S. J. Gathercole48

(b) One student introduces Rom 3:21–26
(c) One student introduces 1Cor 1:18–2:5
(d) One student introduces the critical discussion
(e) General discussion

Nov 10 Reading Week
Nov 17

**Session 9: The historical evidence for Jesus’ resurrection.**

   *Reading:* N.T. Wright,49 M. R. Licona50

(b) One student introduces Mark 16 / Matt 28 / Luke 24
(c) One student introduces John 20
(d) One student introduces the discussion about the empty tomb
(e) General discussion

Nov 24

**Session 10: The significance of Jesus’ resurrection in Paul’s letter to the Romans.**

(a) *Text for discussion:* Rom 6:1–14.
   *Reading:* A. J. M. Wedderburn,51 J. R. D. Kirk52

(b) One student introduces Rom 6:1–14
(c) One student introduces other relevant texts from Romans
(d) One student introduces the critical discussion
(e) General discussion

Dec 1

**Session 11: The resurrection in 1 Corinthians.**

(a) *Text for discussion:* 1Cor 15.
   *Reading:* J. Murphy-O’Connor,53 V. Koperski,54 B. S. Rosner55

(b) One student introduces 1Cor 15:1–11
(c) One student introduces 1Cor 15:12–58
(d) One student introduces the critical discussion
(e) General discussion

Dec 8

**Session 12: The significance of Jesus’ death and resurrection in Hebrews and in Revelation.**

(a) *Text for discussion:* Heb 9:15–22; Rev 5:1–14
   *Reading:* D. M. Moffitt,56 I. H. Marshall,57 R. J. Bauckham58

(b) One student introduces relevant texts from the Epistle to the Hebrews
(c) One student introduces relevant texts from Revelation
(d) One student introduces the critical discussion
(e) General discussion
47 James D. G. Dunn, *The Theology of Paul the Apostle* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998), 207-233
49 N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (Christian Origins and the Question of God Volume Three; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003), 585-738