Overview
The course will examine the life of Jesus as depicted in the gospels against its historical backdrop.

Textbooks
Required
Jesus and the Victory of God, N.T. Wright (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996)

Course Requirements

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Dec 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
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*The Exams*
The mid-term will cover material from the first half of lectures, plus questions drawn from the reading. (In order to make the latter more manageable, I will present a range of possible questions near to the time of the exam) The final exam, predictably, will cover material from the second half of lectures, plus more questions drawn from the reading.

*The Essay*
The essay is to be 6-8 pages in length. You will answer the question: “Is the Quest for the Historical Jesus a worthwhile enterprise for Christians?” While you may certainly draw upon outside materials in answering this question, please note that this is not a research paper. You will be graded primarily on the cogency of your arguments and the clarity of your presentation. Obviously this question can be approached in numerous ways, and your ability to define the terms of the argument and present a compelling case to the reader is a fundamental part of the exercise. For this reason, detailed “instructions” on completing the essay will not be provided.
Schedule (subject to adjustment)

Sept 13
  *Introduction: What does it mean to study the life of Jesus?*

Sept 15
  *Infancy Narratives*

Sept 20
  *Infancy Narratives*

Sept 22
  *John the Baptist and the temptation narratives*

Sept 27
  *Early Ministry in Galilee: Setting the Stage*

Sept 29
  *Kingdom Come: Mighty Works*

Oct 4
  *Mighty Works (continued)*

Oct 6
  *Mighty Works (continued)*

Oct 11,13

  *Reading Week” Students are to work on required reading and began studying for the mid-term*

Oct 18
  *Kingdom Come: The Sermon on the Mount*

Oct 20
  *The Sermon on the Mount (continued)*

Oct 25
  *Parables*

Oct 27
  *More Parables*
Nov 1

Towards Jerusalem

Nov 3

The action in the temple

Nov 8, 10

Reading Week: Students should continue with required reading and preparation for final exam, and begin working on essay if they have not already done so

Nov 15

Apocalyptic Discourse

Nov 17

Last Supper, Arrest, Trial

Nov 22

Crucifixion

Nov 24

Thanksgiving, no class

Nov 29

Crucifixion

Dec 6

Resurrection

Dec 8

Resurrection

Dec 13

Review class

Dec 15

Final Exam