

# Syllabus

The following is a preliminary syllabus (subject to change and emendation) indicating the topics of study and their respective readings. Students will be provided with a course reader containing all the required readings, and will not have to purchase any books in advance.

## Introduction: The Jewish and Greek Religious Background

1. **The Origins of Christianity in the Resurrection Experience and the Jesus Movement**
  - The Book of Acts (if you haven't read the New Testament, perhaps also Luke or Matthew)
  - Newsome, *Greeks Romans and Jews*, "The Spread of Hellenism"
  - Esler, *The Early Christian World*, "Mediterranean Context of Early Christianity"
  - Barrett, *NT Background: Selected Documents* "Rabbinic Literature and Rabbinic Judaism"
2. **Greek Religion**
  - *Homeric Hymn to Demeter*
  - *Homeric Hymn to Pythian Apollo*
  - Martin, *The Early Christian World*, "Greco-Roman Philosophy and Religion"
  - Barrett, *NT Background: Selected Documents* "Mystery Religions"
  - Rice & Stambaugh, *Sources for the Study of Greek Religion on Delphi, Eleusinian Mysteries, Dionysian Mysteries and the Kabeiroi at Samothrace*
  - Burkert, *Greek Religion*, "Individual Gods," "Mystery Sanctuaries: The Kabeiroi and Samothrace, Eleusis, and Bacchica"
3. **Women and the Greco-Roman World**
  - Kramer, *Maenads, Martyrs, Matrons and Monastics* (excerpts)
  - Portefaix, *Sisters Rejoice* "Part 1" pp. 9-58

## The Life of Paul

4. **Paul, a Pharisee, Conversion and Questions of Chronology**
  - Galatians 1 (Acts 9)
  - Martin, *The Early Christian World*, "Paul and the Development of Gentile Christianity"

## The Birth of a Mixed Jewish and Gentile Community

5. **"The Antioch Incident"**
  - Galatians 1-2 (Acts 13-15)
  - Meeks, *The First Urban Christians*, "The Urban Environment of Paul"
  - Meeks, *The First Urban Christians*, "The Social level of Pauline Christians"

## Paul's Missionary Journeys in Asia Minor and Greece

6. **Ephesus: Mission to the Gentiles**
  - Galatians 3-5, Philemon (Acts 16:1-10)

- Murphy O'Connor, *St. Paul's Ephesus*
  - Meeks, *The First Urban Christians*, "The Formation of the Ekklesia"
  - Balch, *Paul and the Greco-Roman World*, "Paul, Households, and Families"
7. **Thessaloniki: The Church and Persecution**
    - 1 Thessalonians, (Acts 17)
    - Malherbe, *Paul and the Thessalonians*, "Founding the Christian Community"
    - Jewett, *The Thessalonian Correspondence: Pauline Rhetoric and Mediterranean Piety*, "The Setting in Thessalonica"
    - H. Koester, "Archeology and Paul in Thessalonike" in *Paul and His World*
  8. **Philippi: Christian Identity and The Role of Women in Paul's Churches**
    - Philippians (Acts 16:11-40)
    - Portefaix, *Sisters Rejoice* pp. 59-128
    - H. Koester, "Paul and Philippi" in *Paul and His World*
  9. **Corinth: Christians among Gentiles**
    - (Acts 18)
    - The Corinthian Correspondence
    - Balch, *Paul and the Greco-Roman World*, "Paul, Households, and Families"
    - Murphy O'Conner, *St. Paul's Corinth*
  10. **Back to Athens: Conclusions**