

JESUS THE JEW IN HISTORY AND MEMORY

Prof. Barbara Meyer

Fall semester

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3 p.m.

Short description:

At the beginning of the 20th century, New Testament scholars could not agree upon one single sentence of the Gospel texts as an authentic statement of the historical Jesus. Some, like Rudolf Bultmann, were not sure he had ever been a historical figure. In contrast, Jewish scholars found little reason to doubt Jesus' historicity. This was not the only contribution of Joseph Klausner, David Flusser and Shmuel Safrai to the Historical Jesus research: The Jesus they discovered was also a Torah-observing Jew.

In class we will study the findings of Jewish and Christian New Testament scholars of the 20th century. We will read contemporary works of Christian and Jewish scholars emphasizing Jesus' belonging to a Jewish context as well as historians emphasizing his distinctiveness. We will discuss memories of Jesus and examine the current discourse about the "remembered" Jesus in interreligious perspective.

Assessment:

Midterm:

Essay

20% of the final grade

Final requirement:

Seminar paper or referat paper 60% of the final grade

Participation:

20% of the final grade

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Please turn off all electronic apparatuses during class.