Apologies of Socrates and Gospels of Jesus Syllabus

Instructor: Adam Rose
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Quarter: Autumn 2023
Start – End Date: September 27 – November 15, 2023
Session Day/Time: Wednesday, 9:30 AM – 12:45 PM CT
Course Code and Section: HUAS26004 23A1

Course Overview

The lives and deaths of Socrates and Jesus had some remarkable parallels. Both were charismatic teachers claiming to be on divine missions. Both were executed by the ruling elites they challenged. And both were vindicated in the writings of their disciples. This course will explore these and other parallels by reading and discussing two Apologies (Defenses) of Socrates, one by Xenophon and one by Plato, and a number of gospels, some of which made it into the New Testament and some of which didn’t. In addition to examining the teachings of each figure, we will consider how each one’s calling and legacy is portrayed in the various accounts. The two Apologies of Socrates will be supplemented by selected other dialogues by Xenophon and Plato related to the death of Socrates.

Note to Students

Prior or concurrent participation in How to Read Religious Texts as Literature or equivalent experience is recommended. Students may wish to review Adler and Van Doren’s How to Read a Book prior to, or concurrent with, this course. Please complete the assigned reading for Week 1 before the first class.

Required Texts


Optional


Books can be purchased online through the University of Chicago Bookstore.
## Course Readings

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Before the Break</th>
<th>After the Break</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>Ehrman, <em>Lost Scriptures</em>: pp. 1-5, 329-342; 9-28</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Xenophon, <em>Dinner-Party</em></td>
<td>Ehrman, <em>Lost Scriptures</em>: pp. 73-108</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Xenophon, <em>Defence</em></td>
<td>Gospel According to Mark</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Plato, <em>Apology</em></td>
<td>Gospel According to John</td>
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### Accessing Remote Courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit [https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts](https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts). Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: [https://canvas.uchicago.edu](https://canvas.uchicago.edu).

### Accessibility Information

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

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The University and its faculty are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive learning environment for all students. At the University, all faculty, staff, graduate student instructors, and teaching assistants are considered “Individuals with Reporting Responsibilities” and are required to let the University’s Title IX Coordinator know about any disclosures they receive from students about experiences of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment). This includes disclosures of experiences that happened before their time at the University. This is to ensure that all students who have experienced sexual misconduct receive support, options, and information about their rights and resources. Students are not obligated to respond to this outreach, and this will not generate a report to law enforcement.
For more information, please see this handout for students as well as the University’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct and Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment. You can also reach out directly for services and support from the Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu.

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zme1@uchicago.edu.