

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Jeffrey Dodge

**Humanities Discipline:** Philosophy 102 & 220 **Date:** January 29, 2016

**World Religion:** Christianity

**Teaching Module Title:** The Philosophy of Religion: Christianity (PHIL 220)

Introduction to the Ethics of Christianity (PHIL 102)

### Teaching Module Goals:

(PHIL 220) Introduce students to Christian thoughts on the Religious Ideas and Experiences, and how their world experience has affected them.

(PHIL 102) Introduce students to Christian moral thinking including compassion, justice, identity, family, relationships with other's faith community, and human rights.

### Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Bowker, *World Religions, Christianity*, pp. 149-173 (PHIL 102 & 220)

*NRSV Harper Study Bible* (New Revised Standard Version), Zondervan Publishing House. 1991, or

*Life Application Bible*, New International Version, Tyndale House Publishers, 1988, or

*The Jerusalem Bible*, Doubleday & Company, 1966 [Includes Deuterocanonical books]

Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels*, "The Beatitudes" (Matthew 5:1-12), InterVarsity Press, pp. 65-90 (PHIL 102 & 220).

Barnette, *Introducing Christian Ethics*, "Essential Character of Christ's Ethics," "Content of Christ' Ethics," and "The Ethics of Paul," Broadman Press, pp. 42-76. (PHIL 102).

Oden, *Classic Christianity: A Systematics Theology*, Part II "The Reality of God." HarperCollins, pp. 79-124 (PHIL 220).

- Read Mark 1:1-15 (The Kingdom of God is at hand)
- Read Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes)
- Read Luke 15:1-32 (Three Parables of God's Mercy)
- Acts 2:1-47 (Pentecost)
- Romans 1:1-32 (Introduction), 3:21-26 (Justification by faith), 8:1-12 (Spiritual Life)
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love from God)
- 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 (Reconciliation)
- Hebrews 12:1-4 (The example of Jesus Christ)
- Read Revelations 21-22 (New Heaven and New Earth)

This is a sample of the Gospel of Mark Chapter 1 showing the original Greek language of the New Testament with the original text, a transliteration of Greek into English letters, a word by word translation from Greek into English, and grammatical aids. <http://biblehub.com/interlinear/mark/1.htm>

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

What is the basis for Christian beliefs/philosophy? What shaped Christian thoughts and practices and give brief explanation of each.

What are the major sections of the Christian Bible (New Testament)? Explain two major Christian beliefs from each of those sections.

What other major Christian religious works, other than the Bible, have influenced the development of Christianity? List and explain the importance of each text.

Explain the origin of Christian people. What events, beliefs, & practices shaped their identity? How have those beliefs and practices continued to develop?

Explain the importance of Incarnation in Christian thought (PHIL 220) and ethics (PHIL 102).

Explain the importance of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ, and the Last Judgment in Christian thought. (PHIL 220).

What are the Creeds and how did it shape Christian thought and practice (PHIL 220)?

List some of the major moral values of Christianity (name the source), and explain their importance (PHIL 102).

What was the Reformation, and what major moral dilemmas were raised by it? What solutions would you offer and give reasons. Be specific rather than general in your responses (PHIL 102 & 220).

**Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:**

(PHIL 220) Black Board Journal entries (essay minimum 500 words each).

(PHIL 102) Black Board Discussion Board (minimum 500 words).

**Additional Resource information:**

Oden, *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament, Volume II, Mark*, Intervarsity Press, 1998, pp. 1-17, Volume XII, pp. 352-361.

Spivey & Smith, *Anatomy of the New Testament: A Guide to Its Structure and Meaning*, The Macmillian Company, 1969, pp. 61-91 (The Gospel of Mark), pp. 443-459 (The Revelation).

Caird, *Black's New Testament Commentary: The Revelation of Saint John*, "The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-8)," Henderickson Publishers, pp. 261-267

Bratcher & Hatton, *The Revelation to John*, United Bible Societies, 1993, (Rev. 21:1-8) pp. 295-301 [compares Revised Standard Version to Today's English Version (Good News Bible)].

Marty, *Baptism*, Fortress Press, 1979 [62 pages].

Marty, *The Lord's Supper*, Fortress Press, 1980 [80 pages].

Metzger & Coogan, *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*, Oxford University Press, 1993 [Reference book].

Pelikan, *Jesus Through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture*, Harper & Row Publishers and Yale University Press, 1987.

Ward, *Jesus and His Times*, Reader's Digest Association, 1987 [Many short articles on various topics]

Kerr, *Readings in Christian Thought*, Second Edition, Abington Press, 1966 [From Justin Martyr to Dr. King].

Meeks, *The Origins of Christian Morality: The First Two Centuries*, Yale University Press, 1993.

Keck, et. al., *The New Interpreter's Bible*, Abingdon Press, 1995.

Walker, *A History of the Christian Church*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1970 [A one volume history of Christianity].

Constantelos, *The Greek Orthodox Church: Faith, History, and Practice*, The Seabury Press, 1967 [127 pages].

Litsas, *A Companion to the Greek Orthodox Church*, Greek Orthodox Diocese of North and South America, 1984