

# RELS 214: THE NEW TESTAMENT

*Queen's University School of Religion*

Taught by: Professor Richard Ascough

**Ever wonder how Christianity started? In this course we will start to answer this question by examining a variety of Christ groups in their first and early second century settings. We will look at when, why, and how stories inside and outside the Bible were written. Although students will come to know the basic content of the early Christian texts, the course will emphasize how adherents of Jesus established their own identity, grounding it in their Jewish heritage while responding to their Greco-Roman cultural context.**

## Course Breakdown

Each week students will be given readings and short (10-15 min) narrated presentations, along with a small group activity to engage with that utilizes onQ throughout the week. Although the class has scheduled timeslots, each week we will briefly meet “live” using Zoom from 10:45-11:30 when we will play a fun game called “Discipleship Survivor” followed by an optional time for questions and answers about the course material. The course will be graded based on regular participation in the weekly non-live activities, two short online quizzes, and the submission of two short papers during the semester.

## Time Commitment per Week

8-9  
hours

Prerequisite

Level 2

## Required Textbook/Materials

No