

## APOLOGIES OF SOCRATES AND GOSPELS OF JESUS

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### Course Description

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 that made it into the New Testament and some that 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.

### Book List

- 1) *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*. 3rd rev. ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2001. (ISBN 0195284852)
- 2) Ehrman, Bart. *Lost Scriptures: Books that Did Not Make It into the New Testament*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003. (ISBN 0195141822)
- 3) Plato, *Complete Dialogues*.
- 4) Xenophon, *Conversations of Socrates*. London: Penguin. (ISBN 014044517X)

### Class Schedule

Wk	First Half	Second Half
1	Course Introduction	Course Introduction
2	• Xenophon, <i>Memoirs</i> 1-2	• Ehrman 329-342; 9-28
3	• Xenophon, <i>Memoirs</i> 3-4	• Ehrman 29-51
4	• Xenophon, <i>Dinner-Party</i>	• Ehrman 52-72
5	• Xenophon, <i>Estate-Manager</i>	• Ehrman 73-108
6	• Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i>	• Ehrman 109-154
7	• Xenophon, <i>Defence</i> • Plato, <i>Apology</i>	• Mark
8	• Plato, <i>Apology</i>	• Matthew
9	• Plato, <i>Symposium</i>	• John
10	• Plato, <i>Crito</i>	• Luke
11	• Plato, <i>Phaedo</i>	• Acts