



Texts that didn't make it into the Bible

Start date Friday 17 June 2022 **End date** Sunday 19 June 2022

Venue Madingley Hall
 Madingley
 Cambridge
 CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr Jane McLarty **Course code** 2122NRX088

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

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Tutor biography

Dr Jane McLarty is a Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, and has taught New Testament (and New Testament Greek) for the Colleges and the Divinity Faculty for many years. Her area of research is early Christian narrative, particularly the martyrdom narratives of the first Christian centuries. One of her passions is to make academic theology accessible beyond the University lecture room, and to this end she has led a number of courses at ICE on the Gospels and on the book of Revelation.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	What's in the New Testament and how did it get there?
22:00	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	Two near misses: the Epistle of Barnabas and the Shepherd of Hermas
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Filling in the gaps: other Gospels
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free time
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Further sayings of Jesus? The Gospel of Thomas
18:00 – 18:30	Free time
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	The further adventures of (some of) the Apostles
21:30	Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast (for residents only)
09:00 – 10:30	More letters: 3 Corinthians, 1 Clement
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	A glance at the Didache
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will introduce you to:

- 1) The development of the 'canon' of the New Testament
- 2) A sample of the various forms of Christian literature circulating in the first two centuries CE, not included in today's New Testament

Content:

You may have heard the assertion that the Church in various periods has suppressed unwelcome documents that present an alternative version of the 'Jesus event'. We will in this course look at what we mean by the 'canon' and how it developed; how and why some documents ended up 'in' and others 'out'; and sample a cross-section of literature that was read and circulated in the early centuries of the church, from the Gospel of Mary via the various 'Acts' of Apostles through to the second century Didache, from which some of today's Christian liturgy is drawn. Along the way we will marvel at obedient first century bedbugs, consider whether some texts may preserve genuine further sayings of Jesus, and encounter a representative sample of the rich variety of writings that were around in the early days of the Church. Throughout the course we will discuss the differences between 'canonical' and 'noncanonical' literature and why some texts never gathered sufficient support to ensure a place in the New Testament.

Presentation of the course:

The course will involve illustrated lectures, group discussion and the study of (translated!) documents from the period.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- 1) Understand how the New Testament came into being
- 2) Discuss objectively the reasons why some documents did not end up in the canon

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Elliott, J.K.	<i>The Apocryphal New Testament : A collection of apocryphal Christian literature in an English translation</i>	Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2005
Gamble, Harry	<i>The New Testament canon : Its making and meaning</i> (Guides to biblical scholarship. New Testament series)	Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985
Gregory, A and Tuckett, C, (eds)	<i>The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Apocrypha</i> (Oxford handbooks).	Oxford: OUP, 2018

Website resources

The text of the apocryphal gospels, acts and so on can be found online here:

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/index.html>