

Teachings of Jesus  
in Comparative Perspective  
RS 24  
Winter Quarter 2008

Prof. Christine M. Thomas

Office: HSSB Tower 3067 • E-mail: [thomas@religion.ucsb.edu](mailto:thomas@religion.ucsb.edu)

Office hours: M 2:15-3:30 pm and W 2:15-3:00 pm

website: <http://www.religion.ucsb.edu/faculty/thomas/classes/RS24.html>

## Final Exam Study Questions

A. 70%. Essay question: From the following **three** questions, **one** will appear on the final.

### 1. The historical Jesus.

- Compare and contrast Sanders' reconstruction of Jesus with that of Borg, both
  - their outline of Jesus' life and activities, **and**
  - their understanding of the main points of his teaching
- Locate both Borg and Sanders within the typical concerns of the Old Quest, New Quest, and Third Quest.
- Where would you agree and disagree with their views?

For readings, see Borg especially chapters 2, 3, and 4; and Sanders, especially chapters 11-15.

### 2. Jesus and other religions.

- Discuss Thich's interpretation of Jesus.
  - Consider his treatment of Jesus as a historical figure **and**
  - as a figure of religious significance.
  - What aspects of Jesus' teachings are the most central in Thich's understanding?
- What aspects of Jesus does Thich's approach help one see more clearly?
- How does his "quest" overlap with and differ from the other ones we have examined, such as the Old Quest, the New Quest, and the Third Quest?
- Briefly contrast Thich's appropriation of the Teachings of Jesus with that of Gandhi.

For readings, see Bernard Brandon Scott on the three Quests; the Electronic reserves readings for Gandhi; and Thich, especially chapters 4, 6, and 10.

3. The ethics of Jesus.

- Discuss the ethics of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount/ Sermon on the Plain in Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6 by describing the following **three** interpretations:
  - Luther's two swords theory,
  - Christian pacifism, **and**
  - nonviolent resistance
- Contrast these approaches with **one** of the following:
  - the interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount in Sanders (chapter 13), **or**
  - the understanding of it in Thich (see esp. chapter 6).

For readings, see Pelikan, *The Prince of Peace*, *The Liberator*; and the writings of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Oscar Romero we read for class.

B. 30%. 15 minutes. Of the following 14 terms, 7 will be on the midterm, and you will be asked to choose 5 to define *briefly* (5-6 sentences).

Old Quest

Third Quest

Jesus as Moses

Middle of Time

Criterion of dissimilarity

Luther's two swords doctrine

Christian pacifism

Non-violent resistance

Kingdom of G-d

Jewish miracle workers

No-self

Nonconceptual knowledge

Transformative practice

Hippie Jesus