

# Religion 481/581

## Gnosticism Seminar

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Rice University  
Department of Religious Studies, MS 15  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77005

Spring 2014  
Meeting Time: W 9 am-12 pm  
Classroom Location: HUMA 215  
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### Course Description

Were the Gnostic Christians really deviant heretics? Or is this an artificial construct created by their opponents, the Church Fathers? In order to introduce you to the complexities, controversies, and conflicts of early Christianity as it developed its ideologies and institutional structure, we will turn to the voices of the Gnostics themselves, analyzing many ancient Gnostic texts mainly found in Nag Hammadi and El Minya, Egypt. We will reconstruct the alternative ideology and practices of the Gnostics as well as the historical dialogue that was taking place between the Gnostics and the Church Fathers as they argued with each other over the interpretation of the nature of Jesus and his relationship to God and the world. This course is a research seminar, so it will be discussion and presentation-oriented in its format.

### ADA Statement

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.

### Course Goals

1. To become familiar with the big questions (and answers) that have been the focus of secondary research on early Gnosticism
2. To become familiar with the primary sources for early Gnosticism generally, and to become an expert on at least one text/group/figure from the formative period, approximately first-fourth centuries CE.

3. To advance your personal research agenda; graduate students should be working on research that will advance their dissertation (or at least allow for exploration of a theme that might lead to a dissertation topic)
4. To work collaboratively to construct a useful and accurate understanding of Gnosticism, its traits, its architects, its history, and its literature
5. To share the knowledge of our own projects with each other in order to expand the circle

## GEM Certificate

This course counts as one of the four courses required to obtain the GEM Certificate. For more information about the certification program, see <http://reli.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=2147483686>

## Course Evaluation

- Reli 481: 30% Research Paper (5,000 words); 30% Research Oral Presentation; 20% Roundup Reviews; and 20% Seminar Leader responsibilities and seminar participation.
- Reli 581: 30% Research Paper (10,000 words); 30% Research Oral Presentation; 20% Roundup Reviews; 20% Seminar Leader responsibilities and seminar participation.
- Those enrolled for Reli 481 may use their research paper to meet the Senior Seminar research requirement.

## Grading Scale (%)

100+ (A+); 100-94 (A); 93.9-90 (A-); 89.9-87 (B+); 86.9-84 (B); 83.9-80 (B-); 79.9-77 (C+); 76.9-74 (C); 73.9-70 (C-); 69.9-67 (D+); 66.9-64 (D); 63.9-60 (D-); 59.9-(F).

## Course Format

- Each week, a Seminar Leader or Seminar Team Leaders (if students prefer to share this responsibility) will run the Seminar by opening with a 30-45 minute presentation that gives an overview of the weekly question, outlines what scholars have said/are saying about the subject, and organizes the material around major issues/questions that have been resolved and/or remain unresolved.
- Each student will be expected to write a 1-2 page Roundup Review of a pre-selected book or article(s) from the Weekly Bibliography list and share it orally. These reviews should be useful summaries of the reading and should be about 10-minutes in length. PDF files of the written Roundup Reviews will be posted on our Owlspace site by the student authors.
- The remaining time will be devoted to a discussion of the primary literature. The Seminar Leader will be the main organizer of this discussion, by posing a series of questions about the primary literature in order to illuminate the

ancient sources as they help us to understand Gnosis and Gnosticism in antiquity. Seminar Leader may ask us to focus on a particular text, set of passages, or theme. This should be communicated to the seminar members at least one week in advance of the seminar. Types of questions that might be engaged: history and development of ideas and/or practices within various religious communities; relationship of text to cultural and religious networks, matrices and domains of knowledge of ancient world; social and political issues of group formation and self-identity; the process of normation and the emergence of orthodoxy; the emergence of new religious movements within a competitive marketplace; the identification/classification of main traits of Gnostic systems/ideology/practices/communities; etc.

### Required Texts To Purchase

1. J. Robinson, *The Nag Hammadi Library in English* (Harper & Row, Revised Edition, 1988, 1997), please do not substitute the newest edition that Marvin Meyer put together because it does not contain page and line numbers
2. Birger A. Pearson, *Ancient Gnosticism* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007)

## Round-Up Review Format

Use 12-point font, Cambria, with 1" top and bottom margins, 1.25" right and left margins. To be consistent, let it appear this format:

*Round-Up Review* by April D. DeConick

**Michael Allen Williams. 1996. *Rethinking "Gnosticism": An Argument for Dismantling a Dubious Category*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.**

### **Thesis**

The thesis should be identified in one sentence if possible.

### **Abstract**

Cover only the main points and the type of evidence that the author uses to make these points. Use full sentences, not bullet points.

### **Evaluation**

Present your critical opinion of the book or article and discuss its usefulness (or not).

### **Research Register**

Does the author refer you to any other sources that you wish to pursue for your research? If so, record them here in bibliographical list of complete references.

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## Weekly Syllabus

Week One: January 15

Topic: The Construction and Deconstruction of Gnosticism

Seminar Leader: DeConick

### Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Pearson c. 1.
2. Read DeConick. 2013. Crafting Gnosis: Gnostic Spirituality in the Ancient New Age. Pages 285-305 in *Gnosticism, Platonism and the Late Ancient World: Essays in Honor of John D. Turner*. Edited by Kevin Corrigan and Tuomas Rasimus. NHMS 82. Leiden: Brill.
3. Read PDF of DeConick, "The Matrix of Ancient Spirituality" (manuscript, *The Ancient New Age: How Gnostic Spirituality Revolutionized Religion*).

### Weekly Bibliography

- Roger S. Bagnall. 2009. *Early Christian Books in Egypt*. Princeton: Princeton University.
- J.W.B. Barns, G.M. Browne and J.C. Shelton. 1981. *Nag Hammadi Codices: Greek and Coptic Papyri from the Cartonnage of the Cover*. NHS 16. Leiden: Brill.
- David Brakke. 2010. *The Gnostics: Myth, Ritual, and Diversity in Early Christianity*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Stephen Emmel. 1998. The Christian Book in Egypt: Innovation and the Coptic Tradition. In *The Bible as Book: The Manuscript Tradition*. Edited by L. Sharpe II and Kimberly van Kampen. The British Library and Oak Knoll Press.
- Stephen Emmel. 2008. The Coptic Gnostic Texts as Witnesses to the Production and Transmission of Gnostic (and Other) Traditions. Pages 33-49 in *Das Thomasevangelium: Entstehung-Rezeption-Theologie*. Edited by Jörg Frey, Enno Edzard Popkes and Jens Schröter. BZNW 157. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.
- David Frankfurter. 1998. The Scriptorium as Crucible of Religious Change. Pages 238-264 in *Religion in Roman Egypt: Assimilation and Resistance*. Princeton: Princeton University.
- James E. Goehring. 2001. The Provenance of the Nag Hammadi Codices Once More. Pages 234-253 in *Studia Patristica* 35.
- Lance W. Jenott and Elaine H. Pagels. 2010. Antony's Letters and Nag Hammadi Codex I: Sources of Religious Conflict in Fourth-Century Egypt." *JECS* 18.4.
- Michael Kaler. 2009. Cultic Milieu, Nag Hammadi Collectors and Gnosticism. *Studies in Religion* 38: 427-444.

- Karen L. King. 2003. *What Is Gnosticism?* Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Nicola Denzey Lewis. 2013. Death on the Nile: Egyptian Codices, Gnosticism, and Early Christian Books of the Dead. Pages 161-180 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.
- Alastair H. B. Logan. 2006. *The Gnostics: Identifying an Early Christian Cult*. London: T&T Clark.
- Antti Marjanen. 2005. *Was There A Gnostic Religion?* Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
- Tito Orlandi. 1982. A Catechesis Against Apocryphal Texts by Shenute and the Gnostic Texts of Nag Hammadi. Pages 85-95 in *HTR* 75.
- James M. Robinson. 2009. The Discovery of the Nag Hammadi Codices. *Journal of Coptic Studies* 11: 1-21.
- Armand Veilleux. 1986. Monasticism and Gnosis in Egypt. Pages 271-306 in *The Roots of Egyptian Christianity*. Edited by Birger A. Pearson and James E. Goehring. Philadelphia: Fortress.
- Michael Allen Williams. 1996. *Rethinking "Gnosticism": An Argument for Dismantling a Dubious Category*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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Week Two: January 22

Topic: The Crucible that Forged Gnosticism: Astrology, Magic, and the Egyptian Mortuary Cult

Seminar Leader:

#### Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Kocku von Stuckrad. 2000. Jewish and Christian Astrology in Late Antiquity: A New Approach. *Numen* 47:2-40.
2. Read PDF of DeConick, "The Gnostic True Man" (manuscript, *The Ancient New Age: How Gnostic Spirituality Revolutionized Religion*).
3. Prepare Primary Source Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Marvin Meyer and Richard Smith, eds. 1994. *Ancient Christian Magic: Coptic Texts of Ritual Power*. San Francisco: Harper.
  - Hans Dieter Betz, ed. 1986, 1992 revised edition. *The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation*. Vol. 1; Chicago: University of Chicago.
  - Jacco Dieleman. 2005. *Priests, Tongues, and Rites: The London-Leiden Magical Manuscripts and Translation in Egyptian Ritual (100-300 CE)*. Leiden: Brill.
  - Mark Smith. 2009. *Traversing Eternity: Texts for the Afterlife from Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
  - *The Egyptian Book of the Dead* (a.k.a., *The Book of Going Forth by Day* and *The Papyrus of Ani*)
4. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

#### Weekly Bibliography

- Grant Adamson. 2013. Astrological Medicine in Gnostic Traditions. Pages 315-332 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.
- Tamsyn Barton. 1994. *Ancient Astrology*. London: Routledge.
- Tamsyn S. Barton. 2002. *Power and Knowledge: Astrology, Physiognomics, and Medicine under the Roman Empire*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
- Roger Beck. 2007. *A Brief History of Ancient Astrology*. Malden: Blackwell.
- Gideon Bohak. 2008. *Ancient Jewish Magic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University
- Tim Hegeudus. 2007. *Early Christianity and Ancient Astrology*. New York: Peter Lang.
- Naomi Janowitz. 2001. *Magic in the Roman World: Pagans, Jews and Christians*. London and New York: Routledge.

- Paul Mirecki and Marvin Meyer, eds. 2002. *Magic and Ritual in the Ancient World*. Leiden: Brill.
- Scott Noegel, Joel Walker, and Brannon Wheeler, eds. 2003. *Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University.
- Mladen Popovic. 2007. *Reading the Human Body: Physiognomics and Astrology in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Hellenistic-Early Roman Period Judaism*. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judas 67. Leiden: Brill.
- Kocku von Stuckrad. 2000. *Das Ringen um die Astrologie: Jüdische und christliche Beiträge zum antiken Zeitverständnis*. Berlin: de Gruyter.



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Week Three: January 29

Topic: Pagan Gnosis: Hermetism

Seminar Leader:

Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Pearson 273-291
2. Read PDF of DeConick, "Superpowers and Monsters" first half of chapter up to heading "Gnostic Spirituality Absorbs the Bible" (manuscript, *The Ancient New Age: How Gnostic Spirituality Revolutionized Religion*).
3. Prepare Primary Source Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Nag Hammadi Collection: *Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth, Prayer of Thanksgiving*
  - *Corpus Hermeticum*
  - *Excerpts of Stobaeus*
  - *Armenian Definitions*
  - *Latin Asclepius*
4. Select one item on the Weekly Bibliography list and prepare Round Up Review

Weekly Bibliography

- Roelof van den Broek and Wouter J. Hanegraaff, eds. 1998. *Gnosis and Hermeticism from Antiquity to Modern Times*. Albany: SUNY.
- Roelof van den Broek and Cis van Heertum, eds. 2000. *From Poimandres to Jacob Böhme: Gnosis, Hermetism and the Christian Tradition*. Amsterdam: Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica.
- Garth Fowden. 1986. *The Egyptian Hermes: A Historical Approach to the Late Pagan Mind*. Princeton: Princeton University.
- Anna Van den Kerchove. 2012. *La voie d'Hermès: Pratiques rituelles et traits hermétiques*. NHMS 77. Leiden: Brill.
- David Porreca. 2013. How hidden was God? Revelation and pedagogy in ancient and medieval Hermetic writings. Pages 137-148 in *Histories of the Hidden God: Concealment and Revelation in Western Gnostic, Esoteric, and Mystical Traditions*. Edited by April DeConick and Grant Adamson. Gnostica Series. Durham: Acumen.

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## Week Four: February 5

Topic: Historical Origins of Gnosticism: Judaism and Samaritanism

Seminar Leader:

### Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Pearson, pp. 25-34
2. Read PDF of DeConick, "Superpowers and Monsters" rest of chapter starting at heading "Gnostic Spirituality Absorbs the Bible" (manuscript, *The Ancient New Age: How Gnostic Spirituality Revolutionized Religion*).
3. Prepare Primary Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Ezekiel 1, Ezekiel the Tragicus, Daniel 7, Philo, Sirach 24, Genesis 1-5
  - Foerster 1:27-33, 251-260
4. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

### Weekly Bibliography

- Alberto Ferreiro. 2005. *Simon Magus in Patristic, Medieval and Early Modern Traditions*. SHCT125. Leiden: Brill.
- Jarl Fossum, "Sects and Movements," in Alan D. Crown (ed.), *The Samaritans*, pp. 293-389.
- Jarl Fossum, "The Simonian Sophia Myth," *SMSR* 53 (1987) pp. 185-197.
- Stephen Haar, *Simon Magus: The First Gnostic?* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2003).
- Von Jaan Lahe. 2012. *Gnosis und Judentum: Alttestamentliche und jüdische Motive in der gnostischen Literatur und das Ursprungsproblem der Gnosis*. Leiden: Brill.
- A.H.B. Logan and A.J.M. Wedderburn, eds. 1983. *The New Testament and Gnosis: Essays in honour of Robert McL. Wilson*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, pp. 1-104.
- Birger A. Pearson. 1990. *Gnosticism, Judaism, and Egyptian Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Gilles Quispel. 1980. Ezekiel 1:26 in Jewish Mysticism and Gnosis. *Vigiliae Christianae* 34: 1-13.

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Week Five: February 12

TOPIC: The Christian Fusion: Paul

Seminar Leader: DeConick

Assignment

1. Read PDF of DeConick, "The Dogma of Paul" (manuscript, *The Ancient New Age: How Gnostic Spirituality Revolutionized Religion*).
2. Prepare Primary Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - New Testament letters of Paul (1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Romans)
  - New Testament Deutro-Pauline letters (Colossians and Ephesians)
3. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

Weekly Bibliography

- Elaine Pagels. 1975. *The Gnostic Paul: Gnostic Exegesis of the Pauline Letters*. Philadelphia: Trinity Press International.
- Walter Schmithals. 1971. *Gnosticism in Corinth*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.
- Walter Schmithals. 1983. The Corpus Paulinum and Gnosis. Pages 107-124 in A.H.B. Logan and A.J.M. Wedderburn, eds. 1983. *The New Testament and Gnosis: Essays in honour of Robert McL. Wilson*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark.

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Week Six: February 19

Topic: The First Christian Gnostics: The Gospel of John

Seminar Leader: DeConick

Assignment

1. Prepare basic reading: Pearson 34-39.
2. Read PDF of DeConick, "John and the Dark Cosmos" (manuscript, *The Ancient New Age: How Gnostic Spirituality Revolutionized Religion*).
3. Prepare Primary Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Gospel of John
  - Foerster 1: 35-36, 40-41
4. Read DeConick. 2013. "Why are the Heavens Closed? The Johannine Revelation of the Father in the Catholic-Gnostic Debate." Pages in *John's Gospel and Intimations of Apocalyptic*. Edited by Catrin H. Williams and Christopher Rowland. London: T&T Clark.
5. Read DeConick. 2013. "Who is Hiding in the Gospel of John? Reconceptualizing Johannine Theology and the Roots of Gnosticism." Pages 13-29 in *Histories of the Hidden God: Concealment and Revelation in Western Gnostic, Esoteric, and Mystical Traditions*. Edited by April DeConick and Grant Adamson. Gnostica Series. Durham: Acumen.
6. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

Weekly Bibliography

- Brown, R. E. 1982. "Cerinthus." Pages 766-71 in Appendix II of *The Epistles of John: Translated with Introduction, Notes, and Commentary*. Translated by R. E. Brown. New York: Anchor Bible, Doubleday, 1982.
- Hill, C. E. 2000. Cerinthus, Gnostic or Chiliast? A New Solution to an Old Problem. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 8: 135-172.
- Hill, Charles E.. 2006. *The Johannine Corpus in the Early Church*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Keefer, Kyle. 2006. *The Branches of the Gospel of John: The Reception of the Fourth Gospel in the Early Church*. London: T&T Clark.
- MacRae, George W.. 1986. Gnosticism and The Church of John's Gospel. Pages 89-96 in *Nag Hammadi, Gnosticism, and Early Christianity*. Edited by Charles W. Hedrick and Robert Hodgson, Jr. Peabody: Hendrickson.
- Marksches, C. 1998. Kerinth: Wer War Er und Was Lehrte Er? *Jahrbuch für Anrike und Christentum* 41: 48-76.
- Matti Myllykoski, "Cerinthus," in Antti Marjanen and Petri Luomanen (eds.), *A Companion to Second-Century Christian "Heretics"* (Leiden: Brill) pp. 213-246.

- Rasimus, Tuomas, ed. 2010. *The Legacy of John: Second-Century Reception of the Fourth Gospel*. Leiden: Brill.
- John D. Turner. 2005. Sethian Gnosticism and Johannine Christianity. Pages 399-433 in *Theology and Christology in the Fourth Gospel: Essays by Members of the SNTS Johannine Writings Seminar*. Edited by G. van Belle et al. BETL 184. Leuven: Leuven University Press/Peeters.
- Schwartz, E. 1963. "Johannes und Kerinthos." Pages 170-182 in vol. 5 of *Zum Neuen Testament und zum frühen Christentum...* Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1963.
- Wright, B. G. 1984. Cerinthus Apud Hippolytus: An Inquiry into the Traditions about Cerinthus's Provenance. *The Second Century* 4: 103-115.

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Week Seven: February 26

Topic: Classic Second-Century Systems: Carpocrates, Justin, and Basilides

Seminar Leader:

Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Pearson 39-45, 134-144  
DeConick, *Holy Misogyny*, 103-106
2. Prepare Primary Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Foerster 1:36-40, 48-83
  - Nag Hammadi Collection: *Testimony of Truth*
3. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

Weekly Bibliography

- Bos, A. P. 2000. Basilides as an Aristotelianizing Gnostic. *Vigiliae Christianae* 54: 44-60.
- Bos, A. P. 2005. Basilides of Alexandra: Matthias (Matthew) and Aristotle as the Sources of Inspiration for His Gnostic Theology in Hippolytus' Refutio. Pages 397-418 in *The Wisdom of Egypt: Jewish, Early Christian, and Gnostic Essays in Honour of Gerard P. Luttikhuisen*. Edited by A. Hilhorst and G. H. van Kooten. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2005.
- Broek, R. Van Den. 1973. The shape of Edem According to Justin the Gnostic. *Vigiliae Christianae* 27: 34-45.
- Foerster, W. 1962/63. Das System des Basilides. *New Testament Studies* 9: 233-55.
- Grant, R. M. 1959. Gnostic Origins and the Basilidians of Ireneaus. *Vigiliae Christianae* 13: 121-25.
- Layton, B. 1989. The Significance of Basilides in Ancient Christian Thought. *Representations* 28: 135-51.
- W.A. Löhr, *Basilides und seine Schule* (WUNT 83; Tübingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 1996).
- Gilles Quispel. 1968. Gnostic Man: The Doctrine of Basilides. Pages 210-246 in *The Mystic Vision: Papers From the Eranos Yearbook*. Edited by Joseph Campbell. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Birger Pearson, "Basilides the Gnostic," in Antti Marjanen and Petri Luomanen (eds.), *A Companion to Second-Century Christian "Heretics"* (Leiden: Brill) pp. 1-31.
- Tardieu, M. 1991. "Justin the Gnostic: A syncretistic Mythology." Page 686-88 in vol. 2 of *Mythologies: A Restructured Translation of 'Dictionnaire des mythologies et des religions des sociétés*

- Welburn, A. 1994. "The Book of the Blessed by Justin the Gnostic." Pages 235-41 in Chapter 7 of Gnosis, the mysteries and Christianity; an anthology of Essene, Gnostic and Christian writings. Edinburgh : Floris, 1994.

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Week Eight: March 5  
Spring Break: no class

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Week Nine: March 12

Topic: Classic Second-Century Systems: Peratics, Ophites, and Naassenes

Seminar Leader: DeConick

#### Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading
  - Pearson, pp. 45-48, 190-196
  - DeConick. 2012. From the Bowels of Hell to Draco: The Mysteries of the Peratics. Pages 3-37 in *Mystery and Secrecy in the Nag Hammadi Collection and Other Ancient Literature: Ideas and Practices. Studies for Einar Thomassen at Sixty*. NHMS 76. Leiden: Brill.
  - DeConick. 2013. The Road for the Souls is Through the Planets: The Mysteries of the Ophians Mapped. Pages 37-74 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.
2. Read PDF of DeConick, "Trekking Through the Stars" (manuscript, *The Ancient New Age: How Gnostic Spirituality Revolutionized Religion*).
3. Prepare Primary Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Foerster 1:84-99, 261-282, 283-292
4. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

#### Weekly Bibliography

- Bonner, C. 1949. An Amulet of the Ophite Gnostics. Pages 43-46 in *Commemorative Studies in Honor of Theodore Leslie Shear*. Hesperia: Supplement VIII. Princeton: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1949.
- Denzey, Nicola. 2005. Stalking Those Elusive Ophians: The Ophian Diagrams Reconsidered. Pages 89-122 in *Essays in Honour of Frederik Wisse, ARC: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill* 33.
- Maria Grazia Lancellotti. 2000. *The Naassenes: A Gnostic Identity among Judaism, Christianity, Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Traditions*. Ugarit Verlag.
- Maria Grazia Lancellotti. 2002. *Attis: Between Myth and History*. Leiden: Brill.
- Fred Ledegang. 2011. The Ophites and the "Ophite" Diagram in Celsus and Origen. Pages 51-83 in *Heretics and Heresies in the Ancient Church and in Eastern Christianity*. Edited by Joseph Verheyden and Herman Teule. Leuven: Peeters.



- Marcovich, M. 1981. The Naassene Psalm in Hippolytus. Paper presented at the International Conference on Gnosticism at Yale. New Haven, Connecticut. March 28-31.
- Tuomas Rasimus. 2005. Ophite Gnosticism, Sethianism and the Nag Hammadi Library. *Vigiliae Christianae* 59: 235-63.
- Rasimus, T. 2006. "Anathema Iesous (1 Cor 12:3)? Origen of Alexandria on the Ophite Gnostics." Pages 797-821 in *Coptica-Gnostica-Manichaica: Mélanges offerts à Wolf-Peter Funk*. Edited by L. Painchaud and P.-H. Poirier. Québec: Peeters, 2006.
- Tuomas Rasimus. 2009. *Paradise Reconsidered in Gnostic Mythmaking: Rethinking Sethianism in Light of the Ophite Evidence*. Leiden: Brill.
- Roberts, C. H. 1979. "The So-Called 'Psalm of the Naassenes' (P. Fayum 2)." Pages 81-81 in Appendix III of *Manuscript, Society and Belief in the Early Christian Egypt: The Schweich Lectures of the British Academy 1977*. London: Oxford University Press, 1979.
- Tardieu, M. 1991. "The Naassenes' Use of Pagan Mythologies." Pages 675-76 in vol. 2 of *Mythologies: A Restructured Translation of 'Dictionnaire des mythologies et des religions des sociétés traditionnelles et du monde antique'*. Edited by Y. Bonnefoy and W. Doniger. Translated by G. Honigsblum. 2 vols. Chicago/ London: The University of Chicago Press, 1991.
- Tardieu, M. 1993. Histoire des syncrétismes de la fin d l'Antiqué: La mythologie des gnostiques Naassènes. *Annuaire du Collège de France* 1992-1993 93: 545-59 and Tardieu, M. 1993. Histoire des syncrétismes de la fin d l'Antiqué: Les représentations des gnostiques Naassènes. *Annuaire du Collège de France* 1992-1993 93: 581-86.
- Welburn, A. 1981. Reconstructing the Ophite Diagram. *Novum Testamentum* 23: 261-87.

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Week Ten: March 19

Topic: View Mandaean Video

Seminar Leader:

Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading
  - Pearson 314-332
  - “Explanatory Text for Jesse Buckley’s Video: Mandaean Masbuta” (unpublished)
2. Prepare Primary Source Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Foerster 2: 148-276, 277-290
3. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

Weekly Bibliography

- Jorunn Jacobsen Buckley, *The Mandaean* (Oxford: Oxford University, 2002).
- E.S. Drower, *The Secret Adam* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1960).
- E.S. Drower, *The Mandaean of Iraq and Iran* (Oxford: Oxford University, 1937).
- Edmondo Lupieri, *The Mandaean* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002)

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Week Eleven: March 26

Topic: Classic Second-Century Systems: (Christian-)Sethianism

Seminar Leader:

Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Pearson 51-69, 75-82, 84-86, 101-133
2. DeConick, *The Thirteenth Apostle*, 49-148
3. Prepare Primary Source Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Foerster 1:293-305, 41-43
  - Nag Hammadi Collection: *Apocryphon of John*, *Hypostasis of the Archons*, *Eugnostos the Blessed and Sophia of Jesus Christ*, *Trimorphic Protennoia*, *Apocalypse of Adam*, *Gospel of the Egyptians*, *Three Stele of Seth*.
  - Tchacos Codex: *Gospel of Judas* (in DeConick, *The Thirteenth Apostle*)
4. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

Weekly Bibliography

- April DeConick (ed.), 2010. *The Judas Codex: Proceedings of the International Congress on Codex Tchacos held at Rice University, Houston, Texas, March 13-16, 2008*. Leiden: Brill.
- DeConick, 2011. "After the Gospel of Judas: Reassessing What We Have Known to be True about Cain and Judas." Pages 627-662 in *'In Search of Truth': Augustine, Manichaeism and other Gnosticism: Studies for Johannes van Oort at Sixty*. Edited by Jacob Albert van den Berg et al. Leiden: Brill.
- Karen L. King. 2006. *The Secret Revelation of John*. Cambridge: Harvard University.
- Bentley Layton. Ed. 1981. *The Rediscovery of Gnosticism*. Volume 2: *Sethian Gnosticism*. Leiden: Brill.
- Alastair H. B. Logan. 1996. *Gnostic Truth and Christian Heresy: A Study in the History of Gnosticism*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers.
- Gerard P. Luttikhuisen. 2006. *Gnostic Revisions of Genesis Stories and Early Jesus Traditions*. Leiden: Brill.
- Zlatko Pleše. 2006. *Poetics of the Gnostic Universe*. Leiden: Brill, 2006.
- Gilles Quispel. 2000. "Reincarnation and Magic in the Asclepius," in *From Poimandres*. Pages 168-231 in *From Poimandres to Jacob Böhme: Gnosis, Hermetism and the Christian Tradition*. Edited by R. van den Broek and C. van Heertum. Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica: Amsterdam.
- Madeleine Scopello (ed.), *The Gospel of Judas in Context: Proceedings of the First International Conference on the Gospel of Judas* (Leiden: Brill, 2008).
- Jean-Marie Sevrin. 1986. *Le Dossier Baptismal Séthien*. Québec: Université Laval.

- John D. Turner. 2001. *Sethian Gnosticism and the Platonic Tradition*. Québec: Université Laval.
- Michael Williams. 2006. Sethianism. Pages 32-63 in *A Companion to Second-Century Christian "Heretics."* Edited by Antti Marjanen and Petri Luomanen. Leiden: Brill.

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Week Twelve: April 2

Topic: Classic Second-Century Systems: Valentinus and Friends

Seminar Leader:

Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Pearson 145-165, 182-183
2. Prepare Primary Source Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Foerster 1:194-195, 239-243, 123-193, 234-238
  - Nag Hammadi Collection: *Gospel of Truth, A Valentinian Exposition, Tripartite Tractate*
3. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

Weekly Bibliography

- Ismo Dunderberg, "The School of Valentinus," in Antti Marjanen and Petri Luomanen (eds.), *A Companion to Second-Century Christian "Heretics"* (Leiden: Brill) pp. 64-99.
- Ismo Dunderberg, *Beyond Gnosticism: Myth, Lifestyle, and Society in the School of Valentinus* (New York: Columbia University, 2008).
- Ehrman, B. D. 1993. Heracleon, Origen, and the Text of the Fourth Gospel. *Vigiliae Christiannae* 47: 105-18.
- Fallon, F. T. 1976. The Law in Philo and Ptolemy: A Note on the Letter to Flora. *Vigiliae Christianae* 30: 45-51.
- Janssens, Y. 1959. Héracléon: Commentaire sur l'Évangile selon S. Jean. *Muséon* 172: 101-51; 277-99.
- Kaler, M. and Bussi  res, M. –P. 2006. Was Heracleon a Valentinian? A New Look at Old Sources. *Harvard Theological Review* 99: 275-89.
- Christophe Marksches, *Valentinus Gnosticus?* (T  bingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 1992).
- Marksches, C. 2000. New Research on Ptolemaus Gnosticus. *Zeitschrift f  r Antike Christentum* 4: 225-53.
- Quispel, G. 1948. Le letter de Ptol  m  e a Flora. *Vigiliae Christianae* 2: 17-56.
- Tuomas Rasimus. 2010. "Ptolemaeus and the Valentinian Exegesis of John's Prologue." Pages 145-171 in *The Legacy of John: Second-Century Reception of the Fourth Gospel*. Edited by Tuomas Rasimus. Leiden: Brill.
- Einar Thomassen. 2010. "Heracleon." Pages 173-210 in *The Legacy of John: Second-Century Reception of the Fourth Gospel*. Edited by Tuomas Rasimus. Leiden: Brill.
- Trumbower, J. A. 1989. Origen's Exegesis of John 8:19-53: The Struggle over the Idea of Fixed Natures. *Vigiliae Christiannae* 43: 138-54.

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Week Thirteen: April 9

Topic: Classic Second-Century Gnostic Systems: Valentinianism continued

Seminar Leader:

Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Pearson 165-173, 176-181
2. Prepare Primary Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Foerster 1: 198-233
  - Nag Hammadi Collection: *Gospel of Philip*
3. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

Weekly Bibliography

- April DeConick, "The True Mysteries: Sacramentalism in the *Gospel of Philip*," *Vigilae Christianae* 55 (2001) pp. 225-261.
- April DeConick, "The Great Mystery of Marriage: Sex and Conception in Ancient Valentinian Practices," *Vigilae Christianae* 57 (2003) pp. 307-342.
- A.H.C. van Eijk. 1971. The Gospel of Philip and Clement of Alexandria: Gnostic and Ecclesiastical Theology on the Resurrection and the Eucharist. Pages 94-120 in *Vigiliae Christianae* 25.
- Niclas Förster, *Marcus Magus* (WUNT 114; Tübingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 1999).
- Niclas Förster. Marcosian Rituals for Prophecy and Apolytrosis. Pages 433-448 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.
- Grant, R.M. 1967. The Mystery of Marriage in the Gospel of Philip. Pages 183-194 in *After the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress.
- Bentley Layton. Ed. 1980. *The Rediscovery of Gnosticism*. Volume 1: *The School of Valentinus*. Leiden: Brill.
- Hugo Lundhaug. 2010. *Images of Rebirth: Cognitive Poetics and Transformational Soteriology in the Gospel of Philip and the Exegesis on the Soul*. Leiden: Brill.
- Bas van Os. 2013. The Gospel of Philip as Gnostic Initiatory Discourse. Pages 113-136 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.
- Herbert Schmid. 2007. *Die Eucharistie ist Jesus: Anfänge einer Theorie des Sakraments im koptischen Philippusevangelium (NHC II 3)*. Leiden: Brill.
- Einar Thomassen. 2006. *The Spiritual Seed: The Church of the "Valentinians."* Leiden: Brill.

- Einar Thomassen. 2013. Going to Church with the Valentinians. Pages 183-198 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.
- Williams, M.A. 1971. "Realized Eschatology in the Gospel of Philip," *ResQ* 14: 1-17.
- Elliot Wolfson. 2013. Becoming Invisible: Rending the Veil and the Hermeneutic of Secrecy in the Gospel of Philip. Pages 137-160 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.

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## Week Fourteen: April 16

Topic: Third-Century Developments: Manichaeism, The Valentinian Church, Neo-Platonic Gnosticism, Bruce Codex, The Church of Pistis Sophia

Seminar Leader:

### Assignment

1. Prepare Basic Reading: Pearson 292-313, 230-232; 86-95; 252-255
2. Prepare Primary Source Reading: *read/skim what is pertinent to you so that you are familiar with the primary literature on this topic*
  - Iain Gardner and Samuel N.C. Lieu (eds.), *Manichaean Texts from the Roman Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge University, 2004).
  - Nag Hammadi collection: 1 Apocalypse of James, Zostrianos, Allogenes, Marsanes
  - Porphyry, *Life of Plotinus* c. 16; *Enneads* 2.9 (*Against the Gnostics*)
  - Bruce Codex
  - Books of Jeu
  - Pistis Sophia
3. Select one item from Weekly Bibliography and prepare Round Up Review

### Weekly Bibliography

- Nicholas J. Baker-Brian. 2011. *Manichaeism: An Ancient Faith Rediscovered*. London: T&T Clark.
- Jason David BeDuhn, *The Manichaean Body in Discipline and Ritual* (Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University, 2000).
- Kevin Corrigan and Tuomas Rasimus, eds. 2013. *Gnosticism, Platonism and the Late Ancient World: Essays in Honour of John D. Turner*. NHMS 82. Leiden: Brill.
- Erin Evans. 2013. Ritual in the Second Book of Jeu. Pages 137-159 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.
- Wolf-Peter Funk, Paul-Hubert Poirier, Madeleine Scopello, John D. Turner. 2004. *L'Allogène (NH XI, 3)*. Quebec: Laval.
- Karen L. King, *Revelation of the Unknowable God* (Santa Rosa: Polebridge, 1995).
- Hans-Joachim Klimkeit, *Gnosis on the Silk Road* (San Francisco: Harper, 1993).
- Samuel N.C. Lieu, *Manichaeism in the Later Roman Empire and Medieval China* (Manchester: Manchester University, 1985).
- John C. Reeves, *Heralds of That Good Realm* (Leiden: Brill, 1996).



- John D. Turner. 2013. From Baptismal Vision to Mystical Union with the One: The Case of the Sethian Gnostics. Pages 411-431 in *Practicing Gnosis: Ritual, Magic, Theurgy and Liturgy in Nag Hammadi, Manichaean and Other Ancient Literature. Essays in Honor of Birger A. Pearson*. Edited by April D. DeConick, Gregory Shaw, and John D. Turner. NHMS 85. Leiden: Brill.
- John D. Turner and Ruth Majercik (eds.), *Gnosticism and Later Platonism* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2000).
- Richard T. Wallis and Jay Bregman (eds.), *Neoplatonism and Gnosticism* (Albany: State University of New York, 1992).

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Week Fifteen: April 23

**The Gnostic Spirit  
Rockwell Research Symposium**

Keynote Speaker: F. Lautaro Roig Lanzillotta, University of Groningen.  
“Gnostic Views of Man and Their Philosophical Foundation: The Anthropology of Nag Hammadi in Context”

Students will prepare a 20-minute oral presentation (shortened version of their research paper) and deliver it at this conference.

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Portfolios (Round Up Reviews; Seminar Leader Handouts; Copy of Oral Presentation and any visuals or handouts; Research Paper; one page reflection on how this course impacts the future of your research) are due on April 30<sup>th</sup> by 5 pm.