

University of Eswatini  
Faculty of Humanities &  
Department of Theology and Religious Studies  
Institute of Distance Education

2020/2021 Main Examination Paper (First Semester) May 2020

Course Code : TRS 403  
Title of Paper : Gospel Tradition II  
Duration : 2 (Two) Hours

Instructions:

- a. Answer three (3) questions.
- b. Your answer to each question must be structured and consistently focused on the subject matter at hand.
- c. Indicate on the front cover page of your answer script the name of your programme of study and whether you are studying full time or through the Institute of Distance Education.

**NB: All questions are worth 20 marks.**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR  
GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO**

## TRS 403: Gospel Tradition II (M) May 2020

### Question 1

What do we know of Jesus of Nazareth from classical (that is, Greco-Roman), Jewish and Christian sources. In your view, how credible are those sources?

### Question 2

To date, is there any substantial archaeological evidence in support of what we read of the life of Jesus of Nazareth in the gospels?

### Question 3

Explain why Jesus of Nazareth was misunderstood by his contemporaries and how this possibly shed light on why he was killed by the state.

### Question 4

What makes critical readers question the credibility of the resurrection narratives in the gospel tradition in general?

### Question 5

Discuss the elements in the story of the death of Judas Iscariot that makes it particularly entertaining.

### Question 6

Write a critical commentary of this extract taken from the Gnostic Gospels.

As for the Wisdom who is called "the barren," she is the mother [of the] angels. And the companion of the [...] Mary Magdalene. ... loved] her more than [all] the disciples, [and used to] kiss her [often] on her [...] The rest [of the disciples ...] They said to him, "*Why do you love her more than all of us?*" The Savior answered and said to them, "*Why do I not love you like her? When a blind man and one who sees are both together in darkness, they are no different from one another. When the light comes, then he who sees will see the light, and he who is blind will remain in darkness.*"

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