This course will address questions raised by two sets of readings about Jesus as a figure in Western thought. The first set deals with 18th and 19th century scholarship on what is today called “the Historical Jesus”. This is the period that witnessed the rise of modern biblical scholarship—the period when the idea of an “Historical Jesus” replaced the idea of a “Cosmic Christ”. The second set of readings focuses on the history of early Christianity (ca 30-100 C.E.) Here the so-called Jesus-Paul problem, with which we will already be familiar from the readings in set #1, will be our main concern. A paper of 6-8 pages is expected on each set of readings.