

GEORGE P. CARRAS
Senior Research Professor
(Classical Studies & Religion)
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia, USA

EDUCATION:

D.Phil., University of Oxford (Christ Church College) 1990, Thesis - Comparative Judaism: The Shared Judaism of Paul and Josephus (Supervisors: GB Caird, EP Sanders, Geza Vermes)
M.A. (hon.), University of Oxford, 1984-90, Biblical Studies
M.A., University of Manchester, 1980, New Testament & Literary Criticism, Thesis – Luke and the Resurrection – Tradition and Redaction Critical Analysis (Supervisors: Barnabas Lindars and FF Bruce)
Diploma (postgraduate) in Christian Studies (biblical languages, Old and New Testament studies, theology, church history, ethics, and the mission of the church), Regent College of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. Canada
B.A. (Honors), University of California, Berkeley, 1974, Honors Program (Classics, Near Eastern Studies, Ancient History & Religious Studies) (Program and Honors Thesis Supervisor: JM Dillon, Prof. Emeritus, Trinity College, Dublin)

APPOINTMENTS:

Faculty Teaching

Senior Research Professor, Dept. of Classics, Washington and Lee University, 2011- 2021
General Faculty, University of Virginia, 2013-2017
Associate Faculty, Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, 2013 (January – July), 2015 (October – December)
Professor of Classical Studies, Dept. of Classics, Washington and Lee University, 2000 - 2011
Senior Research Fellow in Religion, Dept. of Religion, Washington and Lee University, 2000 - 2011
Professor of Religion (New Testament), Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, 2001 (from January for semester)
Research Lecturer, Regent College, Vancouver, Canada, 1990-1993
Tutor & Lecturer in New Testament Studies, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, 1983-1990
Faculty of Theology member, University of Oxford, 1984-1990
Professor in New Testament, Dept. of Religion, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, 1989-1990
Tutor in New Testament, Lady Margaret Hall, 1984-1986, University College, 1985-1986, Queen's College, 1987-1988 in the University of Oxford
Tutor in New Testament, Harris Manchester College, Oxford (in conjunction with the University of London), 1987 -1989
Postdoctoral Fellow, Research Fellow, and Visiting Scholar, Near Eastern Studies Department University of California, Berkeley, 1991-2001

Research

Visitorship (visiting scholar), Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, UK April - June 2018
Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Divinity, University of Edinburgh, UK April – June 2018
Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Divinity, University of St Andrews (St May's College), UK April – June 2018
Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, UK, April – June 2018
Residential Fellow, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (University of Virginia, Humanities Center), September 2013 - August 2016, from September 2016, Fellow
Visiting Fellow, Mansfield College, University of Oxford, 2012-2013, 2015 (October– December), April – June 2018
Research Visiting Scholar, UC Berkeley, Center of Ancient History and Mediterranean Archeology in the Department of Classics and Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, Summer 2010
Research Visiting Scholar, Department of Classics, Stanford University and the Taubman Center for Jewish Studies, Summer 2010
Research Scholar, Princeton University, Department of Religion – departmental guest, Summer 2009
Official Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge, Summers 2008, 2011
Research Associate and Associate Member, Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford, Summers 2008, 2011-2018
Associate Senior Member, Christ Church College, University of Oxford, Summers 2006, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2018
Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, Summers 2006, 2008, 2011
Research Visitor, University of Cambridge (Trinity College & the Divinity School), New Testament & Christian Origins, 1982-1983

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS:

Who's Who in Biblical Studies and Archaeology, 1992-1999
Who's Who in Religion, 1990 -1999
Oxford M.A. Hon. Status, 1984-1990
Denyer and Johnson Studentship in Theology, University of Oxford, 1981-1983
Hall-Houghton Studentship in Biblical Studies, University of Oxford, 1981-1983
Tyndale Grant in Biblical Studies, Cambridge UK, 1982-3
Grants – successful institutional grants and faculty fellowships orchestrated for Washington and Lee University include:
(i) institutional grants* – Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$2.7 million); Donald W. Reynolds Foundation (\$5.5 million); Christian John Endeavor Foundation (\$1.6 million); Howard Hughes Medical Institute (\$1.3 million); Lettie Pate Evans Foundation (\$1.5 million); Rockefeller Brothers Fund (\$535,000); WM Keck Foundation (\$500,000); Sloan Foundation (\$200,000); Getty Foundation (\$150,000) and many others (Total \$40 million over 15 years)
(ii) faculty fellowships – Fulbright, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Philosophical Society, National Science Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, American Association of University Women, Russell Sage Foundation,

Social Science Research Council, National Institute of Health, National Humanities Center and many others (Total \$10,845 million over 15 years)

*Total corporate, foundation and faculty funds under my watch over 15 years – estimate \$50 million

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Administrative Duties Held

University Associate Provost, Washington and Lee University, 2004 - 2007

University Administrator (Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, Strategic Planning), Washington and Lee University, 1997- 2011

University Administrator (Director, Faculty Grant Sponsored Programs – External Funding), Washington and Lee University, 1997- 2011

University Administrator (Director, Corporate, Foundation, and Faculty Relations), Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Whitworth University, Spokane, Washington, 1992-1997

College Dean (of Degrees), Mansfield College, University of Oxford, 1985-1988

College Head of Theology Dept., Mansfield College, University of Oxford, 1985-1988

Administrative Writing, Strategic Planning

The Future World of Higher Education – Approaching 2015 (150pp) – Study, Report and Analysis; Commissioned and Prepared for the Office of the Provost & the Washington and Lee Board of Trustees (as Associate Provost)

“The World of Higher Education – Approaching 2015 - One Reading ~ Many Trends” (7pp) Higher Educational Journal

RESEARCH & TEACHING:

Books: (current)

Putting Paul in his Place: Inheritor, Internal Critic and Transformer of Diaspora Judaism, Oxford University Press: New York, (anticipated, 2018)

Two Diaspora Jews: Josephus and Paul - A Historical, Social and Theological Comparison of Hellenistic Jewry, (Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums), Leiden: Brill, (anticipated, 2019)

Paul, Josephus and Judaism: The Shared Judaism of Paul and Josephus (1990; 2012 as e-doc)

Hellenistic Judaism and early Christianity: a collection of essays (previously published articles and unpublished conf. papers (in preparation 2020)

Selected Articles:

“Jewish Sensibilities and the Search for the Jewish Paul - Reception in the Lukan Paul: Interplay with Flavius Josephus” in *The Early Reception of Paul the Second Temple Jew*, Oliver, Isaac and Boccaccini, Gabriele (eds), Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2018, forthcoming

- “Observant Jews in the Story of Luke and Acts: Paul, Jesus and Other Jews” in J. Verheyden (ed.), *The Unity of Luke-Acts*, Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1999, 693-708
- "Luke and the OT: Intertextuality between Numbers 15.22-31 & Luke 23.34" in C.M. Tuckett (ed.), *The Scriptures in the Gospels*, Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1997, 571-577
- "Dependence, Paraphrase or Common Tradition in Philo's Hypothetica and Josephus' Contra Apionem," *Studia Philonica Annual* 5 (1993), 24-47
- "Romans 2.1-29: A Dialogue on Jewish Ideals," *Biblica* 73 (1992), 183-207
- "Jewish Ethics and Gentile Converts: Some Remarks on 1 Thess. 4.3-8" in R.F. Collins (ed.), *The Thessalonian Correspondence*, Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1990, 306-315
- "Philo's Hypothetica — Josephus' Contra Apionem and the Question of Sources" in D. Lull (ed.), 1990 *Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers*, Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990, 431-45

Selected Papers Presented

- “Jewish Sensibilities in Luke, Paul and Josephus – The Quest of the Jewish Paul”, paper given at the Enoch Seminars: International Scholarship on Second Temple Judaism and Christian, Rabbinic and Islamic Origins, Conference Topic – “The Early Reception of Paul the Second Temple Jew”, June 2016, Rome, Italy
- “On Contextualizing Josephus and the Rabbis - Meaning and Function”, paper given at the Seminar in the Jewish History and Literature in the Greco-Roman Period, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University, October 2015
- “Diaspora Jews and Torah-Observance: Josephus, Philo, Pseudo-Phocylides, and Paul, SBL North America Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, November 23-27, 2012
- “Paul and Common Judaism”, SBL International Conference, London, England, July 4-7, 2011
- “Rabbinic Echoes in Josephus’ Jewish Summary in Against Apion Book 2.190-219,” SBL International Conference, London, England, July 4-7, 2011
- “Josephus’ Contra Apionem and the Lukan Writings,” SBL* Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, 2001
- “Observant Jews in the Story of Luke and Acts: Paul, Jesus and Other Jews,” 48th Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium, 1998
- “Anti-Judaism in I Thessalonians: An Assessment of 1 Thess. 2.13-16 as Polemical Hyperbole,” SBL Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida, 1998
- "A Pentateuchal Echo in Jesus' Prayer on the Cross: Intertextuality between Numbers 15.22-31 & Luke 23.34," 46th Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium, 1996
- "Paul as Jew: A New Paradigm for Considering His Judaism," SBL* International Meeting, Dublin, Ireland, 1996
- "1 Cor. 8 & 10: A Test Case of Paul's Attitude to Jewish Ethical Ideals," SBL International Meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 1995
- “Philo's Hypothetica — Josephus' Contra Apionem and the Question of Sources," SBL Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1990
- "Jewish Ethics and Gentile Converts: Some Remarks on 1 Thess. 4.3-8," 38th Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium, 1988

Papers Planned 2017-18

- “Rabbinic Echoes in a Josephan Diaspora Legal Summary, Against Apion 2”, Association of Jewish Studies (AJS), December 17-19, 2017
- “Jewish Sensibilities in Josephus and Paul”, Colloquium on Judaism and Christianity, Dept of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Winter Term 2018

- “A Neglected Window to Paul’s Judaism: Contribution of Josephus”, New Testament Seminar, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, Spring Term 2018
- “Moral World of Antiquity”, Oxford Philosophical Society, University of Oxford, associated with the Faculty of Classics. University of Oxford, Spring Term 2018
- “Jewish Sensibilities in Luke, Paul and Josephus – The Quest of the Jewish Paul”, Center for the Study of Christian Origins, Faculty of Divinity, University of Edinburgh, Spring Term 2018
- “The Bible among Diaspora Jews: Josephus and Paul. The Hebrew Bible, Lxx, Aramaic Versions as Rewritten Paraphrase, Quotations, Allusions and Readapted Story”, Biblical Studies Seminar, Faculty of Divinity, St Mary’s College, University of St Andrews, Spring Term 2018
- “Josephus and his Paraphrase of the Rewritten Bible”, NT Seminar/ Hebrew, Jewish, Early Christian Studies Seminar, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, Spring Term 2018

AREAS OF CURRENT RESEARCH:

My current research relates to the interaction between early Christianity and Second Temple Judaism within the Greco-Roman world. In particular, my interests are during the formative period of the early Christianity when the Jesus movement was considered a sect within Judaism. My work has been primarily on Hellenistic Jewry, Paul, and Luke-Acts. Each of the studies complements one another, but broadly relates to the interrelationship between early Christianity and formative Judaism in a Greco-Roman context.

The book, *Putting Paul in his Place: Inheritor, Internal Critic and Transformer of Diaspora Judaism*, Oxford University Press, New York assesses the various strands of evidence relating to Paul as Jew in his own writings. This study considers common ideals shared by Jewish in the Second Temple Period followed by an assessment of how the Pauline evidence may be depicted in relation to common Jewish ideals. While the debate on Paul as Jew is lively, there has been no previous comprehensive study that looks at Paul’s reflection of Judaism in relation to common Jewish ideals within the pluralistic Greco-Roman world.

The second book *Two Diaspora Jews: Josephus and Paul*, (Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums) Brill, Leiden is part of a series on early Christianity and antique Jewry. The book compares and contrasts two figures in the history of Hellenistic Jewry through the eyes of the Josephus, the historian and theologian, and Paul. There has never before been a comparison of the Judaisms of these two Hellenistic diaspora authors.

A third book is a collection of essays previously published in various journals or collected volumes and unpublished conference papers. Publishers in review.

These studies seek to better contextual the substructure of early Christian perspectives by considering them in relation to the Greco-Roman and Jewish worlds of antiquity.

COMPLETED RESEARCH for publication

- (i) Luke and the Resurrection (MA by research unpublished). This was written under the direction of two John Ryland’s Professors in Biblical Exegesis and Criticism, University of Manchester. In the trade this is a tradition history, redaction literary analysis of the theme of resurrection in the writings of Luke in the New Testament. Targeted publisher – Wipf and Stock, USA; 290 pp. + biblio

- (ii) Paul and Josephus: Shared Judaism of Paul and Josephus (D.Phil. unpublished, Univ. of Oxford). This is a source critical analysis on what constitutes shared or common Judaism of the first century. It has been available by E-version since 2012 through the Oxford University Bodleian Library website. Target publisher – Routledge Publishers, London UK or Novum Testamentum Monograph Series; 316 pp. + biblio

TEACHING AREAS:

Classical and Jewish Studies

Moral World of Antiquity (Greek, Roman, Jewish, early Christian)
Plutarch and his World and Other Middle Platonists (including the Moralia)
Epictetus - Life and Writings and other Stoic thinkers
Alexandria - City, Intellectual Thought, History and Culture
Flavian Rome - Ethos, Culture, Sensibilities and Literature
Pagans, Christians & Jews in Classical Antiquity
The Religions of Antiquity: Greece, Rome, Jews and early Christians
Voices of Hellenistic Jewry: Philo, Josephus, and Paul

New Testament Studies

Inside Matthew's World
Luke - Acts: Legacies of Israel
The Acts of the Apostles
Paul and the World of the Judaism
Paul and his Letters - How Should We Read Them (esp Gal., Rom., 1 Thess, 1 & 2 Cor)
Hebrews - An Apology or a Letter for Whom?
The Moral Vision of the New Testament
Reading the Biblical Text - Incorporating the Social Sciences
New Testament Greek for Classicists
Greek New Testament - text, translation, exegesis

TEACHING SAMPLE

Description of Course: **The Moral World of Antiquity** – Dept of Classics

The course will introduce students to an understanding of values, virtues and moral discourse in writings of the Greco-Roman, Jewish and early Christian worlds. The course makes no claims to being exhaustive and even as an introduction will focus on select examples from the literatures of Greece and Rome, Judaism of the Second Temple Period and early Christianity, primarily the New Testament.

The aim will be to include in our resume of literatures philosophers such as the Platonists, Stoics, Epicureans, and the Cynics, Jewish representatives including the Ecclesiasticus (Wisdom of Jesus – the son of Sirach), Qumran, the Alexandrian Jew--Philo, the rabbis, and reflections on early Christianity found in the letters of Paul (1 Thessalonians and 1 Corinthians) and one Gospel (Luke). We will attempt to understand the language of moral discourse contextually, historically, and as literature.

Through appeal to these writings we will keep in clear focus the following questions:

- ④ how do the writings discuss or formulate issues of values, morals and character
- ④ what distinctive language is used in discourse on moral practices and ideals
- ④ what is the context that produces discussions on the various themes
- ④ is the discourse directed at individuals or Greco-Roman, Jewish or Christian communities or both
- ④ is there a shared moral ideal advocated among the Greeks and Romans, the Jewish representatives and early Christians
- ④ do each of the literary examples have a unique perspective
- ④ is there a sense in which the moral outlook of the various groups share a common ideal.

Goals of the Course:

- (i) Introduce students to the ancient world by considering the topic of moral discourse among Greeks and Romans, Jews and Christian writers.
- (ii) Engage students in the process of “reading” ancient texts from a historical, literary, contextual, and topical perspective.
- (iii) Expose students to examples of ancient literature on the theme of moral discourse.
- (iv) Enable students to read in translation various literatures and discuss the issues/questions given above in relation to these documents.
- (v) Allow students through tutorial instruction to analyze topics in greater depth relating to values, virtues and character and defend their results.

Character of the Course:

The course is cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and comparative in nature. The topics and teaching format coincides with the institutions commitment to cross-disciplinary content and teaching to engage students in the learning process. The format and topics of the course will allow students even those with little or no experience with the ancient world to gain expose to reading ancient texts through the prism of a fairly narrow content area. Also, it will teach students the importance of contextualizing an ancient text in order to gain the most from its reading. The study of moral discourse by definition allows students to engage in philosophical and religious ideals within a Greco-Roman context. Therefore, an attentiveness to ideas, concepts, history, and literary sensibilities are required for success in the course.

Students will have the opportunity to focus on a single topic from a historical, literary, religious and philosophical point of reference. While all texts may not accentuate both religious and philosophical features, all texts will include historical and literary analysis. Therefore, the course includes study across several disciplines. However, the course will also consider the topic of moral discourse by considering literature from three different cultures of the ancient world—Greco-Roman, Jewish and Christian.

Therefore, this will enable students to compare how various literatures and cultures formulate and view the theme of moral values, virtues and character. Through this exercise students will gain a better idea what moral talk or speech was like across several cultures and ideological perspectives in the ancient world.

Teaching Format:

This six week investigation into antiquity will be divided into 3—2 week modules, 2 weeks devoted to each culture and writings (Greco-Roman, Jewish, and Christian). The course will include three instructional formats:

- (i) Lecture—each module will be introduced by several lectures to set forth the broad context on moral discourse in a given culture and literary type
- (ii) Seminar—examples from each culture and literary type will be read and discussed; texts will be read in translation and discussed in a seminar format.
- (iii) Tutorial—assigned topics relating to moral discourse of each module will be prepared and discussed; essays will be presented in a tutorial format.

Required Readings:

Course Text Books: (selections from each)

R.J. Devettere, Introduction to Virtue Ethics: Insights of the Ancient Greeks

W. J. Prior, Virtue and Knowledge: An Introduction to Ancient Greek Ethics (handouts provided – select pages)

W.A. Meeks, Moral World of the First Christians

N. de Lange, Judaism

L. Grabble, First Century Judaism

R. Hays, Moral Vision of the New Testament

Greece and Rome:

W.A. Meeks, Moral World of the First Christians, (on Platonists, Epicureans, Stoics and Cynics, pp. 40-64)

W. J. Prior, Virtue and Knowledge: An Introduction to Ancient Greek Ethics (on Epicureans and Stoics pp. 194-225)

Primary Texts: *** (Handouts provided – select passages)

Plutarch, *Moralia*, E.N. O'Neil (ed), – Middle Platonist

The Discourses of Epictetus, C. Gill (ed.) -- Stoic

Seneca, *Epistulae Morales ad Lucilium*, R. Campbell (ed/translator) -- Stoics

Diogenes Laertius, *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*, B. Inwood/ L.P. Gerson (eds) – Epicureans -- Cynics

Judaism:

N. de Lange, Judaism

L. Grabble, First Century Judaism

E.P. Sanders, *Judaism: Practice & Belief* (handouts provided – select pages)

Primary Texts: *** (Handouts provided – select passages)

O.T. Apocrypha: Wisdom Literature

Ecclesiasticus (Wisdom of Jesus – the son of Sirach)

P.W. Skehan & P.A. Dilella, Wisdom of Ben Sira

Qumran

The Dead Sea Scrolls in English, G. Vermes (ed.)

Manual of Discipline (1QS)

Hellenistic Judaism

Philo

The Works of Philo, C.D. Yonge (translator),

R. Williamson, Jews in the Hellenistic World: Philo

Special Laws and the Hypothetica

Rabbinic Literature

Mishnah

The Mishnah: A New Translation, J. Neusner (translator)

Tractate Abot

New Testament:

R. B. Hays, The Moral Vision of the New Testament

Primary Texts: ***

1 Thessalonians

1 Corinthians

Gospel of Luke