Thanks, Ray, for the news that my course has been approved for CI: TH.

You are quite right that the paper assignment is underdeveloped; I have looked at the documents you attached and will make good use of them when I develop the syllabus further, most likely early in the new year.

The rubric you attached conveys a good sense of the committee's (and, presumably, the History department's) expectations, though some parts of it are, frankly, rather opaque to me. For example:

> The formal features of the piece are clearly and precisely identified, and their implications on exemplarity of the piece are understood (i.e. materials used, patterns, layout).

You are right that I didn't attend any TH meetings where this document was discussed, so I'll ask for clarification from my friends in the History department.

There are, of course, unique challenges in a course that approaches Scripture (e.g., the Gospels) as both canon and historical document. I'm convinced that it can and must be done; I want them to think historically about Jesus, early Christianity, the authors of the Gospels, their original audiences (insofar as we can reconstruct them), etc. but I also want these texts (and our study of them) to mediate grace and gospel to our students. For these reasons, my paper guidelines and expectations will differ in important respects from some of the TH guidelines.

You mentioned that the Rev. Comm. of the Senate will need to approve the course. Is this because I am opening up the course to non-majors/minors? Will you be presenting it to the Rev. Comm. or are there steps I need to take?

You also asked me to keep (or send to the Provost’s office) copies of the final papers for future use in /Thinking Historically/ assessment. I hope we can do this electronically rather than with hard copies. I'll spare you my thoughts about the added layer of administration that this paper-collection policy represents, and about the substantial time demands it will place on colleagues. Perhaps this is the only way to do appropriate assessment--perhaps--but it certainly comes at a cost!

Thanks for all you do.
Bruce