Forty years after Jesus died, an author sat down and wrote a revolutionary work: the Gospel of Mark, the first book-length account of Jesus’ life. Within two centuries, dozens of other accounts of Jesus’ life were written, adapting, reshaping, and reimagining that ancient text—works like Matthew, Luke, and Thomas. Some authors tried to expand Mark; others tried to challenge and replace it. In this course, we will explore what made Mark so irresistible to all these ancient imitators, studying its unique and dramatic story chapter-by-chapter.