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Kevin L. Anderson

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NT520 NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION

Asbury Theological Seminary
(Beta Version: This syllabus is subject to change)

Kevin L. Anderson, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor of New Testament
Asbury Theological Seminary

Summer 2003
3 Credit Hours
ExL Course

Assistant Professor of Bible & Theology
Asbury College
One Macklem Drive
Wilmore, KY 40390

Office: 859.858.3511 x2213
Home: 859.264.9635

ATS e-mail:
kevin_anderson@asburyseminary.edu
Yahoo! Messenger ID:
kevinlanderson@yahoo.com

Course Introduction

Description: An introduction to (1) the literature of the New Testament in its socio-historical, literary, and canonical contexts; and (2) the critical study of the New Testament.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, participants should be able to:

- broadly comprehend the contents of the twenty-seven documents of the New Testament;
- demonstrate a familiarity with the social and historical context within which the New Testament was written;
- articulate how one's beliefs about Scripture impinge upon how one engages biblical texts in interpretation;
- identify a range of questions (e.g., historical, literary, canonical) that might be addressed to particular New Testament texts, and explore those questions in the process of interpreting New Testament texts;
- identify significant, critical resources for New Testament study and deploy them critically in New Testament study;
- probe the interplay of theology and ethics in the various New Testament writers;
- demonstrate awareness of the significance of the original languages for understanding and interpreting the New Testament; and
- integrate these concerns and methodologies in a sound hermeneutic.

Course Requirements

- (1) **Quizzes (20%).** There will be three short quizzes designed to evaluate the student's grasp of the concepts introduced in our "core" texts (see **Required Texts** below).
- (2) **Group Discussions (20%).** Students will take part in ongoing discussions based upon research and discussion topics presented in our "core" texts and readings in deSilva's *New Testament Themes*.
- (3) **"Seminar" Leadership (20%).** Each student will present a paper to the class regarding a method or issue related to NT studies. The student will be expected to perform a sufficient amount of research and reflection in order to lead discussion and field questions about the subject.
- (4) **Exegetical Notebook (20%).** Participants will prepare **three** entries in an Exegetical Notebook. Using Camery-Hoggatt's book as a guide, students will engage in exegetical studies of several passages. The entries will increase in difficulty and complexity, and are intended to help students do the spadework for a full-blown exegetical paper. Therefore, the entries will be of increasing grade-weight: entry one (5%); entry two (10%); entry three (15%).
- (5) **Exegetical Paper (20%).** Participants shall select one of the assigned texts they have worked on in their Exegetical Notebook, perform more extensive exegetical work on it, and present a paper delineating the results of their exegesis. The essay should be approximately 8-10 pages (i.e., 2300-2800 words, using a 12-point serif font such as Times New Roman, double-spaced, with standard one-inch margins), and it should include footnotes (*not* endnotes) and bibliography. The paper should evidence both close reading of the text and critical engagement with relevant secondary literature.

Required Texts

First of all, each student should read the New Testament in a credible translation, such as the New Revised Standard (NRSV), New American Bible (with revised NT: RNAB), Revised English Bible (REB), or the New English Translation (NET Bible). There are other translations that are acceptable but not as highly recommended by the professor: NASB, NIV, TNIV, and NLT.

"Core" Texts

- Wenham, David and Steve Walton, *Exploring the New Testament*, vol. 1: *A Guide to the Gospels and Acts* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2001).
- I. Howard Marshall, Stephen Travis, and Ian Paul, *Exploring the New Testament*, vol. 2: *A Guide to the Letters and Revelation* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2002).

Remaining Texts

- Arthur G. Patzia, *The Emergence of the Church: Context, Growth, Leadership, and Worship* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2001).

David A. deSilva, *New Testament Themes* (St. Louis: Chalice, 2001).
Jerry Camery-Hoggatt, *Speaking of God: Reading and Preaching the Word of God*
(Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1995).

Students who can work with the Greek text of the New Testament may choose to use the following text in place of Camery-Hoggatt:

Mary H. Schertz and Perry B. Yoder, *Seeing the Text: Exegesis for Students of Greek and Hebrew* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2001).

Collateral Texts

The IVP New Testament Dictionary set (see *DNTB*, *DJG*, *DPL*, and *DLNTD* in the bibliography below) is an excellent investment. It is also available, along with a number of other IVP NT reference books, on CD-ROM: *The Essential IVP Reference Collection*.

Course Schedule

Under construction.

Select Bibliography

The following bibliography is intended to supplement or reinforce the fine bibliographies found in our “core” texts.

New Testament Introductions

- Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 4th rev. ed. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1990.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.
- Martin, Ralph P. *New Testament Foundations*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
- McDonald, Lee Martin and Stanley E. Porter. *Early Christianity and Its Sacred Literature*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2000.
- Powell, Mark Allan, ed. *The New Testament Today*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 1999.

Bible Reference Works

- Achtemeier, Paul J. et al. *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. 2d ed. San Francisco, Calif.: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996. (*HBD*)
- Bromiley, Geoffrey W., ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. 4 vols. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1979-1988. (*ISBE*)
- Evans, Craig A., and Stanley E. Porter, eds.. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000. (*DNTB*).

- Freedman, Noel David., ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992. (ABD)
- Green, Joel B., Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1992. (DJG)
- Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1993. (DPL)
- Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1997. (DLNTD)

New Testament Exegesis

- Camery-Hoggatt, Jerry. *Speaking of God: Reading and Preaching the Word of God*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1995.
- Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3d ed. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Green, Joel B., ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995
- Schertz, Mary H. and Perry B. Yoder. *Seeing the Text: Exegesis for Students of Greek and Hebrew*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.