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NT 520 Introduction to the New Testament

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NT520 NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION
Asbury Theological Seminary
(Rough Draft)

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Summer 2004
3 Credit Hours
ExL Course

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Office Hours

M-F: During the summer I will usually be available in my office (via phone), 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Weekends: Occasionally I will be available at home, and of course I will periodically check into our FirstClass classroom.

If you urgently need to contact me, but I am unavailable, during weekdays please leave a voice message at my office, and during weeknights and weekends leave a message on my home phone.

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) Group Discussions (20%). Students will take part in ongoing discussions based upon reading in our main text.

(2) Exegetical Skills Collaboration (20%). Students will collaborate with one another in several exegetical skills exercises. The result will be a web page, PowerPoint, or a scholarly paper that presents the fruits of your collaboration. Each student must be involved in at least two of these projects (10% X 2).

(3) Interpretive Assignments (30%). Participants will complete three interpretive assignments for review by the professor. Using Gorman's text 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%).

(4) Exegetical Paper (20%). Students shall write a complete exegesis of a selected passage from the NT. The essay should be approximately 12-15 pages (i.e., 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 or parenthetical citations) and bibliography. The paper should evidence both close reading of the text and critical engagement with relevant secondary literature. Students are strongly encouraged to use SBL style as per *The SBL Handbook of Style*.

(5) Critical Review (10%). The student will select a book from the options given below under required texts (options a-f: Banks, Camery-Hoggatt, et al.) and will write a 4-5 page critical review.

More specific instructions for each of these assignments will be clarified in the final version of this syllabus.

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.

Required Texts

- (1) David A. deSilva, *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2004). This will be our “main text.”
- (2) Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2001).

On the basis of the focus of your final exegetical paper (i.e., whether you would prefer to interpret a passage from the Gospels, Paul, or one of the other NT documents), select one of the following texts to purchase:

- (A) Green, Joel B., Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1992. (DJG)
- (B) Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1993. (DPL)
- (C) Martin, Ralph P. and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1997. (DLNTD)

Alternatively—and preferably if you can afford it—you may wish to purchase the entire IVP New Testament Dictionary set (including several other helpful reference works) available on CD-ROM: *The Essential IVP Reference Collection*.

You will also need to purchase one of the following titles in order to complete your critical review:

- (a) Robert Banks, *Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in Their Cultural Setting* (rev. ed.; Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1994).
- (b) Jerry Camery-Hoggatt, *Speaking of God: Reading and Preaching the Word of God* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1995).
- (c) David A. deSilva, *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2000).
- (d) Justo L. González, *Santa Biblia: The Bible through Hispanic Eyes* (Nashville: Abindgon, 1996).
- (e) Bruce W. Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002).
- (f) Gerd Theissen, *The Shadow of the Galilean: The Quest of the Historical Jesus in Narrative Form* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987).

Collateral Texts

A text that is invaluable to seminary students is Patrick H. Alexander et al, *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999). This is a rich resource for finding out how to properly cite scholarly resources.

Students are also encouraged to avail themselves of standard reference sources found in any reputable theological library, such as the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*, and others listed in the select bibliography below.

Course Schedule

This may be found in a separate file in the **00 STARTUP** folder in our Course Center.

Select Bibliography

The following bibliography is intended to supplement or reinforce the fine bibliographies found in our main text.

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.