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NT 520 New Testament Introduction

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NT 520
NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY AND CRITICISM
Spring 2000
Dr. Ben Witherington, III

Tuesday - Thursday
2:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

TRF: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(other hours by appointment)

Phone: 606-858-2329

GOALS

This course intends to introduce the student to three important areas of New Testament study.

1. The history of the period in which the New Testament was written.
2. The practice of New Testament criticism.
3. Questions of introduction about New Testament documents (date, authorship, audience, genre, purpose).

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. E. Ferguson, Backgrounds of Early Christianity, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993
2nd ed. (pb)
2. J. B. Green et al. eds., Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, Downers Grove: I-V
Press, 1993 (hb)
3. J. B. Green, Hearing the New Testament, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995 (pb)
4. J. Drane, Introducing the New Testament, San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1990
(pb)
5. B. Witherington, III, Jesus the Seer. The Progress of Prophecy, Peabody, MA:
Hendrickson, 1999).

REQUIRED READING BUT NOT REQUIRED TO PURCHASE

G. F. Hawthorne et al eds., Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, Downers Grove;
I-V Press, 1993 (hb)

READING SCHEDULE

It is important for the student to keep up with the reading assignments in order to gain maximum benefit from the lectures. The course is basically divided into three parts, and the reading schedule is arranged accordingly.

Part One of the Course:

The student should read all of the Drane volume as a general introduction, and pp. 373-583 in Ferguson. It would be beneficial to read all of Ferguson at this point. Green's Hearing the New Testament can be read at anytime during the course.

Part Two of the Course:

One should read pp. 1-31 in The Christology of Jesus and the following articles in the dictionaries:

In DJG

1. Form criticism
2. Gospels (genre)
3. Gospels (history reliability)
4. Historical Jesus, Quest
5. Jesus in non-Christian sources
6. L Tradition
7. Languages of Palestine
8. Literary criticism
9. M Tradition
10. Myth
11. Narrative exegesis
12. Q
13. Redaction criticism
14. Rhetorical criticism
15. Sociological approaches to Gospels
16. Synoptic problem
17. Synoptics and John
18. Textual criticism

In DPL

1. Apocalypticism
2. Authority
3. Chronology of Paul
4. Hermeneutics
5. Letter forms
6. Old Testament in Paul
7. Paul and his interpreters
8. Paul in Acts and Letters
9. Paul in early church tradition
10. Rhetorical criticism
11. Social scientific approaches to Paul
12. Textual criticism

Part Three of the Course:

The student should read the remainder of The Christology of Jesus and all the articles on individual Gospels and epistles in the two dictionaries (e.g. John, Gospel of, Romans, letter to).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance in all classes.
2. The reading as listed above.
3. One 10-page paper, following **Turabian format** (end notes allowed), on some topic dealing with NT history of criticism or introduction (this can range from a biographical paper on Herod Antipas to a paper on text criticism, to a discussion of the authorship, date, and audience of Colossians. **This paper will be due the first Tuesday of the third week of March.**
4. There will be a mid-term exam in March, and a final at the end of the term.