1-1-2003

NT 520 New Testament Introduction

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NT520 NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION
Asbury Theological Seminary
(Beta Version: This syllabus is subject to change)

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Asbury Theological Seminary                              ExL Course

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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**


**Remaining Texts**


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

**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**


**Bible Reference Works**


New Testament Exegesis