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NT 520 Introduction to the New Testament

Joel B. Green

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NT 520 Introduction to the New Testament

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Summer 2001

Times Below

Description: This is an introduction to the New Testament, its content, its context, and its interpretation. In the course of the semester, we will examine the individual books of the New Testament; the Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts out of which the New Testament arose; various types of interpretative methods used to study the New Testament; and theological themes in the New Testament. We will work to draw this knowledge together into a means for thinking about the New Testament in our contemporary context.

Objectives: By the end of this course the student should be able to

- articulate how one's beliefs about Scripture impinge on 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 particular New Testament texts;
- identify significant, critical resources for New Testament study and deploy those sources 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 Reading: Required Books

The New Testament

Green, Joel B., ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm.B. Eerdmans, 1995.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the New Testament: An Introduction*. 2d ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1999.

DeSilva, David A. *Honor, Patronage, Kinship, and Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2000.

Theissen, Gerd. *The Shadow of the Galilean*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1987.

Veyne, Paul. *The Roman Empire*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Course Reading: Recommended Books

Achtemeier, Paul J. *Inspiration and Authority: Nature and Function of Christian Scripture*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1999.

Camery-Hoggart, Jerry. *Speaking of God: Reading and Preaching the Word of God*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1995.

Gonzalez, Justo L. *Santa Biblia: The Bible through Hispanic Eyes*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

Felder, Cain Hope, ed. *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.

Powell, Mark Allan, ed. *The New Testament Today*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster, 1998.

Course Reading: Reference

Green, Joel B., and Scot McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 1992.

Martin, Ralph P., Gerald Hawthorne, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 1993.

Martin, Ralph P., and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 1997.

Evans, Craig A., and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 2000.

Material to be Prepared before the Class Starts

Prior to the first day of class, students are expected to read the following material: the New Testament; DeSilva's *Honor, Patronage, Kinship, and Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*; Green's *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*; Johnson's *The Writings of the New Testament: An Introduction* (chapters 7-12, 16, 19, 21-24, 26); Theissen's *The Shadow of the Galilean*; and Veyne's *The Roman Empire*. The first book review is due on July 6 by 4:00 pm.

Assignments to be Completed after the Last Day of Class

A research paper/project will be due at noon on July 27th. This is one week after the last class meeting.

Course Requirements:

On matters of style consult Carole Slade, *Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, and Theses* (11th ed., Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999).

Turning in assignments on time is a high priority. Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day (i.e., A paper becomes A-, B paper becomes B-, etc.). Late interpretive assignments will not be accepted

- 1. Preparation, Attendance, and Participation:** Attendance is expected and will be recorded. It is the students' responsibility to make sure that they record their attendance in class. The professor will not record attendance at a later time. Students who miss more than 2 class sessions will not be eligible for a passing grade. Students should come to class prepared by completing reading and assignments prior to the beginning of the class period. Each student will have the opportunity to participate in group discussions and projects during class time. (15%)
- 2. Critical Book Reviews:** The student will write two book reviews. For the first review, choose one of the following: Achtemeier, Powell, Theissen or Veyne. For the second review, choose one of the following: Achtemeier, Camery-Hoggart, Gonzalez, or Felder. Reviews should be 1,000-1,250 words in length (4-5 pages), typed, and double-spaced. For more information on book review expectations and grading criteria, see the file in Green's course folder on the Intranet. (2 x 10% = 20%)
Book Review #1 Due July 6, 4pm; Book Review #2 Due July 16, 9:45am.
- 3. Interpretive Assignments:** On three of the six interpretive assignment days the student will prepare and submit to the instructor at the beginning of class an interpretive assignment for the assigned text. These papers should be single-spaced, typed, no more than two pages (i.e., about 900 words) in length. These are not designed to be research papers, application papers, or homilies, and no secondary materials should be consulted in their preparation. For more information on interpretive assignments see the file in Green's course folder on the Intranet. (3 x 10% = 30%)
- 4. Exegetical Paper:** This will be a 2000-3000 word (8-12 pages) research paper typed, double-spaced, with appropriate notes and bibliography (a minimum of 10 secondary sources), presenting an interpretation of a New Testament passage chosen from among your interpretive assignments. This paper should evidence both a close reading of the text and critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study. For more information on expectations and grading criteria for research papers, see the file in the course folder on the Intranet. Due on Thursday, July 27th at 11am. (35%)

Grading:

Asbury Seminary defines grades using the following criteria (catalog, p. 24):

A= Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives

B= Good work: substantial achievement of course objectives

C= Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives

D= Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives
F= Unacceptable work: failure of course work

A plus (+) or minus (-) indicates positions between categories (for example, B+ = very good; C- = slightly below acceptable, etc.).

Schedule:

- July 2 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00
Introduction to the NT World
Required: DeSilva and Veyne are to be read in advance
- July 3 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00
Introduction to Interpretation
Required: Theissen and Green are to be read in advance
Recommended: Johnson, pp. 1-19
- July 5 8:30-9:30 (small groups)
9:45-12:00
1:00-2:45
3:00-4:00 (small groups)
Mark & Matthew
Luke-Acts
Required: New Testament and Johnson are to be read in advance
Due: Interpretive Assignment #1 - Mark 1:1-15
- July 6 1:00-2:00 (small groups)
2:30-3:30 (small groups)
Due: Interpretive Assignment #2 - Luke 19: 1-10
Book Review #1
- July 16 8:30-9:30 (small groups)
9:45-12:00 and 1:00-2:45
3:00-4:00 (small groups)
Paul
Corinth and the Corinthian Correspondance
Required: New Testament and Johnson are to be read in advance
Due: Interpretive Assignment #3: Philemon
Interpretive Assignment #4: 1 Cor. 11: 17-34
Book Review #2
- July 18 9:00-12:00 (small groups)
1:00-4:00
Pastoral Epistles and NT Social Ethics
Women in the NT and General Epistles
Required: New Testament and Johnson are to be read in advance
Due: Interpretive Assignment #5: 1 Tim. 2: 8-15

July 20 8:30-9:30 (small groups)
9:45-12:00
1:00-2:45
3:00-4:00 (small groups)
John
Revelation
Required: New Testament and Johnson are to be read in Advance
Due: Interpretive Assignment #6: John 9
Interpretive Assignment #7: Rev. 13

Final – **Due:** Exegetical Paper must be turned in by Friday, July 27, at noon ET.