NT520 New Testament Introduction

Professor Joel B. Green
Asbury Theological Seminary
204 North Lexington Avenue, Wilmore, KY 40390-1199
Office: 606.858.2147   Study: 606.296.2236   joel_green@asburyseminary.edu

Course Introduction
This course constitutes an introduction to the writings of the New Testament in their historical, literary, and canonical contexts. This course will be offered on the Wilmore campus in the Distance Learning Room (BC157), with additional students located in two off-campus locations: Asbury Theological Seminar, Orlando Campus; and Spring Arbor College, Spring Arbor, Michigan.

Course Objectives
Having completed this course, students should be able:
(1) to articulate how one's beliefs about Scripture impinge on how one engages biblical texts in interpretation;
(2) to 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;
(3) to identify significant, critical resources for New Testament study and deploy those sources critically in New Testament study;
(4) to probe the interplay of theology and ethics in the various New Testament writers;
(5) to demonstrate awareness of the significance of the original languages for understanding and interpreting the New Testament; and
(6) to integrate these concerns and methodologies in a sound hermeneutical method.

Course Reading: Required Books
Course Reading: Recommended Books

Course Reading: Reference

Course Requirements

*On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see Carole Slade, Form and Style: Research papers, Reports, Theses (10th ed.; Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997).*

*Students should submit written materials on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized. Late interpretive assignments will not be received.*

(1) **Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation.** See the schedule for each class session below. Note that assigned reading should be completed by the day listed. (15%)  

*Attendance throughout the course is expected; persons absent for more than three sessions of the course will not be eligible for a passing grade*.
(2) **Interpretive Assignments.** For (at least) four of the eight assigned "discussion" days (see the course schedule below), 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. (35%)

More information regarding my expectations of "interpretive assignments" can be located on the Asbury network in the Media Center: T:\Facibm\Green\ Assignments/ Interpretive Assignments. (Distance-Learning students can receive this information by requesting it from me via e-mail.) The range of issues to be discussed in interpretive assignments will also be discussed in sessions 3-4.

(3) **A Critical Review.** A review of one of the required or recommended books, approximately 1100-1300 words (i.e., 5-6 pages) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due at the beginning of class, 13 October 1999. As a critical review, this essay should summarize the author's central theses; demonstrate the author's approach to the subject matter; and critique the author's analysis (e.g., with regard to the author's method, its faithfulness to the primary materials, its engagement with the wider discussion on the topic, and so on). (20%)

More information regarding my expectations of book reviews can be located on the Asbury network in the Media Center: T:\ Facibm\ Green\ Assignments\ BookReviews. (Distance-Learning students can receive this information by requesting it from me via e-mail.)

(4) **An Exegetical Paper.** An essay of approximately 10-12 pages (i.e., 2500-3000 words), typed, double-spaced, with appropriate notes and bibliography, presenting an exegesis of a New Testament passage chosen from the list of "discussion" passages noted on the course schedule. This paper should evidence both a close reading of the text and critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study. Due by 4:00 pm, 14 December 1999. (30%)

In addition to books mentioned in this syllabus-course reading, reference materials, and recommended reading- students should consult New Testament Abstracts. Commentaries for this assignment should be what I have called "critical" and "essential" commentaries. For definitions of these commentary categories and for more information regarding my expectations of research papers, see the material located on the Asbury network in the Media Center: T:\Facibm\Green\ Assignments\ResearchPapers. (Distance-Learning students can receive this information by requesting it from me via e-mail.)

Course Schedule

Required: Begin reading Malina.

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Recommended: Johnson, chs. 1-3.

Required: Continue reading Green.
Recommended: Camery-Hoggart.

Recommended: Johnson, chs. 4-6.

5 Oct 5. Jesus and the Gospels.
Required: Finish reading Theissen. Read Matthew and Mark.
Recommended: Bruce Chilton, Pure Kingdom: Jesus' Vision of God
(Studying the Historical Jesus; Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm.B.
Due: Critical Assignment.

12 Oct 6. Jesus and the Kingdom of God.
Required: Johnson, chs. 7-8.
For Discussion: Mark 1:1-15.
Break-out Groups: 5:00 and 8:00 pm.

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26 Oct 8. Paul: Minister of Reconciliation.
Required: Johnson, chs. 10-11, 13-14,16; continue reading Veyne. Read Romans, Galatians, Philemon, 1-2 Thessalonians.
For discussion: Philemon.

**Break-out Groups:** 5:00 and 8:00 pm.

2 Nov  
**9. Growth Pains at Corinth.**

**Required:** Johnson, chs. 12, 15, 17; finish reading Veyne. Read 1-2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians.

**For discussion:** 1 Cor 11:17-34.


**Break-out Groups:** 5:00 and 8:00 pm.

9 Nov  
**10. The Legacy of Paul: The "Pastoral" Epistles.**

**Required:** Johnson, chs. 18-19. Read Ephesians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus.

**For Discussion:** 1 Tim 2:9-15.


16 Nov  
**11. Word Made Flesh: John as Interpreter of Jesus.**

**Required:** Johnson, chs. 24-25. Read John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John.

**For discussion:** John 9:1-41.


23 Nov  
**No class: Reading Week.**

30 Nov  
**12. (A) Faith at Work: James as Interpreter of Jesus.**

**(B) Christians under Pressure: Peter as Interpreter of Jesus.**

**Required:** Johnson, chs. 20-21, 23. Read Hebrews, James, 1 Peter.

**For discussion:** Either James 4:13-5:6 or 1 Pet 2:4-10.


7 Dec  
**13. Revelation and Crisis Christianity.**

**Required:** Johnson, chs. 22, 26. Read 2 Peter, Jude, Revelation.

**For discussion:** Revelation 13.


14 Dec  
**Due by 4:00 pm: Exegesis Paper.**