BT 606 Theology/ New Test

Ben Witherington
Curricula for BT 606 for 2000 Fall Term and 2001 Spring Term will be very similar to that given below.

Biblical Theology 606 for 2000 Spring Term

Purpose:


3. To set a foundation for understanding the Biblical Canon as witnessing the self-revelation of the Trinitarian Creator God, Father, Son and Spirit.

4. To focus the Word of God, the Christian Scripture, as authoritative for the daily life of the people of God called to declare the Good News of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, throughout the world.

5. To recognize that the New Testament CANNOT be understood without the Old Testament. To clearly recognize that the New Testament, the inspired witness of the apostolic community to Jesus of Nazareth as Christ, completes the revelation of the Hebrew Scriptures unveiling mystery within the Old Testament.

6. To assert the authority of the Christian Scripture for the Church of Jesus Christ acknowledging its historical groundedness and diverse literary forms.


Limitations:

1. Within a minimum of 39 hours of classes, together with the required texts, there is no way that a Theology of the New Testament can be covered. Along with the reading this is a foundational theology allowing students to continue to develop their theological understanding of the New Testament.

Class Attendance Requirements:

Under United States Law the Seminary is required that you attend class to receive funding. For that reason I will be taking a daily class attendance record.

Discussion:
I would hope you feel free to raise questions or disagreements with the presenter or required texts in class. I welcome such dialogue both inside and outside the class.

Reading Requirements:

For Extra Credit:

Adler, Mortimer: How To Read a Book.
If you read this book and pass in the 1-2 page report on it by 5 PM Tuesday, February 29, you can move your grade up by half a grade up to the level of B+. It will NOT help in moving from a B+ to A- or A- to A.
Required Reading

1. N.T. Wright, *The Prodigal Son*. This audiotape is on the reserve desk in the Media Center. To be completed by 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 29.

A maximum one page (250 word) summation is to be handed in WITH the book report on *The Challenge of Jesus* by 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 29. This audio report is worth five percent.


On this book a MAXIMUM 10 page (2,000 words) book report is required by 5pm, Tuesday, February 29.

In this book report you will report on each chapter
   a. What thing/things you have learned which are new and assist you.
   b. What thing/things you have difficulty with, disagree with.
      Please give reasons as to why you disagree.

This will count as one quarter of the semester grade.

Disagreement with text or instructor is encouraged. **The logic of your disagreement** will be expected in any paper.


5. Movie: *The Miracle Worker*: Date to be arranged. Bring your spouse and children if you wish to.

Study Group

I require you be in a study group. This study group must meet a minimum of one and a half hours each two weeks for a minimum of five times.

A study group must have a minimum of three persons in it.

These study groups are to be finalized by Tuesday, February 15, 2000. The names of persons in the study group are to be placed in the black basket outside my door by 5 PM.

Recognizing family relationships, church relationships, work responsibility and relaxation, I know it is difficult for you to find the extra hours over the semester, but I believe this to be a very important part of the program.

Study Group Discussion:

1. Each person is to come to the study group with four new things learned in the class; four new things learned from the text.

2. After initial discussion by the half way time please start discussing issues that are unclear, or that you disagree with, from class or text.
By 5 PM on Tuesday February 22, March 7, March 21, April 11, April 25, I would like three questions/disagreements arising from the discussion of your groups relating to class or text in the black box outside my door.

Please place your names of the group on a cover sheet or back sheet, not on the sheet being reviewed.

3. I would ask your study group to consider one of those sessions as a time when you might while talking, participate in a community activity – such as HANDS across the community, or babysitting for a spouse, or running some errands for someone else, or serving someone else in a practical way while talking. The purpose of this is to recognize that the Word is never divorced from incarnational activity. If your group decides to participate in such an activity, it will be worth an extra five percent. I would ask a very short – no more than one paragraph report of what you did and what you discussed - is handed in and signed by the whole group

Written work

Please do not place your name on each page. Place it either on the cover page or the back page.

Repeat: Please do NOT place your name on each page. Please do not use fancy print or colored ink in the printing of your paper. I do not want to be aware of the author of the work while marking.

Alternatives

If you wish to present your work in an alternative style – CD-ROM, ArtWork or Video please feel free to do so.

In the case of Video it will be impossible to be unaware who you are if your appear on it so I will attempt to be as neutral as possible in such marking.

Terms Assessment:

1. N.T.Wright, *The Prodigal Son*. This audiotape is on the reserve desk in the Media Center. To be completed by 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 29.

A maximum one page (250 word) summation is to be handed in WITH the book report on *The Challenge of Jesus* by 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 29. This audio report is worth five percent.


On this book a MAXIMUM 10 page (2,000 word) book report is required by 5 PM, Tuesday, February 29.

In this book report you will report on each chapter:

   a. What thing/ things you have learned which are new.
   b. What thing/ things you have difficulty with, disagree with.
      Please give reasons as to why you disagree.

This will count as one quarter of the semester grade.
3. **Exam**  
Due 5 PM, Tuesday, April 11 in the box outside my door.

This will be a take home exam. You may prepare for it as long as you like. I do not want you to hand me in more than 2,000 words ABSOLUTELY MAXIMUM on the exam. There will be one question covering Wright and Bauckham. This will count as 40 per cent of the semester grade.

Suggestions:

Please outline the structure of your answers as you prepare. I want to see the logical development of your exam come through as I read your argument. If you wish you can show that outline – not included in the 2,000 words.

You can work together with your groups on this assignment.

4.

Exam

Due Tuesday, May 16, at 5 PM.

This will be a take home exam. You may prepare for it as long as you like. You may work with your small group if your wish. I do not want you to hand me in more than 2,000 words ABSOLUTELY MAXIMUM on the exam. This will cover thirty percent of the semester grade. This will cover Hays and the class work.

**Extra Information:**

1. The scripts from one of the videos we are watching in class – Jesus, the New Way have been placed on the reserve desk in the library.

2. Where possible I will have notes related to class on the reserve desk and on the Asbury Theological Seminary Computer Network before class so that you can download notes.

**Grading System**

As declared on Page 24 of the Asbury Theological Seminary Catalog for 1998 – 2000

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

B = Good work: 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 objectives