BT 660 New Testament Theology

Mary E. Fisher
Preliminary Syllabus

Please note that the texts assigned are final. Overall the Syllabus is set. Only editing concerns, a lecture timetable and required dates for work potentially may be altered as the end of August, 2002 approaches. [Dated May 24, 2002]

Asbury Theological Seminary
2002 Fall Term


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Preferred Mode of Contact is E-Mail.

Preliminary Office Hours:
Tuesday 9.00 a.m.
Tuesday 9.45 a.m.
Wednesday 9.00 a.m.
Wednesday 9.45 a.m.
Wednesday 10.30 a.m.

Other times from Monday to Wednesday are possible - please see the schedule outside BC315 office door and arrange a time.

ONE
Course Objectives:

Having successfully completed this course, students should be able to:

1. To begin to establish a Trinitarian\(^1\), Christologically focused\(^2\), metanarrative\(^3\) "understanding"\(^4\) of the theological nature of the Christian Canon\(^5\) while exhibiting a heightened sense of commitment in serving the kingdom of God in mission in the world\(^6\).

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\(^1\) Economic Trinity and Immanent Trinity
\(^2\) Drama/Mystery Novel
\(^3\) Compare with Traditional Systematic Theology
\(^4\) Biblical meaning of the word "to know"
\(^5\) Theological Nature of the Christian Canon

BT 660 - New Testament Theology, 2002 Fall
2. To begin to understand the Christian Canon\(^7\), New Testament AND Old Testament\(^8\), as witnessing to the revelation of the Trinitarian Creator Covenant God\(^9\), Father\(^10\) Son and Spirit. The self-revelation\(^11\) climaxes in the Trinitarian-Jesus-of-Nazareth-event\(^12\) as Jesus and the post Pentecost ecclesia proclaim the kingdom of God\(^13\). This Kingdom proclamation focuses the major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of the metanarrative, especially as these are related to the nature and mission of the people of God.

3. To focus the Christian Canon as the authoritative Word of God for the eschatological\(^14\) community of God, the church\(^15\), who is called to declare throughout the world the Good News\(^16\) of Jesus of Nazareth, the ascended and exalted Christ\(^17\), while discipling the followers of the way of Jesus of Nazareth to walk in obedience to His teaching following in His way. This will require both articulation and practice of the ecclesial and missional implications of the biblical metanarrative – specifically for one’s own context and generally for our shared global context. [Richard Hays - The Moral Vision Of The New Testament]

4. To identify the particular contribution of the Wesleyan tradition to our understanding of this metanarrative. [John Oswalt: Called To Be Holy]

5. To acknowledge the historical groundedness\(^18\) and diverse literary forms within the Christian Canon while asserting the authority of the Christian Canon for the Community following Jesus Christ. [N.T. Wright - The Challenge of Jesus, The New Testament And The People Of God]

6. To consider representative theological themes and their development in the New Testament, employing methodology of the contemporary Biblical Theology discipline. To evaluate cultural products (e.g., literature, television, movies, advertisements, print media, music) in light of major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of this metanarrative. To exercise criticism with respect to one’s own cultural context and discernment with respect to the context of others vis-à-vis major theological, moral, and philosophical implications of this metanarrative.

7. To recognize that the New Testament CANNOT be understood properly without the Old Testament. To clearly recognize that the New Testament, the inspired witness of the apostolic community to the Good News of Jesus of Nazareth as the exalted Christ, completes the revelation of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament. Its witness unveils mystery regarding Israel's God Yahweh, the Creator Covenant God, and reflects co-inhering metaphorical development\(^19\) within the two testaments Christian Canon.

8. To consider the inherent co-inherence between Old Testament and New Testament Theology within the Christian Canon.

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\(^6\) Evangelism/Mission are the Pentecostal inheritance of the Church* who is called to be holy.

\(^7\) The Christian Canon is more than 66 individual books brought together between two covers.

\(^8\) As part of the Christian Canon neither can be understood without the other - incredible implications for Christian hermeneutics Joel Green and Max Turner

\(^9\) What does the word -god- mean?

\(^10\) The use of Father Son and Spirit in referencing the Triune God cf gendered language relating to humanity.

\(^11\) Nature of revelation in the Trinitarian Jesus of Nazareth event as self-revelation.

\(^12\) Nothing Jesus does is by Himself - it is always a Trinitarian event.

\(^13\) What is the Kingdom of God?

\(^14\) Two meanings of eschatological.

\(^15\) New Testament formation of an eschatological community - we follow Jesus within the context of the eschatological community

\(^16\) What is the Good News.

\(^17\) Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost. The meaning of Christ.

\(^18\) No neutral interpretation of history

\(^19\) Rikki Watts "Isaiah's New Exodus In Mark" or Romans 3-8 New Exodus, New Inheritance
9. To firmly establish a Trinitarian, Christologically focused, narrative "understanding" of the theological nature of the Christian Canon while exhibiting a heightened sense of commitment to serving the kingdom of God in mission in the world.

**TWO**

Limitations:

1. In 39 hours of classes, together with required texts, the theology of the New Testament cannot be covered comprehensively. This is a foundational course focusing students to begin to develop their theological understanding of the New Testament within a Biblical Theology of the Christian Canon.

**THREE**

The Learning Process: Learning Difficulties / Class Attendance Requirements

1. Please let me know if you have any learning difficulties. This is very important as I want to facilitate our learning in whatever way is needed.

2. I will be taking class attendance.

Students with *unexcused* absences will be penalized in grading.

*For each one week of unexcused classes missed the grade will be lowered by 5 points.*

*Please notify me of potential missed classes by e-mail.*

This policy regarding absences is necessary as both videos, class discussion and community - beyond the notes available - contribute to our becoming more like Jesus of Nazareth.

If you are absent but are able to 1 arrange to listen to a tape of the class and 2 watch any video shown in the class and 3 talk with your small group or myself about what happened in class - this will be considered toward your being counted as present.

A record of having completed that "make-up" task will be required. Please notify me by e-mail when you have "made-up" a class.

Where a student is absent for more than one week of unexcused classes further absences of any kind potentially could lead to a lowered grade. I will be contacting any student in such a situation.

**FOUR**

Lecture Notes:

I will be placing my lecture notes on the computer network. Where possible this will occur at least two days ahead of class.

*Accessing lectures through the Seminary email system is possible by going to the Desktop Icon/ Students Icon*
The entire script of the videos by N.T. Wright is on reserve in a book called *Jesus, The New Way*. This is an excellent resource. I would encourage you to look at it. It has 93 pages.

FIVE
Discussion:

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

Office Hours:

**Preliminary Office Hours:**
- Tuesday 9.00 a.m.
- Tuesday 9.45 a.m.
- Wednesday 9.00 a.m.
- Wednesday 9.45 a.m.
- Wednesday 10.30 a.m.

The semester timetable for meetings outside of class is also at the top of this schedule. Please sign in spaces posted on my office door where times are marked for consultations.

When my office door is wide open on other occasions that means you are welcome to come in and chat, otherwise please make an appointment by signing up on the office door.

If none of the times on the door are suitable then approach me for alternative times.

SIX
Regulations Regarding Assignments:

1. **Assignments handed in late will be penalized unless alternative arrangements have been made at least one week in advance, or unexpected situations arise such as family priorities, illness or 'acts of God'.** This is unfortunate but I find it necessary.

2. I do mark papers extensively. *It normally takes me about an hour to mark one paper.* I will attempt to return material to you within a one week period from receiving your paper. If you want your paper returned earlier please recognize it will not be written upon but I will read it carefully. You need to let me know if you want it back sooner than one week after submission.

3. **I only will accept your assignment in the box outside my office door, BC 315 or at the time of class.** I will not accept your assignments anywhere on the campus other than in class or at my office. This ensures I do not misplace your paper outside the boundaries of my office.

4. **Unless otherwise negotiated** each person is to hand in an individual assignment. As theology is a communal activity I encourage you to work with others on your assignment research and discussion.
SEVEN
Study Group

I require you be in a study group which at the very least will dialogue on an e-mail icon. I will be checking the dialogue each three week period to ensure that all persons are contributing.

A study group preferably would have a minimum of five persons in it.

The names of persons in the study group are to be handed in by 9.15 PM Tuesday, September 10, 2002.

Study Group Activity:

I would ask your study group to consider a time when you participate in a community activity – such as HANDS across the community or serving someone in a practical way. [3 hours of activity]. If it is not possible to do this as a group a person may participate as an individual though a communal activity is preferred.

The purpose of this is to recognize that the Word is never divorced from incarnational activity as community. Reflection on this will be fifteen percent [15%] of your grade.

Reflect on how your service activity manifests your participation in the Kingdom community - the church - in incarnational presence, reaching and discipling the world, both near and far. This reflection should incorporate consideration of how the community of faith is to manifest the presence of the Kingdom today. [750 words]. It is an attempt to help you consider that theology ultimately is an incarnational activity. You are required to hand this 750 word reflection in by 6.15 PM Tuesday, November 19th.

EIGHT
Reading Requirements:

A. 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 6.15 PM Tuesday, September 17th 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.

If you ALREADY have read this book and handed me a report in a previous class, you may pass in an alternative book report to gain this extra credit. The alternative book report will cover up to page 105 in N. T. Wright, The Crown and the Fire: Meditations on the Cross and the Life of the Spirit, [Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1998]. Only if you already have handed in an Adler book report in a previous class with me may you do this for extra credit. This book is on the reserve shelves in the library.

B. Required Listening - Two listening reports (one page each) is required on two tapes: one report each on the sermon by Sandra Richter and the sermon by Tom Wright.

2. N.T.Wright, The Prodigal Son.
These audiotapes are on the reserve desk in the Media Center. To be completed by September 24th.

For those who have completed the Tom Wright tape assignment in another class a report on an alternative Elizabeth Achtemeir audiotape Old Testament Roots of Our Faith - God’s Promise to Abraham is to be completed by September 24th.

C. Required Reading - Only one book report is required in the semester. Reading completion dates are to help you move through the semester.

3. N. T. Wright, The Challenge of Jesus. InterVarsity Press, 1999. Book Report to be completed by September 24th. [with the exception of those students who previously have read The Challenge of Jesus before in a class for me. In that case those students are to write their book report on Oswalt’s book.]


8. Richard Hays, The Moral Vision of the New Testament, Harper and Collins, 1996. Sections to be read. Preface, Introduction up to p. 309; Section on Divorce pages 347 - 378; Section on homosexuality 379 -406; Section of Abortion 444 - 470. Please recognize there are other brilliant sections to this book that I am not requiring in class but would encourage you to read at some time in the future. To be completed by December 3.

9. CASKET OVERVIEW - One laminated page.

9

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.

TEN

Alternatives

If you wish to present your work in an alternative style – CD-ROM, ArtWork or Video please feel free to do so but talk with me first about your proposed work.
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.

**ELEVEN**

Terms Assessment:

1. Sandra Richter *A New Thing* and N.T.Wright, *The Prodigal Son*. These audiotapes are on the reserve desk in the Media Center. To be completed by 6.15 p.m. September 24. For those who have completed the Wright tape assignment in another of my classes, a report on an alternative Elizabeth Achtemeir audiotape *Old Testament Roots of Our Faith - God's Promise to Abraham* is to be handed in.

   A maximum 250 word summation on each of the audiotapes are to be handed in WITH the required [as opposed to extra credit] book report below by 6.15 p.m. Thursday, September 24th. The one page report on each of the audiotapes will count as five percent each of your grade - total for the two reports ten percent. A perfect five percent for handing in one page is not automatic.

2. **Book Report**


   Please follow the format for book reports found in the Resource icon on the Computer Desktop Screen by Joel Green and Brent Strawn. A hard copy of this article is in the Videos/Resources Folder in the Library.

   On this requirement a MAXIMUM 1,500 word book report is required by 6.15 PM, Tuesday, September 24.

   This book report will count as fifteen percent of your grade.

3. **Computer Discussion.**

   Four times in the Semester - once in every three weeks you are required to post a maximum 100 word comment on an assigned question to the email site for your team. Please do not make your initial comment more than 100 words. Please do not read other persons’ postings until you have posted your own.

   Each team member is then to respond to one other person's posting. Please do not post more than 50 words in response. You may then respond as much as you like but I will not necessarily be marking or responding to further responses.

   Each Computer Dialogue will count for five points total = 20 percent of the Semester Grade for the Four.
A. Computer Discussion Number One

Please name three important Old Testament themes or concerns that the reading of Tom Wright's book has caused you to reconsider.

September 17 - Initial Answer To Be Posted By Tuesday, September 17.

September 24 - Initial Response To Another Student To Be Posted By Tuesday, September 24.

B. Computer Discussion Number Two

Please elaborate on one major theme in Oswalt's book which you found important or provocative - maximum 100 words.

October 8 - Initial Answer To Be Posted By Tuesday, October 8.

October 15 - Initial Response To Another Student To be Posted By Tuesday, October 15.

C. Computer Discussion Number Three

Please present a summation of Wright's emphasis on Worldview from The New Testament And The People Of God - maximum 100 words.

October 29 - Initial Answer To Be Posted By Tuesday, October 29.

November 5 - Initial Response To Another Student To Be Posted By Tuesday, November 5.

D. Computer Discussion Number Four

Please present why Farrow thinks the Ascension and Pentecost are important - maximum 100 words.

November 19 - Initial Answer To Be Posted By Tuesday, November 19.

December 3 - Initial Response To Be Posted By Tuesday, December 3.

4. Exam

Due Tuesday, November 12.

This will be a take home exam given to you October 29th. You may prepare for it as long as you like. I do not want you to hand me in more than 1,500 words ABSOLUTELY MAXIMUM on the exam. There will be one question covering John Oswalt Called To Be Holy - A Biblical Perspective, and Wright's The New Testament And The People Of God and Chapter Two from Doug Farrow's Ascension And Ecclesia: On The Significance of the Doctrine of the Ascension for Ecclesiology and Christian Cosmology. This will count as 20per cent of the semester grade.

Please outline the structure of your answer 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 1,500 words.
You can work together with your groups on this assignment.

5. Exam

**There will be a final exam.** This will cover 20 percent of the semester grade. This will cover Bauckham, Hays and the class work.

**TWELVE**

**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

My grading framework to fit Asbury's directives is:

A- = 90%  A = 94%

B- = 80%  B = 84%  B+ = 97%

C- = 70%  C = 74%  C+ = 77%

D- = 60%  D = 64%  D+ = 67%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Due</th>
<th>Maximum Points Available</th>
<th>Required Work</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.15p.m Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td></td>
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<td>[with the exception of the Final Exam]</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapel - Asbury Lectures on Christian Holiness</td>
<td>Called To Be Holy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week One</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>Week Two</td>
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<td>Chapel - Asbury Lectures on Christian Holiness</td>
<td>Called To Be Holy</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10-12</td>
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<td>Study Groups</td>
<td>Study Groups are to be finalized.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch 1</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
<td>Along With Response 1 by September 24: 5 points</td>
<td>Computer Discussion One Due</td>
<td>Preliminary Statement To Be Posted By This Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>Extra credit work can increase a grade up to a B+: not from a B+ to an A-, or from an A- to an A.</td>
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<td>September 19</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Four</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>10 and 15 points = 25 points total</td>
<td>2 Tape Reports and 1 Book Report</td>
<td>Students Do Not Automatically Receive Full Points Simply For Handing In The Required Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Along With Initial Proposal 1 by September 17 : 5 points</td>
<td>Response To Computer Discussion One Due</td>
<td>Response To Another Student To Be Posted By This Date</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>Week Five</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>All Students To Read John Oswalt - Called To Be Holy Alternative Book Report For Those Who Have Taken A Class With Me Before To Be Completed</td>
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<td>October 3</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>Week Six</td>
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<td>Lunch 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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BT 660 - New Testament Theology, 2002 Fall
Lecturer: Mary E. Fisher
Telephone (859) 858 2029
Email: mary_fisher@asburyseminary.edu
**October 8** | Along With Response 2 by October 15: 5 points | Computer Discussion Two Due | Preliminary Statement To Be Posted By This Date
---|---|---|---
**October 10** |  |  |  
**Week Seven** |  |  |  
**October 15** | Along With Initial Proposal 2 by October 8: 5 points | Response To Computer Discussion Two Due | Response To Another Student To Be Posted By This Date
**October 17** | Chapel |  |  
**Week Eight** |  |  |  
**October 22-25** |  |  |  
**October 24** | Dinner |  | Kingdom Conference Dinner
**Week Nine** |  |  |  
**October 28** |  | Lunch 3 |  
**October 29** | Along With Response 3 by November 5: 5 points | Computer Discussion Three Due | Preliminary Statement To Be Posted By This Date
**October 29** |  |  |  
**October 29** | N.T. Wright - The New Testament And The People Of God to be completed |  |  
**October 29** | Receive First Exam 20 per cent | This will be a take home exam and may be undertaken as a communal activity. If students wish to make it into a creative activity - that is encouraged. |  
**Week Ten** |  |  |  
**November 4** | Lunch 4 |  |  
**November 5** | Along With Initial Proposal 3 by October 29: 5 points | Response To Computer Discussion Three Due | Response To Another Student To Be Posted By This Date
**November 5** |  |  |  
**November 5-6** | Doug Farrow - Chapter 2 Ascension and Ecclesia to be completed |  |  
**November 5-6** |  |  |  
**Week Eleven** | Chapel - Ryan Lectures | Professor Patrick Miller |  
**November 12** | Chapel |  |  
**Due 6.15 p.m. Tuesday November 12th** | First Exam 20 percent |  |  
**November 14** | Chapel |  |  
**Week Twelve** | Chapel |  |  
**November 19th** | Kingdom Reflection 750 words maximum 15 percent of grade | Reflection on your service activity. See Section Seven for guidelines. |  

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Lecturer: Mary E. Fisher
Telephone (859) 858 2029 Email: mary_fisher@asburyseminary.edu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 19th</th>
<th>Along With Response 4 by December 3: 5 points</th>
<th>Computer Discussion Four Due</th>
<th>Preliminary Statement To Be Posted By This Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Bauckham - God Crucified to be completed</td>
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<td>November 21</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week Thirteen</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>Along With Initial Proposal 4 by November 19: 5 points</td>
<td>Response To Computer Discussion Four Due</td>
<td>Response To Another Student To Be Posted By This Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
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<td>Richard Hays - The Moral Vision of the New Testament to be completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Receive Final Exam 20 percent</td>
<td>This will be a take home exam. It will cover class material, Bauckham and parts of Hays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Due 9.15 PM Tuesday December 10th</strong></td>
<td>Final Exam 20 percent</td>
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<td>100 [plus 5 extra credit]</td>
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<td>Total Points</td>
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