

1-1-2009

BS 505 Introduction to Biblical Studies: New Testament

William J. Patrick

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Syllabus

Course: BS505 O1 (SP 2009)

Title: Intro to Biblical Studies: New Testament

Hours: 2.00

Published: Yes, on 01/17/2009

Prerequisites:

None

Department: Biblical Studies

Faculty: Dr. Bill Patrick



Email: bill.patrick@asburyseminary.edu

Office: FC

SPO:

Meetings:

During 04/07/2009 to 05/19/2009 on Tuesday from 6:00p to 9:00p in EXLEXL.

Maximum Registration: 32

Catalog Description: This course is a concise introduction to the New Testament in its historical, literary, and canonical contexts. Throughout the semester, students will be introduced to the concept and significance of the canon of scripture, to the Jewish and Greco-Roman background of the New Testament, and to particular books of the New Testament. Course participation, reading, and projects will be configured in part so as to reflect the character of the degree specialization represented among the course participants.

Objectives:

- A) The student will be able to engage in sustained and creative reflection on the nature and significance of the Christian canon of Scripture, and articulate involved in the relationship between the testaments.
- B) The student will consider and rigorously reflect upon the salient features of the various experiential contexts pertinent to effective interpretation of the Testament texts.
- C) The student will be conversant with the significant issues in hermeneutics, and will be able to articulate how these matters bear upon the actual interpretation/appropriation of the Bible.
- D) The student will reflect upon, articulate, and begin to demonstrate sound and foundational ability in the practice of interpretation and life-forming approach to Holy Scripture. This will involve abilities to:
 - a) identify semiotic formulations of Biblical books,
 - b) engage in attentive and sustained reading and self-reflection for registering insightful observations and questions,
 - c) employ various appropriate exegetical methods of interaction with the text,
 - d) move in a self-reflective manner from particularized interpretation to contemporary appropriation for Christian life and ministry.
- E) The student will demonstrate ability to show how NT passages might contribute to an understanding of biblical revelation as a whole.
- F) The student will continue to develop a vision for how the Scripture can inform in profound ways her or his life experiences and vocational practices..

Required Texts:

A) Harris, Stephen L. *The New Testament: A Student's Introduction*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009. [sixth edition]

B) The Bible (in at least three different modern English versions, whether hardbound, on-line, or software)

ATTENTION: Cokesbury will no longer be available on the Florida-Dunnam Campus. **All students are responsible for ordering their textbooks online or from another source.** Some possible online sources are: www.cokesbury.com, www.amazon.com, www.christianbook.com, or www.bookfinder.com. If you need assistance or have any questions please contact Kandace Brook 407-482-7584.

Course Requirements:

Examination and Grading: There will be three (3) examinations, based upon class lectures and the reading assignments. The student will also be required to produce three (3) reflection papers on a subject directly related to the material presented in class and/or in the readings. The final grade will be determined as follows: Exam I, 10%; II, 15%; III, 20%; Paper I, 10%; II, 15%; III, 20%; attendance/class participation, 10%.

Late Work: Papers must be submitted in class on the date they are due. If you are absent (excused or unexcused) on a day that a paper is due, you are still required to have it delivered to me during that class period. Late papers will not be accepted without the approval of the instructor. Examinations are to be taken the day they are scheduled. Make-up exams must meet the approval of the instructor and, if approved, will be scheduled in a manner determined by the instructor.

Attendance Policy: You are required to be at every class meeting. You are allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Subsequent unexcused absences will result in a five point reduction for each absence from your final grade point average (based on 100 points).

See "Course Schedule" for due dates.

Evaluation:

See "Course Requirements" for evaluation criteria.

Class Schedule:

Week 1

General Course Introduction.

Harris, Chap. 1: An Overview of the New Testament

Harris, Chap. 2: How the NT Was Formed and Handed Down to Us

Harris, Chap. 3: The Diverse World of First-Century Judaism

Harris, Chap. 4: The World of Greek Thought and Culture

Video (if time permits)

Week 2

Harris, Chap. 5: The World of Roman Political Power

Harris, Chap. 6: The Gospels

Harris, Chap. 7: Mark's Portrait of Jesus / Read *Mark*

Harris, Chap. 8: Matthew's Portrait of Jesus / Read *Matthew*

Video (if time permits)

Week 3

Harris, Chap. 9: Luke's Portrait of Jesus / Read *Luke*

Harris, Chap. 13: Acts of the Apostles. Read *Acts*

Harris, Chap. 10: John's Portrait of Jesus / Read *John*

Harris, Chap. 11: The Other Gospels

Week 4

Exam I, Reflection Paper I due

Harris, Chap. 14: Paul

Video (if time permits)

Week 5

Harris, Chap. 15: Unity, Freedom, and Christ's Return

Read *1 Thessalonians*, *1 & 2 Corinthians*

Harris, Chap. 16: Freedom from Law and Justification by Faith

Read *Galatians* and *Romans*

Harris, Chap. 17: Letters from Prison

Read *Philippians* and *Philemon*

Harris, Chap. 18: Continuing the Pauline Tradition

Read *2 Thessalonians*, *Colossians*, *Ephesians*, *Timothy*, *Titus*

Week 6

Exam II, Reflection Paper II due

Harris, Chap. 19: General Letters on Faith and Behavior

Read *Hebrews*, *James*, *1 & 2 Peter*, *Jude*, *I, II, & III John*

Video (if time permits)

Week 7

Harris, Chap. 20: Continuing the Apocalyptic Hope

Read *Revelation*

Harris, Chap. 21: The Judeo-Christian Bible and Subsequent History

Week 8

Exam III, Reflection Paper III due