

North Park Theological Seminary

BIBL 5151-NET
Interpreting the New Testament 2 (online)
Fall 2011
3 credit hours

Syllabus

Course Facilitator: Rev. Rebekah Eklund, Adjunct Professor

Contact Information:

Phone: H: 919-687-7613

Please call between 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Eastern time zone)

E-mail: reklund@northpark.edu

The most efficient way to contact me is through the course in Moodle or by email.

Appointments: If necessary, please email me to schedule a phone call, a Skype, or a video chat.

“Office” Hours (I will be active in the course at these times, Eastern Standard Time):

- Mondays, 9am – 10:30am
- Fridays, 9am – 10am

Introduction:

Welcome to New Testament 2, where we will explore the story of the birth of the early church and the spread of the gospel in Palestine and Asia Minor in the context of the Roman Empire. We will be studying both the New Testament texts and into their essential contexts: the social, religious, and cultural milieus in which they were produced.

Catalog description:

This course is a survey of Acts through Revelation with a special emphasis on the interpretive issues, historical context, distinctive content, theological peculiarities, and contemporary relevance of Acts and the New Testament letters. Three credit hours.

Learning Objectives:

By the completion of this course, participants will:

- be able to articulate the basic content and theology of each NT book from Acts through Revelation
- build a common vocabulary with the New Testament authors through historical, literary, and cultural investigation
- acquire knowledge of the history, cultural milieu, and politics of Palestine and the Roman Empire from the 1st – 2nd centuries CE; and apply this knowledge to the reading of biblical texts
- theologically reflect on how the original message of the books of Acts through Revelation can be applied to our present Christian context and to the upbuilding of the church

Required Textbooks:

1. Hawthorne, Gerald F., et al. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993. [ISBN: 0-8308-1778-6]
2. Martin, Ralph, et al. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997. [ISBN: 0-8308-1779-4]

A note about Hawthorne and Martin: The *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (DPL) and the *Dictionary of the Later New Testament* (DLNT) are comprehensive reference works. They will serve you well as reference tools whenever you need to look something up, and you will also be required to read specific articles from each of them. The DPL covers the Pauline letters, and the DLNT covers Acts, the Pastoral Letters, Revelation, and the patristic period of early Christianity. Note that if you are looking up a subject like "Sacrifice," you will find entries (similar but not identical) in both volumes.

3. Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Scripture and Discernment: Decision Making in the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996. [ISBN: 0687012384]
4. Longenecker, Bruce W. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003. [ISBN: 0-8010-2607-5]
5. The Bible
 - a. For everyone: the NRSV or TNIV. I highly recommend that you purchase a good study Bible (if you don't already have one) such as the HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV with Apocrypha).
 - b. For MDiv students who have taken Greek: the Greek New Testament (UBS⁴ or NA²⁷)
6. All other readings (selected articles) are posted on Moodle.

Recommended Texts:

1. Gorman, Michael. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Rev. and expanded ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2009. [ISBN: 9781598563115]
 An excellent handbook on exegesis that will be a helpful addition to your ministry library. Especially if you are unsure about how to write an exegetical paper or have not written one before, this will be a good guide for you as you write your final paper for this course.
2. Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. [ISBN: 0310211182]
 If you feel your basic Bible knowledge is a bit shaky, this is a very good *basic* introduction to each book of the Bible, including brief discussion of authorship, date and place of composition, and a simple outline of basic content.

Assignments & Important Due Dates (all times refer to *your local time*):

1. **Weekly Moodle postings:** 200 points (max 10 points per post, and 5 points per response; plus 5 points for a post on the last week of class). Posts are required every week except fall break and Thanksgiving week. Posts are due by Thursday at midnight. Response postings are due by the following Sunday at midnight. Detailed instructions regarding posting on the discussion board are on Moodle.
2. **Short Essay #1 on *Scripture and Discernment*:** 100 points. Due **Friday, September 16, at 6 p.m.**

3. **Short Essay #2 on *The Lost Letters of Pergamum*:** 100 points. Due **Sunday, October 30, at 10 p.m.**
4. **Biblical reference notebook:** 150 points. Due **Friday, December 9, at 6 p.m.**
5. **Final exegetical paper (worksheet + essay).** 200 points. Due **Friday, December 16, at 6 p.m.**

Detailed descriptions of all the assignments are available on Moodle.

Late policy: If you must submit any assignment late, including a forum post, please request an extension by contacting me *in advance with the specific reason*. I will grant short extensions on a case-by-case basis for genuine emergencies or unusual circumstances in your ministries. I will **not** grant extensions for normal busy-ness or because you simply became overwhelmed and fell behind. As pastors, teachers, etc. we all juggle multiple professional and personal responsibilities. Sit down with your syllabus at the start of the semester and block out specific times in your calendar for this course.

Participant Responsibilities:

1. Faithful completion of assignments and full participation are required for this class. All assignments *must* be completed on time, including reading and responding to threads on the discussion boards in a timely manner.
2. Feel free to email me at any time through Moodle. If you would like to set up a phone call or video chat appointment, please email me in advance to set one up.
3. I advise participants to plan on spending approximately 10-12 hours total per week on course assignments. **I suggest you set your own regular study hours for the course; do not try to accomplish your weekly work for the course in one day.** You will need to check in at least twice during the week to complete discussion forum requirements.
4. You may take this course Pass/Fail only by petition. If you plan to petition for Pass/Fail, please do so as soon as possible through Seminary Academic Services.

Course Facilitator Responsibilities:

1. I will provide opportunities for group interaction as well as individual work.
2. I will read and critically assess students' assignments and provide feedback within 7 days of receipt.
3. I will respond to all student e-mails and phone calls within 48 hours of receipt, with the exception of weekends.

Course Outline

Note: Before beginning your reading or assignments for the week, **always check the Assignments section of Moodle *first*** for more specific instructions and for the weekly introduction.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments
------	------	-------	---------------------

1	8/29-9/02	Introduction; the case of Philemon	Bible: Philemon <i>DPL</i> : "Philemon, Letter to" <i>Moodle</i> : Beker, "Recasting Pauline Theology" Start reading Johnson's <i>Scripture and Discernment</i>
2	9/06-9/09	Acts – spread of the gospel & discerning the will of God in the early church	Bible: Acts Johnson, <i>Scripture and Discernment</i> <i>DNL</i> T: "Acts of the Apostles" <i>Moodle</i> : McIntosh, "For It Seemed Good"
3	9/12-9/16	Introduction to Paul & Pauline epistles	Bible: Review Acts 9; 22; 26 <i>DPL</i> : "Paul in Acts and Letters"; "Jew, Paul the"; "Conversion and Call of Paul"; "Paul and His Interpreters" <i>Moodle</i> : Wright, "New Perspectives on Paul" Westerholm, "The 'New Perspective' at 25" Recommended : Fisk, " <i>Paul: Life and Letters</i> " *Essay #1 due
4	9/19-9/23	Galatians – the law and the gospel	Bible: Galatians <i>DPL</i> : "Galatians, Letter to the"; "Judaizers" <i>Moodle</i> : Bruce, "Introduction," <u>pages 1-42 only</u> Gaventa, "The Singularity of the Gospel"
5	9/26-9/30	Romans – the righteousness of God	Bible: Romans <i>DPL</i> : "Romans, Letter to"; "Justification" <i>Moodle</i> : Fitzmyer, "Occasion and Purpose" Dunn, "Humankind under Indictment" (pp 79-101 recommended; pp 111-27 required) Hays, "Pistis and Pauline Christology"
6	10/03-10/07	Philippians – Christ and Caesar / Excursus on Empire in Rom 12-13	Bible: Philippians; review Acts 16:11-40 <i>DPL</i> : "Philippians, the Letter to" <i>Moodle</i> : Cassidy, "Paul in Chains" Wright, "Gospel and Empire" Fee, "Kenotic Christology"
7	10/10-10/14	1-2 Corinthians: discipleship, community, & the unity of the body	Bible: 1-2 Corinthians <i>DPL</i> : "Corinthians, Letters to the"; "Lord's Supper" <i>Moodle</i> : Hays, "Introduction to 1 Cor" Hays, excursus on 1 Cor 14:34-35 Hays, sermon on 2 Cor (weblink)
8	10/17-10/21	Fall break	Start reading Longenecker, <i>The Lost Letters of Pergamum</i>
9	10/24-10/28	Greco-Roman milieu; 1-2 Thessalonians	Longenecker, <i>The Lost Letters of Pergamum</i> Bible: 1-2 Thessalonians; review Acts 17:1-10 <i>DPL</i> : "Thessalonians, Letters to the" "Man of Lawlessness and Restraining Power" *Essay #2 due
10	10/31-11/04	Ephesians and Colossians – engaging the powers	Bible: Ephesians; Colossians; review Acts 19 <i>DPL</i> : "Principalities and Powers"; "Ephesians, Letter to the"; "Colossians, Letter to the" <i>Moodle</i> : Wink, "Prayer and the Powers" Wink, "Engaging the Powers", pages 103-31 Berrigan, "Swords into Plowshares"

11	11/07-11/11	1-2 Timothy, Titus – gender & pastoral identity	Bible: 1 Tim; 2 Tim; Titus <i>DPL</i> : “Pastoral Letters”; “Pastor, Paul as” <i>Moodle</i> : Hays, “Paul on the Relation Between Men and Women” Marshall, “Mutual Love and Submission” Belleville, “Teaching and Usurping Authority”
12	11/14-11/18	Hebrews (christology and atonement) & James (godly wisdom)	Bible: Hebrews; James <i>DLNT</i> : “Hebrews”; “Jewish Christianity”; “Diaspora Judaism”; “James, letter of” <i>Moodle</i> : Ladd, “Hebrews” Marshall, “Kept by the Power of God,” pages 137-160 only
13	11/21-11/25	Thanksgiving break	<i>Use this week to start work on your final paper or to get ahead on reading.</i>
14	11/28-12/02	1-2 Peter & Jude; 1-3 John (contending for the faith; combating heresies)	Bible: 1-2 Peter; Jude; 1-3 John <i>DLNT</i> : “1 Peter”; “2 Peter”; “Jude”; “John, letters of”; “Docetism”; “Watchfulness”; “Parousia”
15	12/05-12/09	Revelation – apocalyptic literature	Bible: Revelation <i>DLNT</i> : “Revelation, book of”; “Apocalyptic, Apocalypticism”; “Old Testament in Revelation”; “Millenium”; “Eschatology” <i>Moodle</i> : Blount, “Can I Get a Witness” Gonzalez, “Revelation” Burge, “Evangelicals and the Land” *Biblical reference notebook due
16	12/13-12/17	Course summary	<i>Don't forget to listen to the concluding lecture on Moodle and do your final posts on the discussion board.</i> *Final papers due on Friday, Dec 16 at 6 p.m.

Grading:

Your final course grade will be computed according to the total number of points earned for all assignments as shown below:

<u>Total Points Earned:</u>	<u>Final Grade:</u>
709-750	A
708-695	A-
694-679	B+
678-656	B
655-641	B-
640-626	C+
625-596	C
595-581	C- (lowest passing grade)

A Superior work (A = 95-100; A- = 93-94). This grade applies to exceptional work, the quality achieved through excellence of performance, not merely the fulfillment of the course requirements.

B Above average (B+ = 91-92; B = 88-90; B- = 86-87). This grade applies to meritorious work, definitely above average, applied to more than fulfillment of requirements.

C Average (C+ = 84-85; C = 80-83; C- = 78-79). This grade applies to average work that still fulfills the course requirements.

D *Unsatisfactory* (D+ = 76-77; D = 72-75; D- = 70-71). This grade, while indicating the student has completed the course, reflects below average work. Course work receiving this grade will not be counted toward a degree.

F (69 and below). To receive credit in the subject the course must be repeated.

Criteria for Grading Moodle Discussion Forum Participation

Every week, all students are required to post at least one comment and one response to another post, following the specific instructions in the Assignments section for that week. On the final week of class, only a post (no response) is required.

8-10 points:

- Followed the prompt in a relevant and thoughtful way.
- Engaged both the biblical book *and* the required reading for the week.
- Used correct grammar & spelling; wrote in a clear and understandable manner.

5-7 points:

- Followed most but not all of the prompt or veered slightly off-topic.
- Demonstrated adequate understanding and some engagement with the week's material.
- Some errors of grammar and spelling.

1-4 points:

- Failed to answer the prompt; posted irrelevant or off-topic information
- Post was either extremely brief or demonstrated serious lack of engagement or understanding.
- Multiple errors of grammar and spelling inhibit understanding.

0 points:

- Nothing posted.

Response post:

4-5 points:

- Thoughtful and relevant response; engaged the original post in a way that genuinely contributed to the conversation.
- Demonstrated critical, helpful, and charitable interaction with the original post.
- Correct grammar and spelling; clear and understandable.

1-3 points:

- Moderately helpful response with some demonstration of interaction and engagement, but no real depth.
- Some small errors in grammar, spelling, or understanding.

0 points:

No response posted; or very brief response without genuine contribution, interaction, or feedback (e.g., "I agree"; "you go girl!")

Academic Honesty:

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including

failure of a course and expulsion. For more information, refer to the Academic Dishonesty section in the catalog.

Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.

In the special instance of group work, students are obviously allowed to help one another with that portion of the assignment, but each student is expected to contribute equally to the work.

Support Services:

Update with Moodle information.

Disabilities Accommodations

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office. Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>

Computer Requirements:

In order to effectively participate in and successfully complete this course, each participant will need to have access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection. Please visit <http://www.northpark.edu/Current-Students/Computer-Services/Network/Minimum-Requirements.aspx> for information on computer requirements.