

**BIBL 6263 Biblical Perspectives on Health and Healing
Spring 2012**

Thursdays 1:00—3:45

Three Semester Hours Elective Course

North Park Theological Seminary, 3225 W. Foster Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625

FACULTY

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Welcome to the Course!

I look forward to meeting each of you and to exploring Health and Healing from a biblical perspective with you. Please read the syllabus thoroughly. It is your roadmap to the course.

Shalom Umarpe Aleykem (Health and Healing be upon you).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary course will examine the dominant themes and perspectives on health and healing found in the Bible. We will study an understanding of health, healing, and disease within the cultural, historical, and linguistic context of scripture, as well as biblical perspectives on individual and community dimensions of health. Our contemporary understandings and practice of health and healing will be examined in light of these biblical perspectives.

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine significant biblical texts on health, sickness and healing.
2. To gain an overall understanding of the place of health and healing in biblical theology.
3. To appreciate biblical teaching in its ancient near eastern context.
4. To relate the biblical understanding to current thinking about health and healing in church, society and the contexts of other cultures.
5. To consider the biblical material in the light of the contributions of other disciplines.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

The Holy Bible. (See class schedule for specific biblical texts). Good advanced student study editions are *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* and the *Harper Collins Study Bible*.

Pilch, John. *Healing in the New Testament: Insights form Medical and Mediterranean Anthropology*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000. ISBN: 0 8006 3178 1

Warrington, Keith. *Jesus the Healer: Paradigm or Unique Phenomenon?* Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Press, 2000. ISBN: 0 85364 822 0

Wilkinson, John R. *The Bible and Healing: A Medical and Theological Commentary*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1998. ISBN: 0 802848 76 1

Recommended

Twelftree, Graham H. *Jesus the Miracle Worker*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Kelsey, Morton. *Healing and Christianity*, Minneapolis: Augsburg Press, 1995.

Note: If you have a limited background in the study of the Bible you may want to consult the following 100 page paperbacks: Diane Jacobson and Robert Kysar, *A Beginner's Guide to the Books of the Bible*,

Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1991, and Craig Koester, *A Beginner's Guide to Reading the Bible*, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1991.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: All written work can be sent by email to jbruckner@northpark.edu.

1. *Participation* and completion of all assignments in all modules of the course. See “grading” below. You will begin by writing your story and posting it in module #1, *Telling Our Stories*. See “Assignments” online or “Course Schedule” (below) for the due date. Write 500-750 words, answering the following questions:

- A. What personally brings you to this course?
- B. What are your course expectations?
- C. Relate a personal decisive spiritual or healing experience.
- D. What challenge, problem, or question do you bring to this course?

2. *Read the assigned textbook portions* and write a 300-500 word *Response*. Students must complete the reading assigned in the required textbooks and *respond* to its content. See “Assignments in the “Course Schedule” (below).

3. *Write one theoretical paper*. Write about 1000 words. Summarize and reflect on one or two chapters from your required reading of Warrington, Pilch, or Wilkinson. (If you choose short chapters, please work on two or more.) You may choose any chapter(s) excluding Wilkinson, chs. 1-2, Pilch ch. 1, and Warrington ch. 2. See “Assignments” in the “Course Schedule” (below) for the due date.

Prepare your theoretical paper as follows:

- a. Why did you choose this reading?
- b. *Summarize* the content, describing the author's *interest, thesis* and *warrants* (supporting data and arguments). This should constitute about 700 words of your paper. Do not quote more than a phrase or two.
- c. From your disciplinary expertise, experience, theological perspective, and/or cultural background, interact with (*critique* and comment on) the material. (What's missing? Is the author's “interest” a helpful approach? What did you learn? What questions remain?)

4. *Write and present one praxis paper in class*. Write about 800 words (not including quotations). See “Assignments in the “Course Schedule” (below) for the due date. Write about your personal experience of the use of biblical texts or themes that have been particularly significant to you (positively or negatively) as either a caregiver or recipient as follows:

- a. What biblical texts have influenced your work in health or healing? Give exact biblical references.
- b. What *other* biblical texts have you used or heard used in health or healing ministry? Describe the care or lack of care you have personally given or received in relation to these texts. What made it caring or not caring?
- c. What other biblical texts would you like to see used more often in health and healing ministry?

5. *Write two reflection papers*. See the “Assignments in the “Course Schedule” (below). Pay close attention to the directions below.

A.1. Select a hymn that concerns healing or health. 2. Write approximately 400 words describing a) primary and secondary themes/metaphors, b) its biblical references, c) its emotive core. 3. Conclude with why you chose this hymn and how it promotes health and healing. Please include the text of the hymn, its author(s) and copyright source.

B. 1. Read the Gospel of Mark, chapter five. 2. Write 600 words describing your observations of the three healings including a) Whose health does this text concern? b) How does the text show it? c) What are the dimensions of “healing” represented in this text?

8. Write a 4000 word final paper (fifteen pages) on an aspect of your caring vocation that poses an inviting or intimidating biblical challenge for you. See the *Final Paper Guidelines* below. You may discuss via email with the professor to design the research project. Due on the last day of the course. A 100-200 word proposal which identifies your topic and research strategy is due exactly one month before the last day of the course. Due dates will *also* be noted in course schedule.

GRADING

Participation (required responses and discussion)	20%
Theoretical Paper	20%
Praxis Paper	20%
Two Reflection papers	10%
Final Paper	30%

The North Park Seminary grading scale is as follows:

A	93-100
B	86-92
C	78-85
D	70-77

The lowest passing grade is C-. You may take this course “pass/fail.” Please request this option from the professor by the end of the second week of class. Late work is accepted, but grades will be discounted 2% per day.

Final Paper Guidelines

Due on the last day of the course.

Write a 4000 word final paper (fifteen pages) on an aspect of your caring vocation that poses an inviting or intimidating biblical challenge for you. You may discuss your proposal via email with the professor to design the research strategy. jbruckner@northpark.edu. You will begin by writing 100-200 word proposal which identifies your topic, interest, and, if possible, your two biblical texts. It is due exactly one month before the last day of the course.

The final paper will demonstrate your ability to think *biblically* about the practical outworking of your caring ministry. It should be approximately 15 pages, plus a minimum of 15 references. These must include commentaries and journal articles. An extensive bibliography is posted online.

IMPORTANT NOTES: Make sure that you *fully engage two biblical texts in their contexts* (not single verses). You must also integrate *perspectives from secondary sources*. Use at least *four* biblical commentaries from the bibliography provided for this class for each biblical text in your interpretation. You must cite all sources that you consult.

1. The topic should be an aspect of your ministry that poses an inviting or intimidating biblical challenge. Please discuss your topic with the professor during the course to determine its appropriateness.
2. The paper should demonstrate critical thinking, synthesizing the *course* content, a significant review of your *reading* and *practical application* to your own situation.
3. Content should include:
 - a) a strong *thesis statement* with a logical defense,
 - b) a description of the *ministry situation* and the challenge it poses,
 - c) a clear identification and substantial investigation of the *biblical issues* involved,
 - d) evidence of your research into *two relevant biblical texts* + *four commentaries* for each text,
 - e) your personal *synthesis* of the material, and
 - f) practical *application* of your findings to your situation,

g) This paper should be an *argument* in support of your thesis statement, fully supported by data. It is *not merely a report* of information collected about your thesis.

4. You may use any standard format for your references, including Turabian, APA, or University of Chicago. However, all references must be complete (author, title, publisher, date and place of publication, page number). Periodicals must have volume and issue numbers. Footnote all quotes or borrowed ideas.

5. Format:

- a) typed, double-spaced, one inch margins
- b) white background, black type
- c) 12 point typeface, standard fonts (Times, Roman, Courier, Arial, etc.)
- d) section headings to reflect paper outline
- e) cover sheet with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address, course name and number with instructor's name and current date.

A valuable resource for all seminary students during seminary years and beyond is the following:
Glynn, John. *Commentary and Reference Survey: a Comprehensive Guide to Biblical the Theological Resources*. 10th edition. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

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.

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.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

In the special instance of group work, the instructor will make clear his/her expectations with respect to individual vs. collaborative work. A violation of these expectations may be considered cheating as well.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University's online catalog.

Disabilities Accommodations

North Park Theological Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services as soon as possible. If desired or necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Services is found in the Student Academic Handbook.