

Introduction to the New Testament

Fall 2017

Rutgers University

Tue and Thu – 4:30pm-5:50pm

HH-A7

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Office Hours: By appointment or Loree Building 112 Thu (6-7pm)

*** Course Description:**

This course seeks to equip students to critically, (de)constructively, and creatively engage the New Testament. Students will examine key foundational issues in New Testament scholarship, closely read primary and secondary texts, and reflect upon the interpretative processes and ideologies of various (especially one's own) communities.

*** This course meets the following SAS core curriculum requirements:**

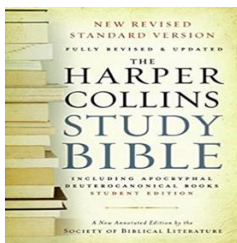
- Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.
- Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.
- Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.

*** Course Outcomes:**

Through reading, listening, discussing, reflecting, and writing, students – after successfully completing this course with a final course grade of B or above – will be able to:

- Identify fundamental concepts, historical contexts, and issues of the New Testament
- Discuss several biblical criticisms and hermeneutics and their applications
- Analyze the role of contexts and ideologies in influencing biblical interpretation
- Evaluate contemporary appropriation(s) of the New Testament
- Develop self-reflexive arguments on select ethical issues that intersect the New Testament

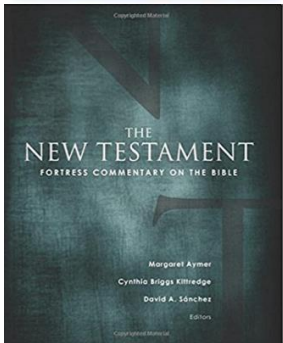
*** Reading Materials:**



Bible: Harold W. Attridge, ed., *Harper Collins Study Bible - Student Edition: Fully revised and Updated* (HarperOne, New York, 2006), ISBN: 978-0060786847



Dr. Stephen D. Moore's *Revealing the New Testament* (Sakai)



Chapters from *Fortress Commentary on the Bible: The New Testament* (Sakai)



Other reading materials are posted on Sakai.

*** ASSESSMENT & GRADING POLICY**

Student learning will be assessed and graded according to the following distribution and rubric.

@ Grade Distribution:

1) Twelve (12) Attendance-based Quiz (ABQ): 20%

- Please check the course schedule for the date of these exams. The quizzes will cover the reading materials and lectures for that week. Quizzes cannot be made up due to illness or emergency but the lowest two (2) scores will be dropped.

2) Three (3) Exams: each exam is 20%, totaling to 60%

- Please check the course schedule for the dates of these exams. All exams are taken during class, closed books, and all resources.

- Exam 1 covers materials from Week 1 to 5.

- Exam 2 covers materials from Week 6 to 9.

- Exam 3 covers materials from Week 10 to 14.

3) One (1) Paper: 20%

- Write a three-page paper that reflects your thoughts on the assigned article. This is not a research paper or “a summary of the article” exercise. It is a critical reflection paper that requires you to have your own thesis and supporting arguments based on the contents and arguments of the assigned article. Using secondary resources as conversation partners is highly recommended. The paper is double-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12, 1 inch margins, and no need for

cover page.

- Grading Rubric for the Paper:

- = Clear articulation of your thesis: 40%
 - > Profound, well-argued, and clear thesis: 35~40%
 - > Somewhat well-argued thesis: 30~34%
 - > No thesis: 29%
- = Body of the argument: 40%
 - > Well-structured and compelling arguments that support the thesis: 35~40%
 - > Somewhat compelling arguments that support the thesis: 30~34%
 - > Arguments do not support the thesis: 29%
- = Grammar, syntax, and spell-checking: 20%
 - > Few errors: 17~20%
 - > Significant errors: 14~16%
 - > Blatant disregard to correct errors: 13%

*** IMPORTANT GRADING POLICIES AND INFORMATION:**

- Work should be submitted on time. Exams should be taken on the date assigned by the instructor. If, however, you find that you will be unable to meet the deadline or come to class for the exam, then contact the instructor well in advance of the due/exam date in order to make arrangements for late submission or testing at a later date. You will need a valid excuse to submit work late or take the exam at a later date. Valid excuses could be medical emergency, family crisis, or Rutgers's institutional demand.

- Please present your own best work in this course. Plagiarized work will not be accepted, and will be punished harshly, according to University guidelines.

- Please notify the instructor promptly of any documented disability that may affect your ability to succeed in this course so that appropriate accommodation can be made.

COURSE SCHEDULE

week 1: Sept 5 & 7	<u>Preliminary Remarks: Contexts and Ideologies in NT Interpretation:</u> <u>Textual Issues and Canon Formation</u> # Read: Moore, 4-33
week 2: Sept 12 & 14	<u>(De)constructions of New Testament Backgrounds</u> # Read: Margaret Aymer, "Rootlessness and Community in Contexts of Diaspora" (Sakai) # Attendance-based Quiz-1 (ABQ)
week 3: Sept 19 & 21	<u>Feminist, Womanist, and Queer interpretations</u> # Read: Moore, 33-37, 414-439; Kwok Pui-lan's article in <i>Fortress Commentary</i> , 15-16

		# ABQ-2
week 4: Sept 26 & 28	<u>Liberation and Postcolonial Interpretations</u> # Read: Moore 38-41; Kwok, 11-14, 20-21	# ABQ-3
week 5: Oct 3 & 5	<u>Race and/or Ethnicity and Nonhuman Interpretations</u> # Read: Kwok, 5-11, 18-19 # Read: Dube, "Decolonizing White Western Reading of Mt 15:21-28" (Sakai) # Read: Moore, "Why There are no Humans..." (Sakai)	# ABQ-4
week 6: Oct 10 & 12	<u>Introduction to the "New" New Testament; Gospel of Mark</u> # Read: Moore, 42-91; Kwok, 24-25 # Read: Gospel of Mary	# ABQ-5
week 7: Oct 17 & 19	<u>Gospel of Matthew and Luke</u> # Read: Moore, 114-152	<i># Exam-1</i> # ABQ-6
week 8: Oct 24 & 26	<u>Gospel of John and Acts of the Apostles</u> # Read: Moore, 153-189, 225-260	# ABQ-7
week 9: Oct 31 & Nov 2	<u>Pauline Epistles: 1st Thessalonians and Corinthian Correspondences</u> # Read: Moore, 310-354	# ABQ-8
week 10: Nov 7 & 9	<u>Pauline Epistles: Galatians, Romans</u> # Read: Moore, 355-391	# ABQ-9
week 11: Nov 14 & 16	<u>Pauline Epistles: Philippians, and Philemon</u> # Read: Moore, 392-413	<i># Exam-2</i> # ABQ-10
week 12: Nov 21 & 23	<u>No Classes</u> Instructor at a conference and thanksgiving break	
week 13: Nov 28 & 30	<u>Pseudepigrapha and the General Epistles</u> # Read: Moore, 502-552	# ABQ-11

week 14: Dec 5 & 7	<u>Revelation of John</u> # Read: Moore, 553-591 # ABQ-12
week 15: Dec 12	<u>Concluding Remarks</u> # <i>Exam-3</i>
fall exam week: Dec 16-23	# <u>Paper due on this week</u>