

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

TITLE: Introduction to New Testament Hermeneutics

TERM: F **YEAR:** 2009-2010

PROFESSOR: Rev. Ted Nowak, Rev. Walter Werbylo, and Rev. Joseph Chandrakanthan

REGISTRATION: UNLIMITED

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A general introduction to the books of the New Testament: their authors, theologies, the context in which they arose, and how they were transmitted. Introduction to exegetical and hermeneutical methodologies, their relation to Christian theological traditions: the senses of the Scriptures, the intent of the author, the structures in the texts and the stance of the reader. Lecture/Discussion; Response paper; mid-term and final exam.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

To understand and explore the contents and varied literary genres of the NT books, their literary, historical, and cultural background. To develop an ability to apply different hermeneutical tools to the Gospels in the study of the historical Jesus: His mission, teachings, passion, death and resurrection. To develop an understanding and ability to interpret the writings of Saint Paul, the theology of the Pauline corpus, the other Epistles, and the Book of Revelation. The lectures will focus on the nature, history and theological themes of these books and will include a hermeneutical study of specific texts from the NT.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Brown, Raymond E., *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, The Anchor Bible Reference Library), 1997. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall), 1990. *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*, Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1993.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Class participation: discussion etc.	10%
Mid Term Exam	20%
Response paper	30%
Final Exam (Oral)	40%

Mid-Term Exam:

A 45-minute written test to review of the material covered up to this point. Class notes and required readings will be the basis for the test. An outline and study guide will be given in advance. The text will be held on **November 4** at 11:00 a.m.

Response Paper: A research/reflection paper (not exceeding 1200 words) to be submitted to Fr. Nowak. Students will be given a choice of topics, but may choose one that is not listed *with the approval of the instructor*.

Final Exam: Oral Exam 15 minutes

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Brown, Raymond E., *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday), 1997. Bart, Ehrman, D., *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2003. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall), 1990. Marshall, H., Travis, et al., *Exploring the New Testament*. Vol. 2 (London: SPCK), 2002. Stanton, G. *The Gospels and Jesus* (2nd ed. Oxford: OUP), 2002. Wenham, D. and S. Walton. *Exploring the New Testament*. Vol. 1. (London: SPCK), 2001.