

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY

COURSE DESIGNATOR: SAB1081HF L6101

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.

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TITLE: Introduction to the New Testament

TERM:F _____ **YEAR:**20119 [September to December 2011]

PROFESSOR: Rev. Francis G. Carpinelli

REGISTRATION: Minimum: 8 Maximum: 25

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

SAB 1081 introduces the student of theology into the relation among theology, hermeneutics and the scholarly exegesis of New Testament. The object of study is the NT text. The ulterior aim is to initiate the student into the profound beauty, richness and power of the NT as Word of God in the word of humans, as the privileged written expression of experiencing God's grace in Jesus of Nazareth. No reader of any text, if intent on understanding what is read, can escape the hermeneutic or interpretive reality of the act of reading. How one reads the Bible is as important as what one reads in the Bible.

An immediate goal is to impart the skills (methods) and contextual knowledge necessary for approaching this particular set of ancient texts from the horizon of our contemporary, post-modern and global culture. The problem field has two fronts. The one is how to access for religious meaning today ancient texts of another culture and of another religious model (hermeneutics). The other is how to evaluate and to use exegetical methods generated by diverse hermeneutic principles. As in all scholarship, so also in biblical exegesis, faith commitment and religious stance play a role in perception, in the selection of relevant information, in understanding, in reflection, in evaluation, in methodology and in theory. A pervading interest in the course is the mediated relation of exegesis to theology via hermeneutics. This course, then, provides the student an occasion for empowering the self to access meaning in the NT.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

A diligent application to the course themes should enable students to:

1. Understand, appreciate and be able to articulate the issues involved in hermeneutics or the science of interpretation
2. Understand, appreciate and be able to articulate the issues involved in reading any ancient text and in particular those of the New Testament
3. Understand, appreciate and be able to articulate the main lines of development in the history of biblical interpretation and in particular interpretation of the New Testament
4. Understand and be able to articulate the critical realism of Bernard Lonergan's position on hermeneutics

5. Understand and explain the various methods of New Testament interpretation as either synchronic or diachronic
6. Acquire skills and techniques for fruitful interpretation of the New Testament in personal reading of it
7. Apply narrative-critical exegetical skills in a motif and a characterization analysis.
8. Articulate the interplay of the intelligent inquiry of reason and the pious submission of faith in reading the New Testament.

PREREQUISITES: NONE

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Montague, George, T. *Understanding the Bible: A Basic Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised & Enlarged Edition. Paulist Press: New York/Mahwah, NJ: 2007.

New Testament (The Revised Standard Version or The New Revised Standard Version)

Pontifical Biblical Commission. *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*. April 15, 1993. Downloadable from several sites on the internet. Try:

http://catholicbiblesources.net/ChurchDocs/PBC_Interp-FullText.htm

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/CURIA/PBCINTER.htm>

Dei verbum. The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. Vatican II. Nov. 18, 1965. (Printed in Montague's book, 210ff.)

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

1. Quiz after UNIT 5 to gauge your understanding of the methods of diachronic exegetical analysis of biblical texts. The directions and the questions will be given at the end of UNIT 5, under 5.6 of the UNIT Outline.
2. Characterization Study on the Lucan presentation of Simon Peter. The assignment and directions are given in UNIT 10 under 10.2 of the UNIT Outline. The matter for study to fulfill the assignment is given under 10.3 of the UNIT Outline. The time-frame for rendering the assignment to me by email is given under 10.2.
3. Motif Study in Luke's gospel narrative. The assignment and directions are in UNIT 12 under 12. 2 and the matter for study can be chosen from the list given in 12.3 of the UNIT Outline. The time-frame for rendering the assignment to me by email is given under 12.2.