

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Spring 2018

Monday

6:00 - 8:30 pm

BS622 The Literature and Theology of the New Testament

Dr. Drew Strait

Course Description: An exploration of the New Testament in its historical and social settings, focusing on the unique purpose and theology of each writing, focusing especially on questions of Christology (= Jesus' identity and mission) and discipleship/spirituality (= the response to Jesus; lived experience). We will use critical tools and skills to read the New Testament theologically—as Scripture. This course builds on BS600 and TH601; is best taken with some knowledge of the Christian Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, such as that gained in BS621; is a foundation for future work in New Testament studies; and should be, as a study of part of the “soul” of all Christian theology (i.e., Scripture), an aid to more faithful Christian thinking and living.

Course Requirements:

- Students should expect to read at most ~800 pages from the required texts listed below.
- Students should expect to write *at most* 25 double-spaced pages. These will be comprised of the following:
 1. Exegetical worksheets: 20% of grade (Note: worksheets will be collected and assigned a simple evaluation of acceptable [√], outstanding [√+], or unacceptable [√].) Worksheet preparation should take about 1.5 hours—they are one page.
 2. A 1,000-word paper comparing and contrasting a text that appears in all three Synoptic Gospels: 20% of grade (You may choose from several possible passages that are listed in this syllabus).
 3. A 2,500-word research exegesis paper on one NT text or a research thematic paper on one document or author: 35% of grade.
 4. A 1,000-word paper on the significance of one NT document for Christian theology: 25% of grade.
- In addition to the reading, writing and class participation, students should expect to participate in weekly in-class small and large-group discussions.

Required Texts:

1. One of the following translations of the Bible, preferably in a study edition recommended by the instructor: CEB, NRSV, RSV, NAB, NIV, TNIV.
2. Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary and Theological Survey*. Baker Academic, 2009. 978-0801028687
3. Throckmorton, Burton H. *Gospel Parallels*. NRSV Edition. Thomas Nelson, 5th edition, 1992. 978-040774842.
4. Longenecker, Bruce W. *The Lost Letters of Pergamum*. Baker Academic, 2003. 978-0801-026072.

ONE of the following books (your choice):

5. Howard-Brook, Wes, and Sharon H. Ringe, eds. *The New Testament—Introducing the Way of Discipleship*. Orbis, 2002. 978-1570754180.
6. Brian Blount, *Then the Whisper Put on Flesh: New Testament Ethics in an African American Context* Abingdon Press, 2001. 978-0687085897.