

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Fall 2018

Mondays

6:00-8:30pm

BS600 Orientation to Biblical Studies

Dr. Jennifer McNeel

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to academic tools and methods used to study the Bible, thus preparing students for future Bible courses and other theological study at the Ecumenical Institute. The course will focus on topics related to biblical study including: 1) the development of the biblical canon; 2) methods and tools for biblical study; 3) the exegetical process; and, 4) the transmission and growth of biblical literature.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 800 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:**
 - Five short writing assignments (2 to 3 pages each; 30% of grade)
 - Final exegesis paper (about 10-12 pages; 30% of grade)
- **Other:**
 - Midterm exam (30% of grade)
 - Class participation (10% of grade)

Required Texts:

1. Michael J. Gorman, ed. *Scripture and Its Interpretation: A Global, Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible* (Baker Academic, 2017), ISBN: 978-0801098390
2. Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*, Revised and expanded edition (Baker Academic, 2009), ISBN: 978-0801046407
3. One of the following study Bibles:
 - a. The HarperCollins Study Bible (HarperOne, 2006), ISBN: 978-0060786847
OR
 - b. The New Interpreter's Study Bible (Abingdon Press, 2003), ISBN: 978-0687278329
OR
 - c. The Catholic Study Bible, 3rd edition (Oxford University Press, 2016), ISBN: 978-0190267230
OR
 - d. The New Oxford Annotated Bible, 5th edition (Oxford University Press, 2018), ISBN: 978-0190276072

If a student already owns a different academic study Bible, he or she may ask the instructor if it will be acceptable for use in the class.