

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Spring 2019

Thursday

6:00-8:30 pm

BS622 The Literature and Theology of the New Testament

Dr. Jennifer McNeel

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the New Testament in its historical and social settings, focusing on an exploration of the unique content and theological themes of each New Testament book. The tools and methods of biblical studies will be employed to engage in critical and theological readings of New Testament texts. As such, the course will enrich faithful Christian life and ministry in the world and serve as a foundation for future study of the New Testament within and beyond the Ecumenical Institute.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 1,000 pages of required reading. In addition to readings from the required textbooks, students will also be required to read supplementary articles provided by the instructor, and most of the New Testament.
- **Writing:**
 - Synoptic Gospels paper (about 5-7 pages; 25% of grade)
 - Final exegesis or thematic paper (about 10 pages; 35% of grade)
 - Four brief essays related to major themes of the course (1-2 pages each; 20% of grade)
- **Other:**
 - Class attendance, participation, and completion of 7 one-page exegetical worksheets in preparation for class discussion (20% of grade)

Required Texts:

1. Mark Allan Powell, *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*, Second Edition (Baker Academic, 2018), ISBN: 978-0801099601
2. Burton H. Throckmorton, *Gospel Parallels*, 5th edition with NRSV (Thomas Nelson, 1992), ISBN: 978-0840774842
3. Bruce W. Longenecker, *The Lost Letters of Pergamum: A Story from the New Testament World*, Second Edition (Baker Academic, 2016), ISBN: 978-0801097966
4. One of the following study Bibles (student's choice):
 - a. *The HarperCollins Study Bible* (HarperOne, 2006), ISBN: 978-0060786847
 - b. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2003), ISBN: 978-0687278329
 - c. *The Catholic Study Bible*, 3rd edition (Oxford University Press, 2016), ISBN: 9780190267230
 - 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.