

St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Fall 2020

Class Days & Times: Thursday, 6-8:30 p.m., Friday 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Sept. 17-18; Oct. 15-16; Nov. 12-13; Dec. 3-4). Note: a mini-retreat (2-5 p.m.) may be scheduled for one Thursday afternoon.

Course Name & Number: BS862 Reading Scripture
Instructor: Dr. Michael J. Gorman

Course Description

An exploration, for D.Min. candidates, of approaches to reading Scripture for Christian faith, formation, ministries, and mission. Special emphasis will be given to (1) selected parts of the canon (Psalms, the Prophets, John, Acts, 1 Thessalonians, Philippians); (2) various approaches to reading the Bible as Scripture, including the main Christian traditions and several different cultures; (3) recent developments in theological and missional hermeneutics; and (4) the possible connection between Scripture and possible D.Min. projects.

Prerequisites: matriculation in the D.Min. program.

Requirements

Students will be required to read about 1,500 pages and write no more than 35 pages.

1. Regular use of the daily prayers from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*.
2. Reading and study of all assigned texts, which may include a handful of articles.
3. Consistent and intelligent class contributions. (20%)
4. Three five-page papers (approx. 1,750 words each) (15% each = 45%)
5. A final paper of 15-20 pages (approx. 5,000-7,000 words) (35%).

Required Texts

*** = entire text assigned; listed in order of use in class**

1. Ellen F. Davis, *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2001). 978-1561011971.
2. Walter Brueggemann, *Isaiah: Volume 2, Chapters 40-66*. Westminster Bible Companion. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998). ISBN 978-0664257910.
3. Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Enuma Okorao, *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010). ISBN 978-0310326199. (Do not buy the paperback; it is a different book—the pocket edition.)
4. Ellen F. Davis and Richard B. Hays, *The Art of Reading Scripture* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003)*. ISBN 978-0802812698.
5. Willie James Jennings, *Acts* (Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2017)*. 978-0664234003.
6. N. T. Wright, *The Case for the Psalms: Why They Are Essential* (New York: HarperCollins, 2013). ISBN 978-0062230515.

Strongly recommended texts (required reading of 100 pages or more):

1. Michael J. Gorman, *Becoming the Gospel: Paul, Participation and Mission* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015). ISBN 978-0802868848. **Note: this is available as a free, downloadable E-book on the Knott Library E-books page.**
2. Michael J. Gorman, ed. *Scripture and its Interpretation: A Global, Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017). ISBN 978-0-8010-9839-0.
3. One of the following academic study Bibles:
 - i. *The HarperCollins Study Bible* (HarperOne, 2006), ISBN: 978-0060786847 (this is 2nd ed.; the first edition is OK). This is based on the NRSV.
 - ii. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2003), ISBN: 978-0687278329. This is based on the NRSV.
 - iii. *The Catholic Study Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2016), ISBN: 978-0190267230 (this is 3rd ed.; earlier editions are OK). This is based on the NABRE.
 - iv. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2018), ISBN: 978-0190276072 (this is the 5th ed.; 2010 earlier editions are OK). This is based on the NRSV.

Note: Students who already own an academic study Bible should consult the instructor before making a purchase.