

NETE 60003: Interpreting the New Testament
3 Semester Hours

Instructor: Shelly Matthews, Professor of New Testament

Description of Content: This introductory course for Master's level students is designed to lay a foundation for lifelong *critical and constructive interpretation of the New Testament*. The course will provide a historical introduction to the writings of early Jesus followers contained within the New Testament, along with related sources from the first and second centuries of the common era. It will introduce students to tools for interpreting the New Testament both in its historical context, and with an eye to present day communities and their theological and ethical concerns. The course provides practice in close reading of biblical texts, as well as opportunities for debate and dialogue concerning its meaning.

Class Procedures: Lecture, small group work, and discussion

Requirements:

1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. One book review
3. Occasional in-class writing and/or written responses to the reading
4. Mid Term Exam and Final Exam
5. Two exegesis papers (4-6 pages each)

Texts: Required

- 1) *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (NRSV) (Oxford University Press, 2011) ISBN 978-0-19-529770-6. List Price \$35.
- 2) David L. Barr *New Testament Story: An Introduction* 4th edition. ISBN – 13: 978-0-534-62748-5. List Price \$108. (Note that there are several options to purchase used copies of this text, or to rent the text).

Texts: Recommended: Students will be asked to write a review of one of the following texts (or, for the longer volumes, a review of an *excerpt* from the book) While the texts will be on reserve at the library, students may prefer to purchase their own copies for their personal libraries.

- 1) Brian K. Blount, ed. *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8006-3421-6. \$30
- 2) Guest, Deryn et. al. ed. *The Queer Bible Commentary*. SCM Press, 2006. ISBN: 0334040213. \$100
- 3) Hornsby, Teresa and Deryn Guest, ed. *Transgender, Intersex, and Biblical Interpretation* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016). ISBN 978-1-62837-135-2. \$27.95.
- 4) Lozada, Francisco and Fernando Segovia, eds. *Latina/o Biblical Hermeneutics: Problematic, Objectives, Strategies* SBL Press, 2014.

- 5) Newsome, Carol and Sharon Ringe, *The Women's Bible Commentary*. Louisville & London: Westminster John Knox, 3rd edition, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0-664-23707 \$40
- 6) Daniel Patte, ed. *The Global Bible Commentary* Nashville: Abingdon, 2004. ISBN 978-0-687-06403-8. \$40
- 7) David Sanchez, Margaret Aymer, Cynthia Kittredge, eds. *Fortress Commentary on the Bible: The New Testament*. Fortress Press.
- 8) Taussig, Hal, *A New New Testament* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013). ISBN 978-0-544-57010-8 \$16.95.

Grading Procedures:

Class participation, including any written responses 10%

Book Review 10%

First Exam 15%

Second Exam 25%

First exegesis paper 15%

Second exegesis paper 25%