

NETE 95713: Critical Introduction to the New Testament:  
Theory, Method, Gospel of Mark

Three Semester Hours

Instructor: Shelly Matthews

Prerequisites: Admission into Brite's BIIN Advanced Programs, or Instructor Permission

Description of Content: This course will survey a wide range of Theory and Methods for studying the New Testament, drawing from Literary, Postcolonial, and Queer Theory; Oral performance, Collective Memory, and Materiality. The primary New Testament text for focus will be the Gospel of Mark.

Class Procedures:

The course will be run seminar style, with active participation expected of students in the form of discussion leading and presentations. Each student will take responsibility for in-depth research into one of the theories and methods under review.

Requirements (NETE 65033):

- 1) Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions, including occasional in-class writing
- 2) One in-class presentation, related to course research
- 3) Final Paper
- 4) Final Take-Home exam

Required Texts:

- 1) Choi, Jin Young. *Postcolonial Discipleship of Embodiment: An Asian and Asian American Feminist Reading of the Gospel of Mark*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2015. ISBN-10 : 1137541547. \$95 (**note: unless less expensive versions become available, PDFs of required chapters will be provided to students**).
- 2) Huebenthal, Sandra. *Reading Mark's Gospel as a Text from Collective Memory*. Eerdmans, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7540-2. \$65.
- 3) Larson, Matthew. *Gospels before the Book*. Oxford, 2018. ISBN- 0190848588. \$31.29
- 4) Mack, Burton L. *A Myth of Innocence: Mark and Christian Origins*. Fortress Press, 1988. ISBN-10 : 0800621131. \$9.16.
- 5) Malbon, Elizabeth Struthers. *Mark's Jesus: Characterization as Narrative Christology*. Baylor University Press, 2009. ISBN-10 : 1602582475. \$37.

- 6) Raquel Anette St. Clair. *Call and Consequences: A Womanist Reading of Mark*. Fortress, 2008. ISBN: 0800639022. \$22.13
- 7) Villalobos Mendoza, Manuel. *Abject Bodies in the Gospel of Mark*. Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2017. ISBN-10 : 1910928275. \$28.50
- 8) Wire, Antoinette. *The Case for Mark Composed in Performance*. Cascade Books, 2011. ISBN-10 : 1608998584. \$28

Possible Supplementary Texts (more to be added):

Michal Beth Dinkler, *Literary Theory and the New Testament*. Yale, 2019.

Hans Leander, *Discourse of Empire: The Gospel of Mark from a Postcolonial Perspective*. SBL Press, 2015.

Robert Myles, Ed. *Class Struggle in the New Testament*. Fortress Academic, 2018.

D. C. Parker, *The Living Text of the Gospels*, Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Robin Faith Walsh, *The Origins of Early Christian Literature: Contextualizing the New Testament within Greco-Roman Literary Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Grading Procedures:

Class Participation: 15%  
Class Presentation: 10%  
Final, take home exam: 15 % of final grade  
Final research paper: 60%