

New Testament II

Spring 2018

Instructor: James Dunkly (jdunkly@sewanee.edu)

Student Learning Objectives

1. Content: Know the content, including basic ideas, of NT documents from Romans through Revelation.
2. Context: Understand historical and cultural context out of which, and into which, each NT document was written.
3. Interpretation: Gain facility in applying historical-critical methods to NT texts, to be demonstrated by exegetical exercises.
4. Application: Think through consequences of interpretation for teaching and preaching in the church.

Required Readings

NRSV text of Romans through Revelation, with notes in either the latest Oxford or the latest HarperCollins Bible

Mark Allan Powell, *Introducing the New Testament* **or**

Bart Ehrman, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*—portions discussing texts for each class meeting in turn

M. E. Boring and F. B. Craddock, *The People's New Testament Commentary*—portion discussing texts for each class meeting in turn

Thomas Merton, *Opening the Bible* [a copy to be given to each student at the first class meeting]

Krister Stendahl, *Paul Among Jews and Gentiles*

Krister Stendahl, *Final Account: Paul's Letter to the Romans*

Articles on each NT document in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*

Suggested Readings

Greek text of NT, if possible

Other translations of the NT (English or other languages)

J. A. Ziesler, *Pauline Christianity*

D. R. MacDonald, *The Legend and the Apostle*

R. I. Pervo, *The Making of Paul*

Articles on each NT document in *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*

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Calendar of Class Meetings

20 January

Introduction to course (approach, resources, expectations)

Introduction to Paul (chronology, canonicity, letter form, use of OT, relation to Acts)

27 January

1 Thessalonians and Galatians

10 February
Philemon and Philippians

24 February
1 and 2 Corinthians

[10 March]
[Instructor absent; no class meeting]

24 March
Romans
Be sure to read the two books by Krister Stendahl before this meeting.

7 April
Summary of Paul (history, theology)

14 April
Ephesians and Colossians
Pastoral Epistles
2 Thessalonians

28 April
2 Peter and Jude
James
1 Peter
Hebrews (begin)

12 May
Hebrews (finish)
Johannine Epistles
Revelation

Writing Requirements

3 exegeses (details to be distributed and discussed at first class meeting), each on a passage from the Sunday Revised Common Lectionary, two of which must be from Pauline letters generally regarded as authentic (i.e., Rom, 1-2 Cor, Gal, Phil, 1 Thess, Phm) and one of which must be from a non-Pauline document (i.e., Heb, Jas, 1-2 Pet, 1-3 John, Jude, Rev)

Take-home examination at the end of the course (details to be specified late in the semester)

Each of these writing assignments will be worth 25% of the grade for the course.

Expectations for Class Preparation

Careful reading of each NT document to be treated in class that day
Reading about each document in each of the required resources listed above

