Course Description

A brief introduction to several major works of the New Testament and to methods of biblical interpretation. Special attention is paid to the life settings and theology of the New Testament authors and audiences, as well as to pastoral implications of the texts. We will employ a combination of lecture and discussion.

Required Texts

The Catholic Study Bible (= CSB; 2nd ed.; with Revised Old Testament; New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) ISBN 978-0195297768. While other annotated Bibles are acceptable, avoid the following translations as too inexact for classroom use: The Way; The Living Bible; The New King James Bible; Good News Bible; Contemporary English Version.


Recommended Text


Outcomes

Successful completion of the course will result in:

- knowledge of the basic content of the major New Testament writings;
- understanding the biblical roots of Christology, ecclesiology, and Christian life/moral theology;
- appreciation of pastoral implications of the biblical texts;
- preparation for more advanced study of New Testament documents and topics.

Assessment

1) Regular attendance, preparation of assigned readings, and active participation (33%)
2) 1000 word (maximum) essay on the gospels (responding to an assigned question), due Monday, July 13 (33%)
3) 1000 word (maximum) essay on epistolary literature (responding to an assigned question, due Saturday, July 18 (33%))

Course Schedule

***Prior to arriving, read carefully VSI, 1–35 and 114–25, as well as the assignment for July 6 (see below). It is also strongly recommended that you study some of the other biblical texts before the course starts. Specifically, given the spacing of reading and writing assignments, you are advised to have studied John’s Gospel and First Corinthians before the course begins.

July 6 – Gospel of Mark: CSB, 1400–1432; VSI, 36–42

July 7 – Gospel of Matthew: CSB, 1332–99; VSI, 42–48


July 10 – Gospel of John: CSB, 1486–1525; VSI, 95–97 and 100–107

July 13 – First Letter to the Corinthians: CSB, 1600–1623; VSI, 60–73; first essay is due

July 14 – Letter to the Romans: CSB, 1577–99; VSI, 73–83

July 15 – Letter to the Hebrews and Letter to James: CSB, 1700–1727; VSI, 84–94


July 17 – Synthesis (last day of class)

July 18 – second essay is due