



NORTH PARK
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

3225 W. Foster Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625

BIBL 5250

New Testament 2: Texts and Their Theology

Spring 2021 (Synchronous Online Intensive)

Instructor: Dennis R. Edwards, Associate Professor of New Testament
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Office Hours: By appointment

(NOTE: The course is constructed around the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, we will meet online for 5 hours/day Tues-Sat. I will assign students to one of 6 groups before the first day, and part of your daily work will involve preserving time to connect with the other members your group *apart from the online lectures*. Your group will coordinate in-class presentations for Wed, Thurs, Fri, and Sat. Please note that several readings are expected before class, and an essay is due shortly after the end of first week of class).

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course explores further the interpretation, context, and content of the New Testament, with particular emphasis on the theology of New Testament texts and their contemporary relevance. Theological themes running across the canon which were introduced in NT1 are explored in greater detail, including the historical Jesus, Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, ethics and eschatology. The portrayals of Jesus in the Gospels will be critically engaged as a means of deepening historical and theological understanding of his life and teaching. The letters of Paul and their theology will be analyzed and their significance for presenting the gospel assessed. The study of Acts and selected other New Testament texts will prompt critical reflection upon the nature of the church and its participation in mission. Particular emphasis is placed on developing the skills for historically and theologically informed exegesis from a canonical perspective.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR COURSE

The overarching goal for this course continues the skills introduced in NT1 but adds to them an intra-canonical interpretation of texts by which we can construct a New Testament theology.

In continuity with NT1, the student continues *to build a common vocabulary* with the authors of the New Testament (i.e., the task of **exegesis** and the historical critical method) by interpreting texts within their historically contingent, literary, and culturally-conditioned context. Students will also *theologically reflect* upon how the original message of the NT authors can be applied to our present Christian context (the task of **hermeneutics**). But a special emphasis will be given to how the theological contributions of each NT author on a given topic (e.g., a doctrine of Scripture, Christology, humanity and its fall, salvation, discipleship and ethics, ecclesiology, and eschatology) *cohere together* to give a united witness on what the Bible as God's word teaches the church and reader (the task of **theological construction**).

To accomplish this overall goal for the course, students will fulfill the following course objectives:

1. Students will acquire additional knowledge of the history, cultural climate, social and religious values, and politics of Palestine and of the wider Roman world during the late Republic to early imperial period (ca. 1st century B.C. to the 2nd century A.D.) as such knowledge informs the interpretation of the biblical text.
2. Students will interpret the Gospels, the Book of Acts, the Pauline Letters, the General Letters, and Revelation for their theological contributions to the key doctrines of the Christian faith including the church's understanding of Scripture, Christology, humanity, salvation, ecclesiology (including ethics), eschatology, and other topics.
4. Students will apply the major theological themes of the Bible to their own communal setting and explain a theme's contemporary implications for the present-day church.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. A modern translation of the Bible, preferably the NRSV.
Other contemporary versions are acceptable, but **please do not use a paraphrased translation (e.g. New Living Bible) or an idiomatic/colloquial one (e.g. Eugene Peterson's *The Message*)**. As helpful as they are in the right context, a more literal translation of the Greek texts is necessary for this class (the NRSV tends to be preferred by scholars).

2. Works, Carla Swafford. [*The Least of These: Paul and the Marginalized*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020. ISBN: 978-0802874467. \$18.59. Description:
Jesus cared for the least, but did Paul?

The apostle Paul has a reputation for being detached from the concerns of the poor and powerless. In this book, Carla Swafford Works demonstrates that Paul's message and ministry are in harmony with the teaching of Jesus. She brings to light an apostle who preaches and models good news to the "least of these"—the poor, the marginalized, the disadvantaged, and the vulnerable.

The Least of These begins by highlighting the presence of the marginalized in Paul's ministry by looking at poverty in Paul's churches, the involvement of slaves and freedpersons in the community, and the role of women in the Pauline mission. Works then examines the significance of the marginalized in Pauline theology by investigating how the apostle employs metaphors of the "least."

3. McKnight, Scot and Nijay Gupta, editors. [*The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2019. ISBN: 9780801098796. \$35.00. Description:

This book surveys the current landscape of New Testament studies, offering readers a concise guide to contemporary discussions. Bringing together a diverse group of experts, it covers research on the most important issues in New Testament studies, including new discipline areas, making it an ideal supplemental textbook for a variety of courses on the New Testament.

REQUIRED ESSAYS/ARTICLES IN CANVAS

Biblical Field of NPTS, "God, The Bible and Human Sexuality: A Response to Revisionist Readings."

https://covchurch.org/embrace/wp-content/uploads/sites/92/2018/08/NPST_Paper-FINAL2-web-updated.pdf

- Carson, Donald A. "The Vindication of Imputation." In *Justification: What's at Stake in the Current Debates*, 46-78. Ed. by Mark Husbans and Daniel Treier. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Chester, Stephen J. "Salvation in Christ," in *Reading Paul with the Reformers: Reconciling Old and New Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017. Pages 138-71.
- Goldingay, John. *Biblical Theology: The God of the Christian Scriptures*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2016. Pages 503-34.
- Gorman, Michael J. "What are We Reading: The Substance of Revelation," in *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness: Following the Lamb into the New Creation*. Wipf & Stock, 2011. Pages 31-60.
- Wright, N. T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. New York: Harper Collins, 2008. Pages 93-136.
- Gundry, Robert H. "The Nonimputation of Christ's Righteousness." In *Justification: What's at Stake in the Current Debates*, 17-45. Ed. by Mark Husbans and Daniel Treier. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Hengel, Martin. *Studies in Early Christology*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1995. Pages 181-89.
- Kim, Seyoon. *Paul and the New Perspective: Second Thoughts on the Origin of Paul's Gospel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. "Is the Theology of the New Testament One or Many? Between (the Rock of) Systematic Theology and (the Hard Place of) Historical Occasionalism," in *Reconsidering the Relationship between Biblical and Systematic Theology in the New Testament*, ed. by Reynolds et al., 17-38. WUNT 2/369. Tübingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 2014.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Pre-course Reading/Essay (25%)

1.1. Read the following chapters in *The State of New Testament Studies*: 1-3; 7-12; 18; 23

1.2. Pick any 2 of the chapters and write 1200 words (total. **NOTE: I am serious about word counts! +/- 10% is OK, but outside of that and I'll return your essay and your new submission will be graded as late):**

1.2.1. In our own words, explain the tensions/debates in that area of study (historically and/or presently).

1.2.2. Name any scholars you determine to be noteworthy and briefly describe their contribution to the topics.

1.2.3. Describe the direction in which those areas of study are headed, according to the authors.

1.2.4. Essay is due by 11:59 pm (Central Time) on January 25, 2021.

1.3. READ *The Least of These* by Carla S. Works. It will be part of your group presentation.

2. Group work during the week (25%).

- 2.1. Each group is to collaborate on a 15-min presentation of an essay/article/chapter, with a different spokesperson each day. The articles for each group are noted on the schedule below.
- 2.2. You may use PowerPoint or other media. You will be graded on content as well as clarity of presentation.
- 2.3. For each reading, **in your own words**:
 - 2.3.1. Summarize the author's main point/thesis
 - 2.3.2. Share strengths/weaknesses of their points
 - 2.3.3. Give implications for contemporary Christians (how we should think, act, etc.).
3. **Book Review of *The Least of These: Paul and the Marginalized* by Carla Works (20%).**
 - 3.1. This 1000-word essay will be a longer version in the vein of your in-class presentations.
 - 3.2. In your own words describe and evaluate the author's thesis (PLEASE do NOT quote Works. I will deduct points for block quotations from the book)
 - 3.3. Identify strengths and weaknesses of the author's argument. Do questions remain? Are you satisfied with her analysis? Why or why not?
 - 3.4. Offer implications for contemporary Christians (e.g., does Works help us to understand Paul better? Might her book affect our preaching? How?)
 - 3.5. This 1000-word essay (see how I mentioned word count twice? Yes, I'm serious about it) is due **no later than 11:59 pm (Central time) on Feb 21, 2021.**
4. **Final Project (30%):**
 - 4.1. **Part one:** Choose a passage that primarily addresses one of these topics: Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology (which might relate to ethics), or eschatology and submit (via Canvas) for instructor's approval no later than **11:59pm (central time), January 23, 2021.**
 - 4.2. **Part two:** Your final paper is to be a 4000-word exegetical study, similar to what is required in NT 1. See the guidelines for written work posted in Canvas. The paper is due **no later than 11:59 pm central time on March 26, 2021.**

GRADE SCALE, following the scale printed in the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), p. 21.

A: Superior work (A = 95-100; A- = 93-94)

This grade applies to exceptional work, the quality achieved through excellence of performance, not merely the fulfillment of the course requirements.

B: Above average (B+ = 91-92; B = 88-90; B- = 86-87)

This grade applies to meritorious work, definitely above average, applied to more than the fulfillment of requirements.

C: Average (C+ = 84-85; C = 80-83; C - = 78-79)

This grade applies to average work that still fulfills the course requirements.

D: Unsatisfactory (D+ = 76-77; D = 72-75; D - = 70-71)

This grade, while indicating the student has completed a course, is to be understood as reflecting below average work. Course work receiving this grade will not be counted toward a degree.

F: Failure (69 and below)

To receive credit in the subject, the course must be repeated.

I: Incomplete

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as “I” until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of “I” will automatically be changed to “F.” For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

ATTENDANCE

If you experience difficulties, please speak to the instructor about it. Illness and other unforeseen circumstances beyond your control will be regarded sympathetically, but poor planning on your part is not a good excuse. Poor attendance without good reason will affect your class participation grade. The same principles apply to requests for extensions for reports and papers. Late submission without good reason will result in grade reduction.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25-27.

ACCOMMODATIONS

North Park is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this class related to a disability, contact the Center for Student Engagement by email ada@northpark.edu or phone at 773-244-5737 to schedule an appointment with the Learning Specialist. You can also stop by The Center for Student Engagement, located on the first floor of the Johnson Center.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University’s Title IX

coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking.
Please refer to North Park’s [Safe Community site](#) for contact information and further details.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Time (CENTRAL TIME)	Topic/Description	Reading Assignments (to be done before, in preparation for THIS day)
1	Tues Jan 19	10:00–10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Class ▪ Reviewing the Exegetical Method learned from New Testament 1 ▪ The Role of Scripture 	Various chapters (as noted above) in the required textbook: <i>State of New Testament Studies</i>
		11:00–11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What Is New Testament Theology? ▪ Christology: What is it? 	
		12:00–12:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christology: Historical Jesus studies 	
		1:00–1:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christology: The Kingdom of God in the teachings of Jesus 	
		1:50–3:20	LUNCH	
		3:30–4:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holy Spirit (Pneumatology) ▪ Salvation (Soteriology) with emphasis on Paul’s writings 	
		In your groups sometime before Wednesday	Prep for Wed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groups 1 & 4: Vanhoozer article ○ Groups 2 & 5: Kim article ○ Groups 3 & 6: Hengel article 	
2	Wed Jan 20	10:00–10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First set of 15-min group presentations on Scripture and Christology 	In Canvas:

		11:00–11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The “new perspectives” on Paul 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groups 1 & 4: Vanhoozer, “Is the Theology of the New Testament One or Many?” pp. 17-28. ▪ Groups 2 & 5: Kim, “Christ, the Image of God,” 165-74 ▪ Groups 3 & 6: Hengel, “Sitting at My Right Hand, 181-89.
		12:00–12:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sin ▪ Justification 	
		1:00–1:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecclesiology: What is the church? How does it function? 	
		1:50–3:20	LUNCH	
		3:30–4:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Second set of 15-min group presentations on Scripture and Christology 	
		In your groups sometime before Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prep for Thurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groups 1 & 4: Chester chapter ○ Groups 2 & 5: Carson article ○ Groups 3 & 6: Gundry article 	
3	Thurs Jan 21	10:00–10:50	15-min group presentations on Soteriology in Paul	In Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone: “God, the Bible and Human Sexuality” (ECC resource in Canvas) ▪ Groups 1 & 4: Chester, “Salvation in Christ,” <i>Reading Paul with the Reformers</i>, 138-71. ▪ Groups 2 & 5: Carson, “The Vindication of Imputation,” 46-78 ▪ Groups 3 & 6: Gundry, “The Nonimputation of Christ’s Righteousness,” 17-45.
		11:00–11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NT Ethics: Sex/Sexuality 	
		12:00–12:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NT Ethics: Paul and the Marginalized 	
		1:00–1:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecclesiology: What is the church’s mission? 	
		1:50–3:20	LUNCH	
		3:30–4:20	15-min group presentations on Soteriology in Paul	
		In your groups sometime before Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prep for Fri: From <i>The Least of These</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group 1: Chapter 1 ▪ Group 2: Chapter 2 ▪ Group 3: Chapter 3 ▪ Group 4: Chapter 4 ▪ Group 5: Chapter 5 ▪ Group 6: Chapter 6 	
4	Fri Jan 22	10:00–10:50	15-min group presentations on chapters from Works text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carla Swafford Works, <i>The Least of These: Paul and the Marginalized</i>. For presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group 1: Chapter 1 ○ Group 2: Chapter 2 ○ Group 3: Chapter 3 ○ Group 4: Chapter 4 ○ Group 5: Chapter 5 ○ Group 6: Chapter 6
		11:00–11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecclesiology/Eschatology: Spiritual Warfare 	
		1200–12:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecclesiology/Eschatology: Church and Empire 	
		1:00–1:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eschatology: Jesus is Coming Back 	
		1:50–3:20	LUNCH	

		3:30–4:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15-min group presentations on chapters from Works text 	
		In your groups sometime before Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prep for Sat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Groups 1 & 4: Goldingay ○ Groups 2 & 5: Gorman ○ Groups 3 & 6: Wright 	
5	Sat Jan 23	10:00–10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15-min group presentations on 3 book chapters 	In Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groups 1& 4: Goldingay: Eschatology - The Past Age, Present Age and Coming Age” 503-34. ▪ Groups 2 & 5: Gorman, “What are We Reading: The Substance of Revelation,” in <i>Reading Revelation Responsibly</i>, 31-60. ▪ Groups 3 & 6: N. T. Wright, <i>Surprised by Hope</i>, 93-136.
		11:00–11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eschatology: The Book of Revelation 	
		12:00–12:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eschatology: New Heaven and New Earth 	
		1:00–1:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15-min group presentations on 3 book chapters 	
		1:50–2:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closing questions, remarks, observations, etc. 	