



**NORTH PARK**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BIBL 5250

New Testament 2: The Texts and Their Theology

North Park Theological Seminary

Midwest Conference: Equip

Fall 2023 (August 28-December 15, 2023)

Intensive: Monday – Friday, September 18-22, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at the

Carol Joy Holling Conference & Retreat Center, Ashland, Nebraska

3 credit hours

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Lyn Nixon  
Phone/text: 231/944-5521  
Email: [lnixon@northpark.edu](mailto:lnixon@northpark.edu)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION (FROM SEMINARY CATALOG)

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.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overarching goal for this course adds an intra-canonical interpretation of texts to the skills introduced in NT1, thus allowing us to 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**) by interpreting texts within their historically contingent, culturally-conditioned and literary contexts. Students will also *theologically reflect* on how the original message of the NT authors can be applied to our present Christian context (the task of **hermeneutics**). Special emphasis will be given to how the theological contributions of NT authors on certain topics (e.g., a doctrine of Scripture, Christology, humanity and its fall, salvation, discipleship and ethics, ecclesiology and eschatology) *cohere* to give a united witness to what the Bible as God's word teaches the church and individual readers (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 and its fall, salvation, discipleship and ethics, ecclesiology, eschatology, and other topics.

3. Students will synthesize or systematize the theological contributions of various NT authors on a given topic into a coherent statement or description.

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 TEXTS**

### **TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS TO BE PURCHASED OR ACCESSED VIA THE BRANDEL LIBRARY:**

- *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018). ISBN: 978-0-1902-7608-9. This ISBN number is for the paperback version of a NRSV study Bible. Other translations 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*) or the Amplified Bible. Although these can be helpful in certain contexts, a more literal translation of the Greek texts is necessary for this class. If you have any questions about what translation to use, please consult the instructor. Note that if you are an MDiv student and have taken Greek 1 and 2, you will need to work from the Greek New Testament (UBS<sup>5</sup> or NA<sup>28</sup>) at select points during the course.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J., gen. ed. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005. ISBN: 0-8010-2694-6. Abbreviated: *DTIB*. Available online through Brandel Library – multiple users.

### **ARTICLES AND OTHER MATERIAL PROVIDED IN CANVAS (PDF OR LINK TO ONLINE):**

- Goldingay, John. "God's Person," chapter 1 of *Biblical Theology: The God of the Christian Scriptures*, 19-81.
- New Testament 2 Reader [abbreviated NTR]. *This reader contains additional required reading assignments for the course.* The reader includes the writings of both past and present contributors to New Testament scholarship who have fundamentally shaped (for better or for worse) the way modern readers understand major theological and historical themes in the New Testament. You will be reading either directly from these authors themselves or secondary descriptions of their work. Special attention has also been given to rising scholars of color and women scholars who are major "influencers" in biblical research. *NTR* is available online through Canvas. You can download the articles/essays as PDF files under the general library use policy allowed for by the U.S. copyright office (cited below). Students are expected to print out their own hard copies of the articles as part of their textbook costs or read them in electronic form.



- Nixon, Lyn. *Lecture Notes: BIBL 5250: New Testament 2: Texts and Their Theology*. PowerPoint version. Unpublished notes will be distributed in class in the form of PowerPoint slides. *Please do not distribute these notes to those outside the course without written permission from the instructor.* Students are, however, encouraged to use electronic and hard-copy prints for personal use and study. These notes will be posted on Canvas as PDFs.

**COURSE ASSESSMENTS (Total Possible points = 1,000 points)**

Detailed instructions for all assignments are available in Canvas, along with due dates, submission requirements and grading rubrics, if any. Note that the NPTS writing expectations and strategies document is posted in the General Course Information Module on Canvas.

**1. Participation during Intensive:**

- a. **Round Table Discussions (5 @ 5% = 25% total = 250 points).** Round table work will be evaluated on the quality of critical thinking and respectful interaction with others.
  - b. **In-Class Oral Presentation with PowerPoint slide show (1 @ 15% = 15% total = 150 points).** Students will choose a theological topic and prepare and deliver a group presentation with a PowerPoint slide show on that topic.
2. **Quizzes (3 @ 5% = 15% total = 150 points).** Students will take three closed-book quizzes on media lessons and course readings.
  3. **Summary of New Testament Themes (1 @ 15% = 15% total = 150 points).** Students will summarize which of the key doctrines of Scripture are developed or advanced in each book of the New Testament.
  4. **Summary Essays (2 @ 15% = 30% total = 300 points).** Students will write two essays of approximately 1,000 words each outlining how certain doctrines are supported within the New Testament.

**GRADING SCALE:**

<b>A:</b> 100%-95%	<b>B+:</b> 92.9%-91%	<b>C+:</b> 85.9%-84%	<b>D+:</b> 77.9%-76%	<b>F:</b> 69.9%-0%
<b>A-:</b> 94.9%-93%	<b>B:</b> 90.9%-88%	<b>C:</b> 83.9%-80%	<b>D:</b> 75.9%-72%	
	<b>B-:</b> 87.9%-86%	<b>C-:</b> 79.9%-78%	<b>D-:</b> 71.9%-70%	

**ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES**

**COMMUNICATION INFORMATION:** I will communicate with you periodically, including a weekly e-mail/News Forum post about the upcoming week sent no later than Monday of each week. You are responsible for this information. To communicate with me, the preferred communication methods are e-mail or text. I should be able to respond in most cases within twenty-four hours, excepting Sundays. Other than in emergencies, please make an appointment for a phone call or other meeting.

**LATE SUBMISSION:** Late work will be accepted up to one week late with up to a 10% deduction. No credit will be granted for work submitted beyond one week past the due date. Due date extensions will only be granted due to extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor and will not be extended beyond the end of the academic term. Work for which an extension is granted will not be considered late unless it is not submitted by the extended due date.



**WRITTEN WORK.** All written work should following the guidelines of the [Student Writing Handbook](#), including the inclusive language policy.

### **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. 25–26.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please email the Disability Access Specialist or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

### **TITLE IX**

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or [TitleIX@northpark.edu](mailto:TitleIX@northpark.edu) to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support 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 members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University’s Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or [counseling@northpark.edu](mailto:counseling@northpark.edu).

Please refer to North Park’s [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information, and further details.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

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](#).