



BIBL 7170-01:
Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture:
Immigration & Hospitality

Campus Symposium 2/14-2/15 with additional online asynchronous meetings
Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is held in conjunction with the annual North Park Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture. The course will foster concentrated reflection on the papers presented at the Symposium and allow students to participate more meaningfully in the Symposium event.

This year's symposium focuses on the topic of **Immigration & Hospitality**. The center of the course will be the two-day seminar (meeting from Friday, February 14 to Saturday, February 15), which includes the Symposium itself with additional student discussion sessions each day after the Symposium lectures (see schedule below). Attendance at all sessions is required. Reading of the entire symposium materials is assumed. Two additional asynchronous assignments are also required, one before and one following the Symposium. Other activities listed below.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the class, students will be able to:

1. Articulate major biblical, historical, and theological issues in the study of Creation Care.
2. Engage the theme of Creation Care in the theological interpretation of Scripture.
3. Assess potential implications of the theme for understanding the Christian life and the pastoral practice of the church.

STYLE OF LEARNING: This course is intended to develop your skills as a lifelong learner, equipping you to define issues and formulate projects for yourselves so that you can do this beyond your degree program without the support of a class structure. The role of the instructor is therefore not tightly to define the work you will do for the class, but to help you to define that work for yourself. For this reason, you are encouraged to consult the instructor and it is your responsibility to be in touch and request conversations as necessary. You may contact the instructor and arrange for a conversation prior to the symposium about your choice of books for review if you are uncertain about which books to choose; and you may contact the instructor after the symposium and arrange for a conversation about your research paper proposal (see below under Assessments).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students will:

1. Read **all** the Symposium papers (that are available) in advance.
2. Attend the **entire** Symposium and ask at least one question in a session of their choosing.

3. Attend the two student discussion sessions during Symposium.
4. Post and respond to asynchronous online assignments once before and once after the Symposium.
5. Write a book analysis of 1500 words contrasting two books from the list provided or approved by the instructor.
6. Write a 3000-word research paper choosing from a list of possible projects according to student interests and vocational goals incorporating readings with the theme of this year's Symposium (see below for details).

Late submission without good reason and clear communication with the instructor will result in reduced grades.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Texts selected for book review.
- Symposium papers (to be distributed when they are available from the authors)
- Additional personal readings selected by each student for final paper research paper (approved by the instructor)

ASSESSMENTS IN BRIEF:

Pre- and Post-Symposium Online Discussions	30%
Symposium Participation	20%
Book Analysis	20%
Research Paper	30%

Final course grades follow the policy found in the NPTS catalog:

Superior work (A = 95–100; A- = 93–94)
B: Above average (B+ = 91-92; B = 88-90; B- = 86-87)
C: Average (C+ = 84-85; C = 80-83; C – = 78-79)
D: Unsatisfactory (D+ = 76-77; D = 72-75; D – = 70-71)
F: Failure (69 and below)

ASSESSMENTS IN DETAIL:

A. Pre- and Post-Symposium Asynchronous Online Discussions (30%): You will participate in four forums (two before and two after the symposium) doing preliminary exegetical work on key passages used when discussing the topic of Immigration (two before and two after the symposium).

1. Pre-Symposium Asynchronous Online Discussion:

- **Forum 1:** 1st post is due Friday, **January 31, 2025**, by midnight CT and 2nd post is due Tuesday, **February 5, 2025**, by midnight CT.
- **Forum 2:** 1st post is due Friday, **February 7, 2025**, by midnight CT and 2nd post is due Tuesday, **February 12, 2025**, by midnight CT.

2. Post-Symposium Asynchronous Online Discussion:

- **Forum 3:** 1st post is due Friday, **February 21, 2025**, by midnight CT and 2nd post is due Tuesday, **February 26, 2025**, by midnight CT.
- **Forum 4:** 1st post is due Friday, **February 28, 2025**, by midnight CT and 2nd post is due Tuesday, **March 5, 2025**, by midnight CT.

B. Symposium Participation (20%): Students must participate in the following ways:

1. Attend the entire Symposium in person.
2. Ask at least one question in one of the sessions to a presenter.
3. Participate in both Student Discussion Sessions after each day of the Symposium.

C. Book Analysis (20%): Compare and contrast two books from this list or other books that come out of the references of the six presenters' papers from the Symposium. If you desire to read something not on these lists, you must submit those titles to the instructor for approval at least a week before the due date.

- Carroll R., M. Daniel, and Vincent Bacote, eds. *Global Migration and Christian Faith: Implications for Identity and Mission / Edited by M. Daniel Carroll R., Vincent E. Bacote*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, an imprint of Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2021.
- Carroll R., M. Daniel. *The Bible and Borders: Hearing God's Word on Immigration*. 1st ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing Group, 2020.
- _____ . *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2013.
- Costanzo, Eric, Daniel Yang, and Matthew Soerens. 2022. *Inalienable: How Marginalized Kingdom Voices Can Help Save the American Church*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP, an imprint of InterVarsity Press.
- Cho, Eugene, and Stephanie McDyre Johnson, eds. 2021. *No Longer Strangers: Transforming Evangelism with Immigrant Communities*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- González, Karen (Karen J.). *Beyond Welcome: Centering Immigrants in Our Christian Response to Immigration*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2022.
- _____ . *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong*. Harrisonburg, Virginia: Herald Press, 2019.
- Soltes, Ori Z, Rachel Stern, Endy Moraes, Lindsay Balfour, Thomas Massaro, Craig Mousin, Carol Prendergast, Zeki
- Saritoprak, Mimi E Tsankov, and Mohsin Mohi-Ud-Din. *Welcoming the Stranger: Abrahamic Hospitality and Its Contemporary Implications*. 1st ed. New York: Fordham University Press, 2024.
- Soerens, Matthew, and Jenny Yang. *Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate*. Revised and expanded. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, an imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2018.

In dialogue with Symposium content, consider the following in your analysis:

- Why did you choose these two texts?
- What is the primary argument of each text?
- What kind of approach is being taken to the theme?
- Is the book primarily biblical, historical, or theological?
- Who are each author's principal dialog partners?
- How does each author situate his or her own work in relation to previous work?
- How do the texts discuss/define the relationship between the Bible and politics?

- What do you regard as the strengths and weaknesses of the author's argument?
- What are the theological and pastoral implications for the texts' approach?

This analysis should be about 1,500 words in length and is due in the assignment forum in Canvas by midnight central time **Friday, March 28, 2025**. No response required.

D. Research Paper (30%): In dialogue with symposium papers and other readings, students may choose from the following:

- Trace the theme of **Immigration & Hospitality** within the Bible.
- Write a series of four sermons in detailed outline or manuscript form on **Immigration & Hospitality** (each must be an exegetically informed proclamation of the Gospel as it is encountered in one or two passages of scripture).
- Compare biblical commentaries, theological reflections, or sermons on the theme of **Immigration & Hospitality** by two theologian/reflective practitioners, one historic and one contemporary.
- Propose a biblically grounded position or activity on a specific aspect of **Immigration & Hospitality** for a specific cultural context.

These options are meant to stimulate student imagination rather than limit possibilities. Students are welcome to propose other writing projects for instructor approval. A form on which to submit proposals appears at the end of this syllabus. The form must be submitted by **Friday April 11, 2025**. The paper is due to be posted in Canvas by midnight central time on **Friday, April 25, 2025**.

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Academic Honesty

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park Theological Seminary 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.
5. Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office as soon as possible to ensure accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information, see Seminary Academic Catalog, pp.

19–20 and “Disability Resources” provided through North Park’s Office of Student Enrichment Services and Support.

Inclusive Language

NPTS encourages all students to follow the Statement of Inclusive Language from the Board of Publication Policy of the Evangelical Covenant Church which states, “We are committed to being inclusive in language and imagery to eliminate prejudice, whether gender, racial, ethnic, national, religious, denominational, cultural, or physical. This way of proceeding in no manner seeks to deny personal identity; rather, it guards against any use of word or phrase that tends to exclude people.” Consider how you can best incorporate inclusive language into all of your communication (written and oral) during the course particularly in your references to God and to humanity.

Incomplete Policy

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, illness, personal and family issues, or military assignment), a student anticipates she will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student must submit the request form for a grade of incomplete to the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, 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 the Seminary catalog.

Title IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773-244-6276 or TitleIX@northpark.edu) for information about reporting, 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 reporting, contact information and further details.

Course Schedule

Pre-Symposium Asynchronous Online Discussion:

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- **Forum 2:** 1st post is due Friday, **February 7**, 2025, by midnight CT and 2nd post is due Tuesday, **February 12**, 2025, by midnight CT.

Symposium Participation (meeting from February 14-15):

- **Friday, February 14- On Campus Symposium Day 1, Nyvall Hall**

8:30am-9:00am	Welcome, Prayer, & Announcements
9:00am-11:35am	Papers 1 & 2 with Respective Responses
11:35am-1:00pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1:00pm-3:45pm	Papers 3 & 4 with Respective Responses
4:00pm-5:00pm	Worship Service
5:15pm-5:45pm	Student Huddle Up Debrief (Campus location TBA)
5:30pm-7:30pm	Dismissed to have dinner on student's own
- **Saturday, February 15- On Campus Symposium Day 2, Nyvall Hall**

8:45am-9:00am	Welcome, Prayer, & Announcements
9:00am-11:35am	Papers 5 & 6 with Respective Responses
12:00-1:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1:00-2:30	Cohort Discussion Time (Campus location TBA)

Post-Symposium Asynchronous Online Discussion:

- **Forum 3:** 1st post is due Friday, **February 21**, 2025, by midnight CT and 2nd post is due Tuesday, **February 26**, 2025, by midnight CT.
- **Forum 4:** 1st post is due Friday, **February 28**, 2025, by midnight CT and 2nd post is due Tuesday, **March 5**, 2025, by midnight CT.

Book Analysis is due Friday, **March 28**, 2025, by midnight CT.

Proposal for Research Paper is due Friday, **April 11**, 2025, by midnight CT.

Research Paper is due Friday, **April 25**, 2025, by midnight CT.



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Proposal for Research Paper

(Proposal Due: **April 11**, 2025)

STUDENT'S NAME:

PROPOSED TOPIC/TITLE

PROPOSED BIBLIOGRAPHY/PRIMARY SOURCES

OUTLINE STRUCTURE OF ESSAY/PAPER

INSTRUCTOR'S COMMENTS

Signature of Instructor..... Date.....