Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Introduction to the New Testament (BIBNT500)
Fall 2026

Dr. Dong Hyeon Jeong
Garrett Email: dong.jeong@garrett.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Monday, 6:30-9:30pm, CST (Blended Synchronous)
Main Building, room 205
Teams Link: see email

Teaching Assistants:
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Course Description

This course equips the participants to critically, (de/re)-constructively, and creatively engage the New Testament. The participants will examine key foundational issues in New Testament scholarship, closely read primary and secondary texts, and reflect upon the interpretative processes and ideologies of various (especially one's own) communities.

Learning Outcomes

Through reading, listening, discussing, reflecting, and writing, students – after successfully completing this course with a final course grade of B or above – will be able to:

1) Identify fundamental concepts, historical contexts, biblical criticisms/hermeneutics, and ideological issues and interpretations of the New Testament.
2) Comprehend the literary, theological, and socio-ethical contours of selected New Testament texts.
3) Analyze the role of contexts and faith in influencing biblical interpretation. By doing so, this class seeks to assist the participants in evaluating contemporary appropriation(s) of the New Testament as a sacred text or an ancient document (depending upon one's perspective).
4) Synthesize an exegetical paper based on scaffolding learning process.

Required Materials

1) Stephen D. Moore, *Revealing the New Testament* (Canvas - free)

2) Stephen D. Moore, *Revelation: Book of Torment, Book of Bliss*. New York: T&T Clark, 2021.
* Amazon link: Dr. Moore's Book

OR

Dong Hyeon Jeong, *Embracing the Nonhuman in the Gospel of Mark*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2023.
* Amazon Link: Dr. Jeong's Book

3) The Bible: Please use your preferred translation and/or language.

4) Other materials are posted on Canvas:
- Works by Dr. Margaret Aymer Oget. Dr. Kwok Pui-lan, and other scholars.

Course Requirements and Assessments

! All assessments must be submitted on their corresponding due dates. Students have one week to submit late submissions from the due date. After that one week, no assessment will be accepted, and the grade for lateness or the lack of submission will be zero (0) grade/point. For those who need extra time, please consult with the instructor before the due date.

1) Attendance: 10%
- Attendance is of utmost importance because communal learning is one of the hallmarks of theological education. Your presence and participation will assist in creating a learning environment in which we learn from each other.
- If you are unable to join (internet connection, family care, institutional demands, and other reasons), please inform the instructor ahead of time.
- You are allowed to have two absences for the entire semester/ course period.
  = Third absence equals to 8/10 grade.
  = Fourth absence equals failing grade. This is Garrett's academic policy.
- Late participation (30 minutes from the beginning time of the class) will be marked absent.

2) Five Reading Exercises (RE): 20% [four points each: 5 x 4 = 20points]
- All WRE quizzes are posted on Canvas. The quizzes' questions are based on the reading

materials for that week.

- Please answer the WRE quizzes **before class**.

3) Reflection Paper on Dr. Jeong's *Embracing the Nonhuman in the Gospel of Mark* or Dr. Moore's *Revelation: Book of Torment, Book of Bliss*. (20%)

- Please write a three-page reflection paper that engages Jeong's/Moore's book. Engaging the book is not about summarizing the book. Rather, it requires these critical engagements:
  - -> *Agree or disagree* with some key statements and explain why
  - -> *Identify* something the author is implying or overlooking
  - -> *Compare* and *contrast* this author with other ideas/persons
  - -> *Offer* your own thoughts relative to the subject matter
- The due date for the reflection paper is on **Nov 30th (Mon), 11:59pm (CST)**
- Please use professional formatting: Times New Roman font, size 12, one-inch border margin, and double-spaced.

4) Scaffolded Exegetical Portfolio: 50% (combination of three assessments)

4a) Understanding One's Context: 10%

- Please choose 3 factors (out of 18) that determine your biblical interpretation as listed in Norman Gottwald's article. Please write 1-2 paragraph(s) per factor. These paragraphs should expound upon how they influence/determine your reading of the Bible/New Testament. There is no correct answer to this exercise. What is expected is your genuine, critical, and deep engagement with the factors. If you would like to write about influence(s) that are not listed in Gottwald's article, please do so.

- Please submit it through Canvas. The due date is **Sept 21st (Mon), 11:59pm CST.**
- Please use professional formatting: Times New Roman font, size 12, one-inch border margin, and double-spaced.

- Grading Rubric:
  - = Robust and clear exposition of the chosen factors: 60%
  - = Grammar, syntax, and spelling: 20%
  - = On-time submission: 20%

4b) Researching One's Topic: 20%

a. Please choose a biblical passage that you would like to write about. The biblical passage could be an entire pericope or a verse. Please write a **short paragraph** on the reason(s) for choosing this biblical passage. For example, you chose this particular biblical passage because it speaks to your current concern, your community's inquiry, a difficult sermon that you have heard before, and/or your academic interest.

b. Please choose three different Bible translations. Then compare and contrast their translations. If you know ancient biblical languages (Greek, Hebrew, and/or Aramaic), then please work with them. Write down their similarities and differences. Then, reflect upon their implications, such as what is being emphasized, debated, added, and/or neglected. This should be around **one to two (1-2) paragraphs**.

c. Please choose two commentaries to work with. Then, please list at least four (4) different types of information from the two commentaries (combined, 2-2 or 3-1) that you have learned in regard to your biblical passage. See below for approved list of commentaries. This should be around **one to two (1-2) pages**.

d. Please formulate your thesis or at least a trajectory of your thoughts. Please write **one paragraph** about the possible direction of your paper.

- Grading Rubric:
  = (a.) Clear exposition on your reason(s) for choosing the biblical passage: 10%
  = (b.) Convincing comparative analysis of three Bible translations: 10%
  = (c.) Relevant four different types of information from the commentaries: 40%
  = (d.) Thesis or trajectory of your work: 10%
  = Grammar, syntax, and spelling: 10%
  = On-time submission: 20%

- Please submit it through Canvas. The due date is **Nov 2nd (Mon), 11:59pm CST**.
- Please use professional formatting: Times New Roman font, size 12, one-inch border margin, and double-spaced.

4c) Exegetical Paper: 20%

- Please write a **5-6 pages** exegetical paper on your chosen passage. An exegetical paper requires the following:
  = Thesis: your argument (not a regurgitation or summary of another person's work)
  = In addition to the two commentaries you have already worked with, **please engage an article/book that speaks to your paper.** Engaging the material expects these kinds of analyses:
    -> *Agree or disagree* with some key statements and explain why
    -> *Identify* something the author is implying or overlooking
    -> *Compare* and *contrast* this author with other ideas/persons
    -> *Offer* your own thoughts relative to the subject matter

- Please submit it through Canvas. The due date is **Dec 14th (Mon), 11:59pm CST**.
- Please use professional formatting: Times New Roman font, size 12, one-inch border margin, and double-spaced.

- Grading Rubric:
  = Convincing thesis: 20%
  = Robust critical engagement with the reading materials: 50%
    -> Accurate and professionally formatted references
  = Grammar, syntax, and spelling: 10%
  = On-time submission: 20%

*** Please read the entire New Testament.** If you seek extra credit, please email the instructor that you have read the entire New Testament.

Grading Scale:

A: 94-100
A-: 90-93.9
B+: 87-89.9
B: 84-86.9
B-: 80-83.9
C+: 77-79.9
C: 74-76.9
C-: 70-73.9
D: 60-69.9
F: below 60

Academic Policies

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the Academic Handbook for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

1) Writing

* Academic integrity and plagiarism: All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.

* Writing and citations: The Turabian Manual for Writers and the Chicago Manual of Style footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online here. In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA).

* Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See https://www.garrett.edu/student-life/student-services "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

* Attendance and Class Participation

Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed. All participants in the teaching-learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.

* Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class.

* Academic Accommodations

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is committed to providing the most accessible learning environment as possible for students with disabilities. Should you anticipate or experience disability-related barriers in the academic setting, please contact the Director of Academic Support and Student Thriving (melanie.baffes@garrett.edu or 847-866-3869) to get started with the established accommodation process. If you are a continuing student who has already established accommodations with Student Access, you should receive a copy of your access letter at the start of the semester when it is emailed to the faculty member of each course you are enrolled in. Please contact your instructors prior to the first class session so the instructor can work with you to implement your disability accommodations. Disability information, including academic accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential under FERPA regulations, so no one other than the access coordinator, Academic Affairs staff, and your professors will see your accommodation letter.

Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term.

2) AI Policy:

Not Allowed	Allowed with appropriate acknowledgment	Allowed and no acknowledgement needed
	Generative AI help with papers (generating topics, ideas, outlines, arguments) Generative AI help with writing (paraphrasing, summarizing, generating language for assignments) Generative AI help with reading (summarizing or outlining reading assignments) Language translation Language assistance for non-native English speakers Editing, polishing, or revising paper drafts Proofreading Presentation design Citation generation Research Note-taking	
You must consult the professor(s) for uses not mentioned above.		
To properly cite the use of AI in Chicago/Turabian style, access this link: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html.		

*** Course Schedule: Daylight Savings/Fall Back Time – Nov 1, 2026**

Dates	Topics, Readings, and Assessments
Wks 1 & 2: Sept 14 & 21	* Topics: - Introductory Remarks - Contexts and Ideologies in NT Interpretations - Textual Issues and Canon Formation * Readings: - Moore, Exploring the New Testament, p.5-68 (for Weeks 1 to 3) - Norman Gottwald, "Framing Biblical Interpretation." - Watch: "The Danger of a Single Story" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg) * Optional Readings: *please ask the instructor for the optional readings* - Hal Taussig, "Introducing a New New Testament." Amazon link: https://a.co/d/amlGGEO - Lee Martin McDonald, "The Emergence of Christian Scripture" and "The Influence of 'Heresy' and 'Orthodoxy' on Canon Formation." * Assessments: - Understanding One's Context: due by Sept 21st, 11:59pm (CST)
Week 3: Sept 28	* Topic: - New Testament Backgrounds * Readings: - Moore, Exploring the New Testament, p.5-68 (for Weeks 1 to 3) - Margaret Aymer, "Rootlessness and Community in Contexts of Diaspora." - Watch: "The Dead Sea Scrolls" by Piled Higher and Deeper - PhD Comics (youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLQB-Y97bxk) * Optional Reading: - Leonard J. Greenspoon, "Between Alexandria and Antioch: Jews and Judaism in the Hellenistic Period." * Assessment: - none
Week 4: Oct 5	* Topic: - Hermeneutics and Criticisms * Readings:

	- Kwok Pui-lan, "Reading the Christian New Testament in the Contemporary World." * Optional Reading: - Musa Dube, "A Postcolonial Feminist Reading of Matthew 15:21-28." - Tat-siong "Benny" Liew, "What is Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics?" - Jordan Ryan, "Explorations in Filipino American Biblical Hermeneutics." (forthcoming: ask Dr. Jeong for the unpublished pdf) * Assessment: - none
Week 5: Oct 12	* Topics: - Synoptic Studies - Gospel of Mark * Readings: - Moore, The Synoptic Problem; and Gospel of Mark, p.69-128 - Jin Young Choi, "The Consumed Body: Mark 7:24-30." * Optional Readings: - Gay Byron, "Ancient Ethiopia and the New Testament: Ethnic (Con)texts and Racialized (Sub)texts." - Shively T.J. Smith, "One More Time with Assata on My Mind: A Womanist Rereading of the Escape to Egypt (Matt 2:13-33) in Dialogue with an African American Woman Fugitive Narrative." - Osvaldo Vena, "Postcards from Egypt." * Assessment: - Weekly Reading Exercise (WRE) 1: due by Oct 12th, 6:30pm (CST)
Week 6: Oct 19	* Topics: - Gospel of Matthew - Gospel of Luke * Readings: - Moore, Gospel of Matthew; and Gospel of Luke, p.129-208 - Elaine M. Wainwright, "Land of the Kauri and the Long White Cloud: Beginning to Read Matthew 1-2 Ecologically." - Nancy Eiesland, "The Disabled God." * Assessment: WRE 2: due by Oct 19th, 6:30pm (CST)

Week 7: **Oct 26**	* Topics: - Acts of the Apostles - Gospel of John * Readings: - Moore, Acts of the Apostles; and Gospel and Letters of John (just the Gospel), p.209-291 - Wil Gafney, "Black, Jewish, and Queer: The Ethiopian Eunuch." Website link: https://www.wilgafney.com/2012/05/04/black-jewish-and-queer-the-ethiopian-eunuch/ - Adele Reinhartz, "Judaism in the Gospel of John." * Optional Reading: - Liew, "Overlapping (His)Stories: Reading Acts in Chinese America" - Daniel Boyarin, "IOUDAIOI in John and the Prehistory of 'Judaism.'" * Assessment: - WRE 3: due by Oct 26th, 6:30pm (CST)
Week 8: **Nov 2**	* Topics: - Introducing the Apostle Paul - 1st Thessalonians * Readings: - Moore, The Lives of Paul; Paul, Women, Homosexuality, p.292-325; 422-445 - John Byron, "African American Responses to Paul and Slavery." * Optional Reading: - Denise Buell and Johnson Hodge, "The Politics of Interpretation: The Rhetoric of Race and Ethnicity in Paul." - Melanie Johnson-Debaufre, "'Gazing Upon the Invisible:' Archaeology, Historiography, and the Elusive Women of 1 Thessalonians," in *From Roman to Early Christian Thessalonike: Studies in Religion and Archaeology*. - Joseph A. Marchal. *Appalling Bodies: Queer Figures Before and After Paul's Letters*. Amazon link: https://a.co/d/eF11Jl6 * Assessment: - Researching One's Topic Due: Nov 2nd, 11:59pm (CST)
Week 9: **Nov 9**	* Topics: - 1st Corinthians - 2nd Corinthians * Readings: - Moore, Letters of Paul: 1 and 2 Corinthians, p.339-366

	- Antoinette Wire, "Women Prophets in the Corinthian Church." * Optional Reading: - Joseph A. Marchal, ed. After the Corinthian Women Prophets: Reimagining Rhetoric and Power. Amazon link: https://a.co/d/hIA6orb * Assessment: - WRE 4: due by Nov 9th, 6:30pm (CST)
Week 10: Nov 16	* Topics: - Galatians - Romans * Readings: - Moore, Letters of Paul: Galatians and Romans, p.366-401 - K. K. Yeo, "Navigating Romans through Cultures." - Angela Parker, "Moving from Stifled Breath to Full-Throated Faith." In *If God Still Breathes, Why Can't I?* * Optional Reading: - David G. Horrell, "Paul and the Redemption of the Cosmos." * Assessment: -WRE 5: due by Nov 16th, 6:30pm (CST)
	Thanksgiving Break: Nov 23rd
Week 11: Nov 30	* Topics: - Philippians - Philemon * Readings: - Moore, Letters of Paul: Philippians and Philemon, p.401-421 - Efrain Agosto, "The Letter to the Philippians." * Optional Reading: - Eric Barreto, "Philemon." - Jennifer A. Quigley. *Divine Accounting: Theo-Economics in Early Christianity*. Amazon link: https://a.co/d/6yS64nS * Assessment: - - Dr. Jeong's or Dr. Moore's three-page critical reflection paper due Nov 30th, (Mon), 11:59pm CST

Week 12: **Dec 7**	* Topics: - Pseudepigrapha and the General Epistles (Letter of James, 2 Peter, 1st and 2nd Timothy, and Titus) * Readings: - Moore, Pseudo-Pauline Letters; and General Letters, p.446-558 - Dong Hyeon Jeong, "Like a Dog Returns to His Own Vomit: Ruminations on the (Re-)Production of Animalizing Hate in 2nd Peter." - Deborah Krause, "1 Timothy." Optional Reading: - Timothy B. Cargal, "James." - Christopher Hoklotubbe, "Civilized Christ-Followers among Barbaric Cretans and Superstitious Judeans: Negotiating Ethnic Hierarchies in Titus 1:10-14." * Assessments: - None
Week 13: **Dec 14**	* Topic: - The Book of Revelation * Readings: - Moore, Book of Revelation, p.559-598 - Barbara R. Rossing, "Revelation." * Optional Reading: - Moore, "Beastly Boasts and Apocalyptic Affects." *Assessment: - Exegetical Paper: due by Dec 14th, 11:59pm (CST)

* **Select Bibliography:**

Aymer, Margaret, Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, and David A. Sánchez, eds. *Fortress Commentary on the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

Bailey, Randall C., ed. *Yet With a Steady Beat: U.S. Afrocentric Biblical Interpretation*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2003.

Barr, David L. *New Testament Story: An Introduction*. 4th edition. Boston: Cengage Advantage Books, 2008.

Byron, Gay L. and Vanessa Lovelace, eds. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016.

Dunbar Hill, Ericka S., Angela N. Parker, and Mitzi J. Smith, eds. *Bitter the Chastening Rod: Africana Biblical Interpretation after Stony the Road We Trod in the Age of BLM, SayHerName, and MeToo.* New York: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2022.

Ehrman, Bart D. *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*. 7th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Kim, Uriah and Seung Ai Yang, eds. *T&T Clark Handbook of Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2019.

Lozada Jr., Francisco. *Toward a Latino/a Biblical Interpretation*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.

Sheehan, Jonathan. *The Enlightenment Bible: Translation, Scholarship, Culture*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.

Smith, Mitzi J. and Yung Suk Kim. *Toward Decentering the New Testament: A Reintroduction*. Cascade: Oregon, 2018.

Smith, Mitzi J. and Michael Willett Newheart. *We are All Witnesses: Toward Disruptive and Creative Biblical interpretation*. Cascade: Oregon, 2023.

Thiessen, Matthew, *A Jewish Paul: The Messiah's Herald to the Gentiles*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2023.

Vena, Osvaldo, D. and Leticia A. Guardiola-Sáenz, eds. *Latinx Perspectives on the New Testament.* New York: Lexington Books/ Fortress Academic, 2022.

* Recommended Commentaries:

Blount, Brian K., ed. *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.

Earth Bible Commentaries (as of 2025):

- Zephaniah, Ruth, Hebrews, Jonah, Acts, Colossians, Psalms Books 2, Ecclesiastes, and Gospel of John.

Melcher, Sarah J., Mikeal C. Parsons, and Amos Yong, eds. *The Bible and Disability: A Commentary*. Waco, Baylor University Press, 2017.

Patte, Daniel, ed. *The Global Bible Commentary*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Newsom, Carol A. and Sharon Ringe., eds. *The Women's Bible Commentary*. 3rd Edition. Revised and Updated. Louisville and London: Westminster/John Knox, 2012.

Sanon, Yacouba, ed. *Africa Bible Commentary*. Zondervan Academic, 2025.

Segovia, Fernando and R. S. Sugirtharajah, eds. *A Postcolonial Commentary on the New Testament Writings*. Harrisburg, PA: T&T Clark, 2007.

Thomaskutty, Johnson, ed. *An Asian Introduction to the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2022.

West, Mona and Robert E. Shore-Goss, eds. *The Queer Bible Commentary.* 2nd Edition. London: SCM Press, 2022.

* Also, Harvard's website has a good list of their version of academic commentaries:
https://guides.library.harvard.edu/hds/biblical-studies/hds/biblical-studies-commentaries
= Anchor Yale Bible Commentary
= Feminist Companion Series
= Hermeneia
= International Critical Commentary
= Interpretation
= New Interpreter's Bible Commentary
= JPS Torah Commentary
= New International Commentary
= Word Biblical Commentary