

[June 1, 2017]

New Testament Introduction (12-500)

Fri 1-9pm & Sat 9am-3pm on **Sept 15-16, Oct 20-21, Nov 3-4**, 2017
Room 108

Instructor: K. K. Yeo, PhD TA: Rev. Khen Clum (Khen.Clum@garrett.edu)
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A. Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the 27 New Testament documents in the light of the historical-critical methods as well as of more recent theories of interpretation. Three emphases: first, special attention will be given to background and content of these documents. Second, principles of exegesis with attention to history of early Christianity. Third, an attempt will be made to relate the New Testament materials to our contemporary world.

B. Objectives, Rationales and Assignments

Knowing: the content and methods of reading the New Testament books;

Being: a faithful and spiritual minister of God based on the New Testament messages;

Doing: the ministries of the Church in a world sustained by the New Testament theologies, THUS twofold purposes:

First, to provide NT “mapping” process, paying attention to both the ancient Greco-Roman and Hellenistic Jewish cultures as well as our contemporary readerly contexts. “Mapping” requires one to know the territory: not only the primary text, the secondary voices of interpreters, but also the background and the confluencing traditions out of which NT books evolve and speak to. The main text is NT itself.

The **second** purpose of the course is to allow a hands-on experience of doing a 6-page single-spaced exegetical paper on some of the difficult

pericopae in Matt-Rev (200 points), [due Nov 3](#). To prepare for the first assignment, the class will be equipped with various tools to approach the texts in both hearing the message and in speaking (expressing) the word. The exegetical steps will be shared in first few lectures/seminars of the course. Please consult Appendix I (to be distributed at class): “Writing An Exegetical Paper”. On format and style as well as research writing for the exegetical paper, see Yeo, *What Has Jerusalem to Do with Beijing?* Chapter 2 [TPI, 1998]) as an example; also Daine Capitani and Melanie Baffes, *Research and Writing in the Seminary* [McFarland, 2014]).

Second assignment is writing two critical reflection papers (one paper due [Sept 16](#) and the other due [Oct 20](#)) based on cross-cultural readings in Yeo (*What Has Jerusalem to Do with Beijing?*) and/or Cosgrove (*Cross-cultural Paul*) (100 points).

Third assignment is reading of NT texts and assigned material before class (50 points), plus leading a session of class discussion (50 points; to be scheduled with the instructor).

C. Class Schedule and Assignments

1. Only those listed under “Reading” are required, “Supplement” readings are optional, they are listed for your future reference.
2. Read the biblical texts to be covered before coming to class, then read Ferguson, Brown, and Yeo.

Assignments _____

Sept 15 (F) [1st critical reflection paper due]

- Syllabi and Assignments
- Context: *Pax Romana* and Peace of Christ (Movie)

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 4 (Political and Social World)

Brown, Chap. 5 (Religious and Philosophical World)

Ferguson, “Christianity in the Ancient World”

Brown, Chap. 1 (The Nature and Origin of the NT)

Brown, Chap. 3 (The Text of the NT)
Ferguson, "Political History"

Sept 15

- Text, Reading, Meaning: Bible, Exegesis, Hermeneutics
- Greek Alphabet and Transliteration (Slide)
- Writing Exegetical Paper
- Galatians: Law and Christ

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 2 (How to Read the New Testament) Brown, Chap. 19 (Gal).

Yeo, Chap. 1 ("Theological Methods and Chinese Contexts")

Yeo, Chap. 2 (Galatians as a Resource for Christocentric Inclusivity)

Gospels

Sept 16 (S)

- Hellenized Palestine (Slide)
- Jewish Sects, and Hellenistic Jewish Cultures
- Life of Jesus
- Four Gospels and others

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 6 (Gospels in General)

Ferguson, "Society and Culture"

Sept 16

- Criticisms in Gospel Studies
- Gospels Parallel
- Matthew: The Teacher

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 8
Ferguson, "Judaism"

Sept 16

- Mark: The Cross

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 7; Ferguson, "Hellenistic-Roman Religions"

Oct 20 (F) [2nd critical reflection paper due]

- John: The Word

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 11

Oct 20

- Luke: The Savior
- Acts: The Mission

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 9

Brown, Chap. 10

Pauline Epistles

Oct 20

- Genre: Gospel, Letter, History, ...
- Missionary Journeys (Slide)
- Luke and Paul

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 15 (Classifications and Format of NT)

Oct 21 (S)

- Cross-cultural Paul in History

Reading:

Brown, Chaps. 16-17 (Paul's Life, Thought, Images)

Oct 21

- 1 & 2 Thessalonians: Pauline Eschatology and Pastoral Care

Reading:

Brown, Chaps. 18 (1 Thess) and 26 (2 Thess).

Supplement:

Yeo, "A Political Reading of Paul's Eschatology in 1 and 2 Thessalonians," *Asia Journal of Theology* 12 (April 1998), 77-88.

Oct 21

- Historical issues of the Corinthian Correspondence
- Mysteries and Gods/Goddesses (Slide)
- 1 Cor: Inverted Logic of the Cross

Reading:

Brown, Chap 22 (1 Cor).

Yeo, Chap. 10 (Role of Women)

Supplement:

Yeo, *Rhetorical Interaction in 1 Corinthians 8 and 10* (Leiden: Brill, 1995).

Yeo, "Differentiation and Mutuality of Male-Female Relations in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16," *Biblical Research* (Journal of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research) XLIII (1998): 7-21

Yeo, "The Rhetorical Hermeneutic of 1 Corinthians 8 and Chinese Ancestor Worship," *Biblical Interpretation* 2, 3 (1994): 298-311.

Nov 3 (F) Exegetical Paper due (send to Moodle)

- Philemon: Rhetoric of "Splachna" (very heart) and Critique of Slavery
- Philippians: Joy of Team-ministry

Reading:

Brown, Chaps. Chaps. 20 (Phil) and 21 (Philemon).

Nov 3

- Romans: Building of "God's Beloved" and obedience of faith
- Romans 5-8: Freedom from cultural boasting: Sin, death, and law
- Romans 8: Predestination

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 24 (Rom).

Yeo, Chap. 6 (Li and Jen).

Nov 3

- Colossians and Ephesians: Cosmic Christ and Cosmic Church

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 27 (Col), 28 (Eph).

Nov 4 (S)

- Pastorals (1, 2 Timothy, Titus): Orthodoxy, Ethics and Institution

Reading:

Brown, Chaps. 29 (Tit), 30 (1 Tim) and 31 (2 Tim).

Jewish Christianity_____

Nov 4

- Jewish Diaspora and Jewish Christianity
- James
- Jewish Background to the book of Hebrews

Reading:

Brown, Chaps. 33 (1 Pet), 34 (Jam), 35 (Jude), 36 (2 Pet), 32 (Heb).

Yeo, Chap. 4 (Rest in Hebrews)

Nov 4

- Revelation: Jesus the Lamb and the Scroll of History
- Closure: Sending forth...

Reading:

Brown, Chap. 37 (Rev).

Supplement:

Yeo, *What Has Jerusalem/Beijing?*, Chap. 8 (Revelation and China).

Yeo, "Hope for the Persecuted, Cooperation with the State, and Meaning for the Dissatisfied: Three Readings of *Revelation* from a Chinese Context," in *From Every People and Nation. The Book of Revelation in Intercultural Perspective*, ed. David Rhoads (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005), 200-221.

D. Grade Summary (based on 400 points and 4-point scale)

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| Exegetical Paper | 200 |
| 2 Reflection papers on Yeo and/or Cosgrove | 100 |
| Reading | 50 |
| Leading class discussion | 50 |
| Total: | 400 |

Expectations:

1. Attendance is expected. Absence or tardiness will result up to a *reduction of one full letter grade*—more than a 10-minute late will be marked as an absence.
2. All assignments have to be submitted in order to get a passing grade.
3. Please *bring Bible* to class. And please *read the NT book* before coming to class.
4. Exegetical papers will be graded based on the following criteria: (a) consistent and proper style/documentation; (b) clear and succinct writing/expression; (c) ability to do research and use scholarly material; (d) coherent and convincing content as well as argumentation and exegetical steps; (e) relevant and creative hermeneutics.

E. Bibliography

1. Main Texts: Required (reserve in library)

The New Testament. Recommend NRSV. (such as: *Harper-Collins Study Bible: NRSV*, edited by W. A. Meeks et al. New York: HarperCollins, 2006 [ISBN-10: 0060786841].)

Brown, Raymond E. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1997 [ISBN-10: 0300140169].

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003; 3rd edition. [ISBN-10: 0802822215].

Cosgrove, Charles, Herold Weiss, K.K. Yeo, *Cross-cultural Paul*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. [ISBN-10: 0802828434]

Yeo Khiok-khng. *What Has Jerusalem to Do with Beijing?* Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 1998. [ISBN-10: 1563382296]

Secondary main texts (Not required, but highly recommended):

Capitani, Diane and Melanie Baffes. *Research and Writing in the Seminary*. McFarland, 2014. [ISBN 9780786 478644]

Throckmorton, Burton H. ed. *Gospel Parallels*, 5th ed. New York: Nelson, 1992. [ISBN-10: 0840774842]

Yeo, K.K. *The Spirit Intercedes*. Illustrated by Claire Matheny. Oregon: Cascades, 2009. [ISBN-10: 1606087940]

2. Supplemental Texts: Not required but for future reference

B1. Bible

The Greek New Testament. Fifth Edition (Corrected). Edited by Kurt Aland et al. United Bible Societies, American Bible Society, 2014 [<https://www.academic-bible.com/en/online-bibles/greek-new-testament-ubs5/read-the-bible-text/>]; or *Novum Testamentum Graece*. 28th edition. Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2012 [<http://www.nestle-aland.com/en/read-na28-online/>].

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Edited by K. Elliger and W. Rudolf. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 1977.

The Contemporary Parallel New Testament (KJV, NCV, NIV, NKJV, NASB, CEV, NLT, The Message). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha. Ed. J. H. Charlesworth. New York: Doubleday, 1983.

Sparks, H. F. D. *A Synopsis of the Gospels: The Synoptic Gospels with the Johannine Parallels*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964.

B2. Basic—NT in General and Pauline Studies

Aichele, George et al. *The Postmodern Bible: The Bible and Culture Collective*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995.

Alter, Robert and Frank Kermode. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1987.

Anderson, R. D. *Ancient Rhetorical Theory and Paul*. Kampen Kok Pharos, 1996.

Antoine Gérald, et al. *Exegesis: Problems of Method and Exercises in Reading (Genesis 22 and Luke 15)*. Trans. Donald G. Miller. Pittsburgh: Pickwick Press, 1978.

Aune, David E. *Studies in New Testament and Early Christian Literature*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1972.

Bailey, James L.; Broek, Lyle D. Vander. *Literary Forms in the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster Press, 1992.

Barclay, John M. G., and Simon Gathercole, eds. *Divine and Human Agency in Paul and His Cultural Environment*. London: T & T Clark, 2006.

Barclay, William. *Great Themes of the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.

Barker, G. Lane; William L. Michaels; J. Ramsey. *The New Testament Speaks*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.

Barr, David L. *New Testament Story. An Introduction*. Second Edition. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1995.

Barrett, C. K. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Rev. ed. Harper San Francisco, 1989.

Beardslee, William A. *Literary Criticism of the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965.

Beker, J. Christiaan, *Paul's Apocalyptic Gospel: The Coming Triumph of God*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.

Beker, J. Christiaan. *Paul the Apostle: The Triumph of God in Life and*

- Thought*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980.
- Berding, Kenneth and Matt Williams, ed. *What the New Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey of Their Writings*. Kregel Academic, 2008.
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- Bird, Michael F. *Jesus and the Origins of the Gentile Mission*. London: T & T Clark, 2006.
- Black, David Alan. *Linguistics and New Testament Interpretation*. Nashville: Broadman, 1992.
- Black, David Alan; Bockery, David S. *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.
- Blount, Brian K., ed. *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.
- Boers, Hendrikus. *Christ in the Letters of Paul: In Place of a Christology*. Berlin; New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2006.
- Borg, Marcus J. and Wright. N. T. *The Meaning of Jesus. Two Visions*. New York: Harper San Francisco, 1999.
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- Boring, M. Eugene, Klaus Berger and Carsten Colpe, eds. *The Hellenistic Commentary on the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.
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- Breytenbach, Cilliers and Johan C. Thom, Jeremy Punt, eds. *The New Testament Interpreted: Essays in Honor of Bernard C. Lategan*. Leiden: Brill, 2006.
- Briston, John Temple. *What Paul Really Said about Women*. San Francisco, Harper & Row, 1988.
- Brondos, David A. *Paul on the Cross: Reconstructing the Apostle's Story of Redemption*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.
- Brower, Kent E. and Andy Johnson. *Holiness and Ecclesiology in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2007.
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- Burke, Tony and Brent Landau. *New Testament Apocrypha: More Noncanonical Scriptures*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.
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- Carroll, John T. Cosgrove. Charles H. Johnson, E. Elizabeth. *Faith and History*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990.
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.
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- *Clements, Don K. and R. C. Sproul. *New Geneva Introduction to the New Testament*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014.
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- Corley, Kathleen E. *Private Women, Public Meals: Social Conflict in the Synoptic Tradition*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993.
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- New Testament Religion*. Waynesboro: Paternoster, 2005.
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Appendix I: Writing Exegetical Paper

(To be distributed in Class)

Appendix II: Pericopae for Exegetical Papers

Please sign up the pericope on which you wish to do research. I suggest not more than two persons doing exegesis on the same pericope in order that the class will benefit from readings of various texts; also students will find library resources more accessible. The texts given below are suggestive, you may do an in-depth word or phrase study of a particular verse, or exceed the pericope.

Matthew-Acts (**and // texts**):

1. Matt 3:1-6
2. Mark 1:9-11
3. Luke 4:1-13
4. Luke 6:17-20a
5. Matt 5:43-48
6. Luke 11:1-4
7. Mark 5:21-43
8. Matt 10:37-39
9. Mark 3:28-30
10. Matt 12:38-42
11. Luke 8:19-21
12. Matt 14:3-12
13. Mark 7:24-30
14. Matt 16:13-20
15. Luke 9:28-36

or let me know which text interests you ...

Rom-Rev:

1. Rom 1:1-17
2. Rom 5:1-5
3. Rom 8:28-30
4. 1 Cor 6:9-11

5. 1 Cor 7:1-7
6. 1 Cor 11:17-22
7. 1 Cor 14:20-25
8. 2 Cor 6:14-7:1
9. Gal 2:11-14
10. Gal 3:23-29
11. Eph 1:3-14
12. Phil 2:5-11
13. Phil 3:1-11
14. Col 1:14-18
15. Col 3:18-4:1
16. 1 Thess 2:14-16
17. 1 Thess 4:13-18
18. 2 Thess 2:3-12
19. 2 Thess 3:6-14
20. 1 Tim 1:3-7
21. 1 Tim 3:1-13
22. 1 Tim 2:8-15
23. 2 Tim 3:10-17
24. Tit 3:1-8
25. Phlm 8-14
26. Heb 1:5-14
27. Heb 6:1-8
28. Heb 7:1-3
29. Heb 11:1-3
30. Jam 1:2-8
31. Jam 2:18-19
32. 1 Pet 3:18-22
33. 2 Pet 1:3-11
34. 1 Jn 5:6-12
35. Jude
36. Rev 5:1-5
37. Rev 18:11-17
38. Rev 20:1-6