Topics in New Testament:
Rhetorical Criticism and Theology [BIBNT851-A]
Instructor: K. K. Yeo T: 847 866-3881 (office) E: kkyeo@garrett.edu
Fri 1-9pm, Sat 9am-3pm—Oct 4-5; Nov 1-2; Nov 15-16

Note: because this is a 3-weekend course, those who register for the course means that they agree to complete the reading assignments before the first day of class and to present the first draft of their term papers during last day of class (revised paper due last day of the semester). Greek is helpful but not required in this course.

A. Course Description and Objectives

Course Description:
1. An introduction to basic issues in current debate concerning New Testament theology, paying attention the rhetorical theology of NT writers.
2. A survey on the historical development and methodologies in New Testament theological construction, from pre-modern criticisms, to that of historical and new literary/rhetorical readings, of the NT.
3. In-depth attention is given to theologies of the Gospels, Paul, General Epistles and Revelation within their individual literary contour and in their canonical context. Attention is paid to rhetorical strategies of these NT authors.
4. Critical issues regarding NT theological hermeneutics and motifs are primary foci of the course. Students are encouraged to be eloquent and critical in the hermeneutical task of relating the texts theologically to contemporary issues.

Learning Process in the Class:
Since time will not allow us to cover every book of the NT and the critical issues in New Testament theology, reading assignments and seminars are designed to help the comprehension of material broader and more in-depth. This is a seminar course, not a lecture course.

First, readings from the main texts provide basis for our weekly discussion. All students are expected to read readings marked with the symbol *; each student is to sign up two assigned readings and within 40 minutes (1) give a brief report of the readings, and (2) come up with 3 questions for class discussion.

Second, article and book reviews (outside the assigned reading material) are aimed to help individuals in their research papers as well as to provide resources for others. Reviews are due Nov 2, 2019.

Third, a 8-10 page single-spaced research paper gives the student a hands-on experience of doing a NT theology paper; papers will be shared in Nov 16, 2019 seminars. Do check with the instructor early on topic of your term paper.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of this course a learner who completes all assignments well should be able to:
1. have a broad knowledge of current debate and critical issues in New Testament theology and its rhetorical readings [if you have done engagingly the reading of assigned textbooks, attended classes, completed all the assignments, and lead 2 class discussions];
2. have a fair knowledge and appreciation of New Testament theologies in whatever perimeter set (book, genre, author, school, canon motif/theme, hermeneutics, etc.) AND a critical and creative appropriation of methodology in reading/interpreting/constructing New Testament theology [evident by a successful writing of a term paper esp. the exegetical and theological sections];
3. begin to show a holistic growth (knowledge and love, individual and communal) of personal and social selves [indicative in the hermeneutical section of a paper that bridge the NT text to our world].

B. Main Texts: many of the following texts are available in pdf on Moodle site of the Seminary (available after you have registered this course). Only selected chapters from the following books are required:


C. Seminar Schedule and Assignments:

Oct 4: Theology and Rhetoric
(A). Syllabus and Assignments: Common Concerns and Uncommon Task
(B). What is New Testament Theology and its Rhetorical Method?

Readings:
New Testament Rhetorical Criticism/Theology - 2A -

Oct 5: Classical and New Rhetoric; Gospels
(A). Classical Rhetoric and New Rhetoric
Readings:
* Porter, Handbook: Chaps. 1-6: _______

(B). Gospels and Theology of Jesus?
Readings:
* Porter, Chap. 17 (Gospels and Acts): _______
* Porter, Chap. 9 (Historical prose), 11 (Biography): _______


Nov 1: Acts and Paul
(A). Acts and Proclamation and Classical rhetoric
Readings:
* Porter, Chaps. 7 (Epistle); 18 (Paul): _______
* Yeo, “Jerusalem, Athens, and Beijing in Acts,” in Yeo, Jerusalem/Beijing, 167-193: _______
* Yeo, Rhetorical Interaction, Ch. IX (Aggadic Midrash) and *Yeo, Rhetorical Interaction, Ch. X (communal discourse): _______

(B). Pauline Theology
Readings:

Nov 2: Hebrews, James, Revelation
(A). Hebrews and James: Metaphorical Theology

Readings:
* Porter, Chap. 19 (General NT): _______

Supplemental Readings:

(B). Revelation: Liturgical drama
Readings:
* Porter, Chap. 15 (Apocalyptic) and *Hansen, “The Apocalyptic Technique,” in Ryan Hansen, Silence and Praise, Rhetorical Cosmology and Political Theology in the Book of Revelation (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014), Chap. 1: _______
* Yeo, “Chinese Readings of Christology and Vicissitude,” Jerusalem/Beijing?, 194-241: _______

Nov 15: Library research

Nov 16: Paper presentations: ______; ______; ______; ______; ______; ______; ______;

C. Requirements and Grades (based on 400 points and 4-point scale)
2 Presentations of required readings and lead class discussions (30-40 min): 80
NT Rhetorical Theology Term Paper (8-10pp/12-15pp for PhD): 200
Response to Paper (1 p.): 50
1 (2 for PhD) Article Reviews (1-page review for each article): 30
1 Book Review (1 page): (1 foreign or 2 English books for PhD) ______
Total points: 400

Grade: A 400-371 (b) 370-331
B+ 330-301 B 300-271 (b) 270-231
C+ 230-201 C 200-171 (b) 170-131
D 130-101 F 100-0 (Fail)

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Expectations:
1. All assignments must be submitted in order to get a passing grade.
2. Theology paper (8-10 pp. for Master, 12-15 pp. for PhD) will be graded based on the following criteria: (a) consistent and proper style/documentation (20 pt); (b) clear and succinct writing/expression (20 pt); (c) ability to do theological research and use scholarly material (40 pt); (d) coherent and convincing content, argumentation, and procedure (60 pt); (e) relevant and creative theological hermeneutics (40 pt).
3. Submission of theology paper: Turn in a copy of the finished paper to the instructor and the respondent at least 48 hours before the presentation. Distribution of the whole paper to class members is not necessary but a one-page précis is helpful. Presentation of the paper will not be graded.
4. Respondent’s paper: Respondents are expected to write at least one page (500 words) of their response for the benefit of the students. Such response may consist of appreciative affirmation of the strengths, constructive criticism of the weaknesses, or questions that help to further discussion and clarification.

Select Bibliography
A. On NT Theology

SBL Series:

Cambridge Series:

B. On Rhetorical Studies
Amador, J. David Hester. Academic Constraints in Rhetorical Criticism of the New Testament Rhetorical Criticism/Theology

- 3A -

- 3B -

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New Testament Rhetorical Criticism/Theology

- 4A - 4B -


Cunningham, David Scott. "Faithful Persuasion: Prolegomena to a Rhetoric of..."
New Testament Rhetorical Criticism/Theology


McKnight, Edgar V. and Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, eds. *The New Literary
New Testament Rhetorical Criticism/Theology


New Testament Rhetorical Criticism/Theology

- 9A -

- 9B -

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Valla, L. Collatio Novi Testamenti. Edited by A. Perosa. Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento, Studi e Testi, i. Florence, 1970. (This is a published version of the later Laurentii Vallensis...in Latinam Novi testamentii interpretationem... Adnotationes apprime utilles. Paris, 1505)


—. “Where is Rhetorical Criticism Taking Us?” CBQ 49 (1987): 448-63


