

The John Leland Center for Theological Studies
405 N. Washington St., Suite 200, Falls Church, VA 22201 Tel: 703 812 4757

Course: B 1501 New Testament Interpretation I

Time: Fall 2011, Tuesday 8:10-9:50 PM

Credit: 2 credit hours

Prerequisites: TP 2101; TP 2501

Instructor: Daniel S. Dapaah, Ph.D.; ddapaah@leland.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course is a general introduction to New Testament (NT) literature, methods of interpretation, and various questions of critical study. It is designed to help students acquaint themselves with the history (especially the philosophical and religious contexts) of the Greco-Roman world and of Judaism contemporaneous with the beginnings of Christianity. New Testament Introduction 1 focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus as portrayed in the four canonical Gospels and the growth of the church in Acts. Students will also be introduced to some of the extra-canonical Gospels

The course has three specific objectives: to acquire (i) a knowledge of the contents and contexts of the Gospels and Acts; (ii) an ability to use the Gospels as historical sources for understanding early Christianity; and (iii) an understanding of the contemporary critical methods in NT scholarship that have been employed for evaluating and communicating the meaning of the Gospel texts.

Required Texts

1. Brown, R. E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Doubleday, 1997 (ISBN 0-385-24767-2).
2. Coogan, M. D., et al., eds. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (NRSV with the Apocrypha). 3rd (or latest) edn. Oxford, 2001 (ISBN 0-19-528485-2).
3. Ehrman, B. D. *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*. 3rd edn. Oxford, 2004 (ISBN 0-19-515462-2).

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions.
2. *Reading Assignment:* Thoughtful reading and study of the four Gospels, Acts, and assigned texts.
3. *Written Assignment:* A written paper (not exceeding 12 pages, double or single-spaced, excluding bibliography) on one of the Gospels.
4. *Two written exams:* midterm and final.