

BI 550

University of
Dubuque
Theological
Seminary

Spring 2021

Online and
Residential

Severance Hall 100
Mondays
9:00–10:40 AM

Introduction to The New Testament



Christ in Glory (6th cent.)

Course Thesis

The New Testament is a collection of texts of varying genres that exhibit the manifold ways that the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of a Galilean Jew named Jesus were theologically significant for the authors and audiences of these writings. Knowledge about the historical, cultural, and religious contexts in which New Testament texts were written is essential for understanding them.

Instructor Information

Instructor:

Dr. Nicholas A.
Elder
nelder@dbq.edu

Virtual Office

Hours:
T/TH 1PM–3PM
and by
appointment

Severance Hall
224
Phone:
913-221-1901



Grade Items

Exam One: 20%

Exam Two: 20%

**Presentation on a New
Testament Text:** 20%

**Reading the Gospels
Assignment:** 10%

Book Report: 10%

**Weekly Assignments /
Discussion Forums and
Lecture Reflections:** 20%

Important Dates

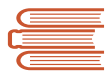
TBD: Reading the Gospel
Assignment Due

TBD: No Class (Research
Break)

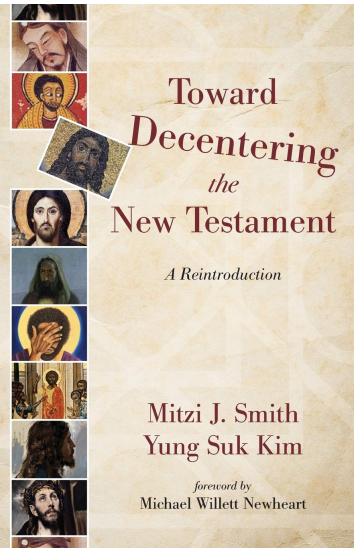
TBD: Exam One Due

TBD: No Class (Easter
Break)

TBD: Exam Two Due

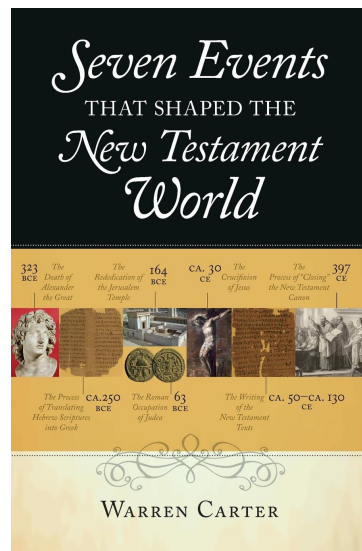
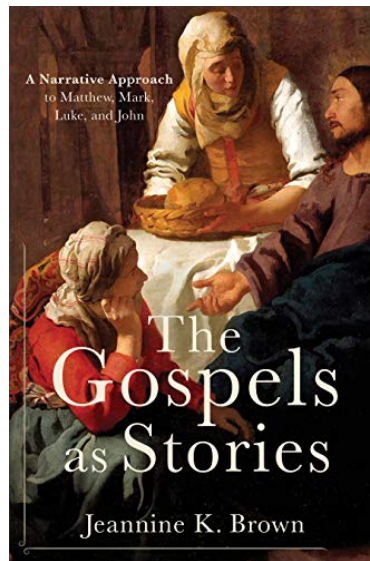


Required Texts

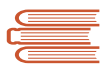


Mitzi J. Smith and
Yung Suk Kim,
***Toward Decentering
the New Testament:
A Reintroduction***,
Eugene, OR: Cascade,
2018. ISBN:
1532604653.

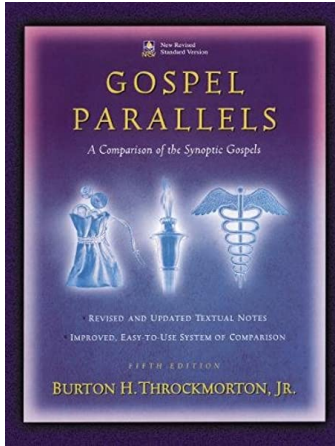
Jeannine K. Brown, ***The
Gospels as Stories***, Grand
Rapids: Baker, 2020. ISBN:
0801049849.



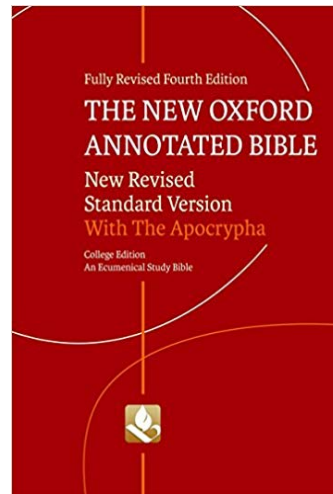
Warren Carter, ***Seven Events that
Shaped the New Testament World***,
Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013. ISBN:
0801039169.



Required Texts



Burton H. Throckmorton Jr., ed., *Gospel Parallels, Fifth Edition*, Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992. ISBN: 0840774842.



Michael D. Coogan, ed., *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press: 2010. ISBN: 0195289609. Or a similar English study Bible.

Assignments:

- **Weekly Assignments and Discussion Forums / Attendance and Participation / Lecture Reflections (20%)**
 - Each week students in the online version of the class will participate in discussion forums. To receive full credit students must post three times. See details in the “course policies” section below.
 - Each week students in the residential version of the course will come to class prepared to discuss questions or having completed a brief assignment provided by the professor. See details in the “course policies” section below.
 - Both online and residential students will respond briefly to the online lectures in writing. See details in the “course policies” section below.
- **Exam One (20%)**
 - Exam One will cover material from the beginning of the course through the Gospels. It will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay sections.
- **Exam Two (20%)**
 - Exam Two will be cumulative, covering material from the entire semester. However, content from the second half of the semester will be emphasized more than content from the first half of the semester.
- **Presentation on a New Testament Book (20%)**
 - In the second half of the semester, each student will be responsible for teaching one New Testament book to their peers. For online students this will entail recording a lecture or podcast on the assigned text. Residential students have the option to record their presentation or to present during residential meetings. Twenty minutes of class time will be allotted for student presentations. More information on this presentation is provided in a separate document.
- **Reading the Gospels Assignment (20%)**
 - Students will analyze a passage from the Synoptic Gospels and produce their own color-coded synopsis of a passage. They will analyze the relationship between the texts, articulate how various answers to the Synoptic problem explain the relationship, and address how the differences between the texts reflect the concerns of each evangelist using the tools of narrative criticism.

Curricular Objectives:

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church (MDiv)
- Interpret the Christian Scriptures through faithful exegesis and in light of the Christian tradition (MDiv)
- Preach the Word of God with faithfulness and clarity (MDiv)
- Articulate and reflect critically and constructively on the biblical and theological foundations of God's mission to the world (MAMD)
- Be able to identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures (MACL)

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Explain how the historical, theological, cultural, and religious contexts in which the New Testament texts were written are relevant to their interpretation
- Articulate the various genres that New Testament texts represent and the constituent literary features of these genres
- Analyze New Testament texts from their historical and cultural perspectives
- Evaluate the respective interpretive debates about specific New Testament texts
- Justify and articulate their own positions on interpretive debates about specific New Testament texts
- Foster a deeper love and appreciation for Scripture, its interpretation, and application in ecclesial contexts