

**BI 630 60 Interpretation of the New Testament in the Reformed Tradition
Distance Section, Spring 2025
Three Credits. Letter Grade Only**

Faculty Information:

Instructor: Dr. Jim Miller

Phone: 918-693-0978

Email: JDMiller@dbq.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Email responded to regularly: 8:00 to 5:00, Tuesday - Friday

OVERVIEW / COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a fundamental introduction to the New Testament with special focus given to its historical, literary, and cultural background and theological content. In addition, special attention will be given to principles of interpretation that come to us from within the Reformed tradition.

The course is a required course in the M.A.R.T. Program and an elective in other degree programs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By participating fully in this course, students will be able to:

- 1) outline the story of the New Testament and identify major genres, characters, and key passages;
- 2) identify and articulate key theological themes in the New Testament —especially as interpreted in the Reformed tradition; and
- 3) analyze key passages in the New Testament and explore how they function in the canon and within the Reformed tradition.

MART CURRICULAR GOALS FULFILLED BY THIS COURSE:

With full participation students will be able to:

- 1) identify and articulate the core commitments of the Christian tradition with a focus on the Reformed tradition
- 2) identify how key theological terms and concepts emerged and function within the Christian tradition and, more specifically, the Reformed tradition
- 3) describe and evaluate the core commitments of the catholic and Reformed tradition in conversation with historical and contemporary scholars
- 4) explain how key theological terms and concepts have been understood and applied in Christian congregations of various times and places, and, more specifically, congregations of the Reformed tradition.

REQUIRED TEXTS (You must have the edition noted by ISBN. You must have a print copy unless the pagination on the digital copy is identical to the print copy.):

Andreas J. Koestenberger, L. Scott Kellum, Charles L. Quarles,
The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown; (second edition)
Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2016 ISBN 978-1-4336-8400-5

Michael Allen, Jonathan Linebaugh
Reformation Readings of Paul: Explorations in History and Exegesis
Downers Grove, IVP, 2015 ISBN 978-0-8308-4091-5

Either:

the Oxford Annotated NRSV Bible ISBN 978-0-1902-7607-2

or

The CEB Study Bible ISBN 978-1-6092-6028-6

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Luther, Martin

Luther's Works, Volume 26 (Commentary on Galatians, vol.1)

Edited by Jaroslav Pelikan, Walter A. Hansen

St. Louis, Concordia, 1963. ISBN. 0-570-06426-0

Calvin, John

Calvin's Commentaries, Volume 11 (Commentary on Galatians, et. al.)

Edited by David Torrence, Tom Torrence

Grand Rapids, MI. 1965 ISBN. 0-8028-2051-4

Steinmetz, David

Calvin in Context

New York, NY, Oxford Press 1995 ISBN: 0-19-509164-7

Parker, T.H.L.

Calvin's New Testament Commentaries (second edition)

Louisville, KY, Westminster/John Knox 1993

ISBN 0-664-25489-6

Burge, Gary

The New Testament in Seven Sentences

Downers Grove, IL, IVP, 2019 ISBN 978-0-8308-5476-9

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Faithful attendance, close reading, and participation in discussion
(300 points)

Weekly Responsorials (300 points)

Mid-term exam: (300 points)

Final exam: (300 points)

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Lectures via Video:

Each week you will receive one or two video presentations from the instructor. These will be linked to the assigned readings for the week—and should be viewed early in that week.

Reading Assignments:

Readings are assigned (below) each week.

Weekly Responsorials

Each week students will submit a one-page summary drawn from the readings, consisting of three-parts:

- (1) Insights new to you.
- (2) Questions that the reading evoked.
- (3) Your major “take-away”

Two Essay Exams

- 1) Mid-Term
- 2) Final

COURSE ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

(a.k.a. “House Rules”)

1. Late Policy: Work must be handed in on time. Late work will be assessed a grade penalty proportionate to the number of days the assignment is late.
2. Missed Exam Policy: Examinations must be taken within the assigned range of dates. Requests for alternate exam dates must be made in advance, in writing, and in humility.
3. Cheating and Plagiarism: You are responsible for adhering to the Seminary’s policies on plagiarism and cheating. Please see the current UDTS Student Handbook for this policy.
4. Inclusive Language: You are responsible for adhering to the Seminary’s policy on inclusive language. Please see the current UDTS Catalog for this policy.

5. Academic Success Center: The University provides a free Academic Support Center. Writing tutors are available to help with writing issues and other problems with assignments in this or other courses. Please make use of this service by contacting the director of the Academic Success Center (563-589-3262).

6. Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Statement: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained. All requested accommodations must be approved through the Academic Success Center, 2nd floor Myers Library (589-3262).

7. Subject to Change Clause: This syllabus, course calendar and other attending documents are subject to change during the semester, though I will make every effort not to increase the workload.

RHYTHM OF THE CLASS WEEK

I know that many distance students have time for classes primarily on the weekend. Therefore I will try to have lectures and discussion boards available the Thursday before the week begins. The class week technically runs Tuesday through Monday.

I recommend that you approach each week in this order. Try to get a jump on the readings over the weekend and early in the week.

1. Read the assigned primary source text(s) for the week. Be sure to look at the questions in the Kostenberger's text—and keep them in mind as you read.
2. View the lectures and take notes. Research has shown that taking notes by hand is more helpful than typing.
3. Responsorials: In one page, summarize what you have read and post these to the class by Wednesday at 11:55 p.m. Your summary will include:
 - (1) Insights new to you.
 - (2) Questions that the reading evoked.
 - (3) Your major “take-away”

5. We will have our weekly zoom conversation Thursday (Time: TBD) focused on the lecture, readings and responsorials.

6. Go back to the primary source discussions. Read all the student posts. Respond to at least one student post by Friday at 11:55 PM CT. Make any further discussion posts you wish to.

CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Week One January 14 - Lecture Welcome and Overview

Readings

Köstenberger, *Preface to Second Ed.*, xiii - xx;
Part I, Introduction, 1-34

Responsorial (350 words)

- (1) Insights new to you.
- (2) Questions that the reading evoked.
- (3) Your major “take-away”

Due: Wednesday, Jan. 16, 11:55 p.m.

Week Two January 21 - Lecture

Readings

Köstenberger, *Nature and Scope of Scripture*, 34-62
Bible: Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, chapter 1

Luther’s Works, Vol. 26, *Lectures on Galatians*, vii-x
Calvin’s NT Commentaries, Vol. 11, *Galatians, et al*, v-vi

Responsorial (350 words)

- (1) Insights new to you.
- (2) Questions that the reading evoked.
- (3) Your major “take-away”

Due: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 11:55 p.m.

Week Three January 27-31 Hilton Head Intensive

Lectures, Study and Discussion

Readings

Köstenberger, *Political / Religious Background of NT*, 63-113
Bible: Paul's Letter to the Galatians, chapters 1-2

Luther's Works, Vol. 26, *Lectures on Galatians*, 3-12
Calvin's NT Commentaries, Vol. 11, *Galatians, et al*, 1-7

Week Four February 4. Lecture

Readings

Köstenberger, *Jesus and the Relationship Between the Gospels*, 116 - 154

Bible: Read Paul's Letter to the Galatians, chapters 1-3

Luther's Works, Vol. 26, *Lectures on Galatians*, 13-22
Calvin's NT Commentaries, Vol. 11, *Galatians, et al*, 8-10

Responsorial

Week Five February 11 Lecture

Part II

Jesus and the Gospels

Readings

Köstenberger, *Jesus and the Relationship Between the Gospels*, 155-190

Bible: Read Paul's Letter to the Galatians, chapters 1-4

Luther's Works, Vol. 26, Lectures on Galatians, 22-26
Calvin's NT Commentaries, Vol. 11, *Galatians, et al*,

Responsorial

Week Six February 18 Lecture

Köstenberger, *Jesus and the Relationship Between the Gospels*, 191-221

Bible: Read Paul's Letter to the Galatians, chapters 1-5

Luther's Works, Vol. 26, *Lectures on Galatians*, 26-32

Calvin's NT Commentaries, Vol. 11, *Galatians, et al*, 10-11

Responsorial

Week Seven Feb. 25 Lecture only Study Week

Mid-Term Exam

Week Eight March 4 Lecture

Köstenberger, *Gospel According to Matthew*, 222-271

Bible: Read Paul's Letter to the Galatians, chapters 1-6

Luther's Works, Vol. 26, *Lectures on Galatians*, 32-43

Calvin's NT Commentaries, Vol. 11, *Galatians, et al*, 11-13

Responsorial

Week Nine March 11 Lecture

Köstenberger, *Gospel According to Mark*, 272-304

Allen and Linebaugh, *Reformation Readings of Paul*, 11-19

Bible: Read Mark's Gospel in one sitting

Responsorial

Week Ten March 18 Lecture

Köstenberger, *Gospel According to Luke*, 305-343
Allen and Linebaugh, *Reformation Readings of Paul*, 23-48
Bible: Read Luke's Gospel in one sitting

Responsorial

Week Eleven March 25 Lecture

Köstenberger, *Gospel According to John*, 344-388
Bible: Read John's Gospel in one sitting

Responsorial

Week Twelve April 1. Lecture

Research and Spring Break

Part III *The Early Church and Paul*

Köstenberger, *The Book of Acts*, 389-437
Bible: Read the Book of Acts

Responsorial

Week Thirteen April 8 Lecture

Köstenberger, *Paul: The Man and his Message*, 437-481.
Allen and Linebaugh, *Reformation Readings of Paul*, 165-175
Bible: Read I Corinthians

Responsorial

Week Thirteen Lecture April 15 - 21 Reading Week / Easter Break
These readings may be adjusted

Köstenberger, Paul's Letter to the Galatians, 481-505

Allen and Linebaugh, Reformation Readings of Paul, 175-186

Bible: Read Galatians, II Corinthians

Week Fifteen. April 23 - 26. Final Exam