

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY**COURSE DESIGNATOR: SAB1081HF L0101**

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. *THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.*

TITLE: SAB1081HF Intro to NT Hermeneutics**TERM:** Summer 2017 {20175}

Please note: when registering on ACORN, search with keywords NT Hermeneutics

SCHEDULE: *Mondays in May and June 2017 (with the exception of May 22nd)*

May 1, 8, 15, 29; June 5, 12, 19, 26

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: April 24, 2017**Withdrawal Deadline:** May 16, 2017**PROFESSOR:** Francis G. Carpinelli**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO 15**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

SAB 1081 introduces the student of theology into the hermeneutics of New Testament scholarly exegesis. The object of study is the NT text. The ulterior aim is to initiate the student into the profound beauty, richness and power of the NT as Word of God in the word of humans, as the privileged written expression of experiencing God's grace in Jesus of Nazareth. The hermeneutic theory held to in this course is that of Bernard Lonergan, S. J., as found in capsule form in his *Method in Theology*. His teaching on the interpretation of the Scriptures and on interpretation in general inculcates best the vision of the *Magisterium* on interpretation as envisioned by the First and by the Second Vatican Councils.

How one reads the New Testament is as important as what is in it to be read. An immediate goal is to impart the skills (methods) and contextual knowledge necessary for approaching this particular set of ancient texts from the horizon of our contemporary culture. The problem field has two fronts. The one is how to access for religious meaning today ancient texts of another culture and of another religious model (hermeneutics). The other is how to evaluate and to use exegetical methods generated by diverse hermeneutic principles. As in all scholarship, so also in biblical exegesis, existential orientation and stance as well as faith commitment play a role in perception, in the selection of relevant information, in understanding the data selected, in reflection on the meaning of the assembled data, in the evaluation of one's understanding. A pervading interest in the course is the relation of exegesis to theology being done today, and of theology to New Testament religion. The fundamental notion of these relationships is that of Bernard Lonergan as laid out in his *Method in Theology*. Are exegesis and interpretation on the one hand and on the other hand theology two distinct endeavours or are they two aspects of one single endeavour? At the heart of the hermeneutics to be presented here is Lonergan's ordering of cognitive operations. Interpretation of the Scriptures is a specific instance of his general cognitive theory. This course, then, provides the student an occasion for empowering the self to access meaning and truth in the NT. As Pope Benedict has taught us, exegesis is the grandchild of theology and the child of hermeneutics.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

A systematic apprehension of what will be taught should enable students to:

1. Understand, appreciate and be able to articulate the issues involved in hermeneutics or the theory of interpretation
2. Understand, appreciate and be able to articulate the issues involved in reading any ancient text and in particular those of the New Testament
3. Understand, appreciate and be able to articulate the main lines of development in the history of biblical interpretation and in particular interpretation of the New Testament
4. Understand and be able to articulate the critical realism of Bernard Lonergan's position on hermeneutics
5. Understand and explain the various methods of New Testament interpretation as either synchronic or diachronic
6. Acquire skills and techniques for fruitful interpretation of the New Testament in reading of it for personal growth

7. Apply narrative-critical exegetical skills in either a motif or in a character analysis using one motif or one character from one of the four gospels or from the Acts of the Apostles
8. Articulate the interplay of the intelligent inquiry of reason and the pious submission of faith in reading the New Testament.

PREREQUISITES:

None

REQUIRED READING (NO NEED TO BUY ANY BOOKS):

Pontifical Biblical Commission: *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*. April 15, 1993.
Dei verbum. The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. Vatican II. Nov. 18, 1965.

You may download the above documents from several sites on the internet. Try:

http://catholicbibleresources.net/ChurchDocs/PBC_Interp-FullText.htm

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/CURIA/PBCINTER.htm>

New Testament (The Revised Standard Version [preferably])

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Mid-Term Exam	= 30 %
Paper	= 30 %
Final Exam	= 30 %
Sufficient & Acceptable Attendance at the Class Lectures	= 10 %

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Pontifical Biblical Commission: *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*. April 15, 1993.

Dei verbum. The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. Vatican II. Nov. 18, 1965.

New Testament (The Revised Standard Version [preferably])

Anderson, J. C. and Moore, S. D., eds. *Mark and Method. New Approaches in Biblical Studies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992; 103-134.

Brown, R. E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

Collins, Raymond. *Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday Image Book, 1987.

Darr, J. D. *On Character Building. The Reader and the Rhetoric of Characterization in Luke-Acts*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992.

DeSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods, & Ministry Formation*. Nottingham, England: Apollos, 2004.

Fitzmyer, J. A. *Scripture, the Soul of Theology*. New York: Paulist Press, 1994.

Kelly, Joseph F. *An Introduction to the New Testament for Catholics*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2006.

Hong, Koog P. "Synchrony and Diachrony in Contemporary Biblical Interpretation." *CBQ*. Vol. 75, No. 3, July 2013; 521-539.

Lonergan, Bernard. "Interpretation," in *Method in Theology*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1971; 153-174.

McEvenue, S. *Interpretation and Bible. Essays on Truth in Literature*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1994.
 _____ and Ben F. Meyer. *Lonergan's Hermeneutics: Its Development and Application*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1989

Meyer, Ben. F., *The Aims of Jesus*. London: SCM Press, 1979.

_____. *Critical Realism & the New Testament*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 1989.

Montague, George, T. *Understanding the Bible: A Basic Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised & Enlarged Edition. Paulist Press: New York/Mahwah, NJ: 2007. (STRONGLY SUGGESTED)

Nutting Ralph, Margaret. *A Walk through the New Testament: An Introduction for Catholics*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2009.

Powell, M. A. *What is Narrative Criticism?* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

Stenger, W. *Introduction to New Testament Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. (STRONGLY SUGGESTED)

Throckorton, B. H. Jr. *Gospel Parallels*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992.