

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.

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**TITLE:** Intro to New Testament Hermeneutics

**TERM:** April – August 2018 [20185]

**PROFESSOR:** Rev. Giuseppe Scollo

**SCHEDULE:** Online - Start Date: April 23, 2017;  
- End Date: June 30, 2017.

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO 25 students

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to provide a survey of the New Testament world, authors, and theologies, and to introduce students to the historical-critical and other methods of exegesis (esp., narrative criticism). Attention will be given also to the relation of hermeneutics to Christian theological traditions, as well as to determining, among other things, the senses of Scripture, the intent of the author, the structures in the texts, and the stance of the reader.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

A diligent application of the course material should enable students to:

1. Acquire skills and techniques for fruitful interpretation of the NT in personal reading of it, as an expression of the interplay between intelligent/rational inquiry and the enlightenment of faith.
2. Understand and explain the various methods of New Testament interpretation as either synchronic or diachronic.
3. Articulate the main lines of development in the history of biblical interpretation (and in particular of the interpretation of the NT).
4. Demonstrate appreciation of the issues involved in hermeneutics (or the philosophy of interpretation) and the exigencies involved in reading ancient texts (in particular those of the NT).
5. Apply narrative-critical exegetical skills in the analysis of a text, motif, or character, from either one of the four Gospels or the Acts of the Apostles.

**PREREQUISITES:**

- A PC running Windows XP (or newer) or a Mac running OSX 10.5 (or newer);
- A good internet connection capable of downloading and uploading many large files;
- A word processor (e.g., Microsoft Office) and a pdf reader (e.g., Adobe Acrobat Reader);
- An adequate acquaintance and familiarity with the use of the Blackboard system;
- Sufficient ability to navigate the internet and conduct online research.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*New Testament* (preferably, either *The New American Bible* or *The New Revised Standard Version*).

Montague, G. T. *Understanding the Bible: A Basic Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised & Expanded Edition. New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2007.

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Second Edition. Revised in Accordance with the Official Latin Text promulgated by Pope John Paul II, with Glossary and Analytical Index. Ottawa: CCCB, 1994.

Pontifical Biblical Commission. *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1993.

Vatican Council II. *Dei Verbum. The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*. Nov. 18, 1965.

## POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

1. 3 Unit Discussion Board Assignments (A) & Responses (R): - 30%  
(A + B: Unit 1 = 10%; Unit 2 = 10%; Unit 3 = 10%)
  2. 3 Unit Recapitulation Essays: - 30%  
(Essay 1 = 10%; Essay 2 = 10%; Essay 3 = 10%)
  3. One Final Paper: - 40%
- Total: - 100%

## ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Aichele, G., and Philips, G. A. "Introduction: Exegesis, Eisegesis, Intergesis." In id. (ed), *Intertextuality and the Bible*. Semeia 69/70, 1995, pp. 7-18.
- Anderson, J. C. and Moore, S. D., eds., *Mark and Method. New Approaches in Biblical Studies*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1992.
- Benedict XVI, Pope. *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini. On the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*. Sept. 30, 2010.
- Brown, R. E. "Hermeneutics." In R. E. Brown, J. A. Fitzmyer, and R. E. Murphy (eds.), *The Jerome Biblical Commentary*. London: Geoffrey Chapman Ltd, 1968, pp. 605-623.
- Grech, P. "Jesus Christ in History and Kerygma." In R. C. Fuller, L. Johnston, and C. Kearns (eds.), *A New Catholic Commentary on Holy Scriptures*. London: Nelson, 1969, pp. 822-837.
- Hahn, S. "Inspiration." In id. (ed.), *Catholic Bible Dictionary*. New York, 2009, pp. 381-391.
- Holladay, C. R. "Contemporary Methods of Reading the Bible." In L. E. Keck, et al. (eds.). *The New Interpreter's Bible*. Vol. 1. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994, pp 134-145.
- Hong, K. P. "Synchrony and Diachrony in Contemporary Biblical Interpretation." *The Cath. Bib. Quarterly* 75.3 (2013), pp. 521-539.
- Izquierdo, A. *The Living Word: Introduction to Sacred Scripture*. Rome: Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum, 2004.
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- Mead, J. K. *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods, and Themes*. London/Louisville, KY: Westminster Press, 2007.
- McDonald, L. M. *The Biblical Canon: Its Origin, Transmission, and Authority*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2007.
- Moyise, S. "Intertextuality and the Study of the Old Testament in the New Testament." In id. (ed.), *The Old Testament in the New Testament: Essays in Honor of J. L. North*. JSNTSup 189. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000, pp. 14-41.
- Ratzinger, J. "Biblical Interpretation in Crisis: On the Question of the Foundations and Approaches of Exegesis Today." Lecture delivered on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1988, at Saint Peter's Church, New York, NY, pp. 1-11.
- Resseguie, J. L. *Narrative Criticism of the New Testament: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 2005.
- Stern, D. *Parables in Midrash: Narrative and Exegesis in Rabbinic Literature*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991.
- Stuart, D. "Exegesis." In D.N. Freedman (ed.), *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Vol. 2. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1992, pp. 682-688.
- Tuckett, C. *Reading the New Testament. Methods of Interpretation*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1987.
- Yarchin, W. *History of Biblical Interpretation: A Reader*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2004.
- Young, F. "The Rhetorical Schools and Their Influence on Patristic Exegesis." In R. Williams (ed.), *The Making of Orthodoxy. Essays in Honor of Henry Chadwick*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989, pp. 182-199.