

## Course Description

**Course Number: BI 190**

**Course Title: Engaging the New Testament Narratives**

**Name of Instructor: Troy Troftgruben, Ritva Williams, May Persaud**

**Semester and Year: Spring 2021**

Fulfills the NT-1 requirement (MDiv), open to all, unlimited. Three credit hours, credit or letter grade

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will introduce the cultural world of the NT, engage the canonical Gospels and Acts within their respective contexts, give ample opportunity for interpreting specific NT texts, and foster reflection on teaching these texts in today's world. Through studying the NT narratives, reading outside sources, engaging in translation work, and interpreting selected texts in community, this course introduces the fundamentals of reading, interpreting, and teaching the writings of the New Testament.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To gain deeper appreciation for the vastly different cultural world of the New Testament in which these narratives took shape and these stories took place. (*Practice of Engagement with Cross-cultural and Global Dimensions*)
- To read and study the NT narratives (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts) several times in their entirety, paying close attention to their distinctive messages, theologies, passages, and themes. (*Practice of Biblical and Theological Wisdom*.)
- To interpret individual NT passages (exegesis) through close reading, comparative analysis, use of translation tools, and careful reflection. (*Practices of Curiosity and of Complex Analysis*)
- To teach others significant themes of these narratives through class discussions, questions, and projects. (*Practices of Evangelical Listening and Speaking the Faith to Others*)

**PROCEDURE:** Two weekly meeting times will feature plenary teaching times, small group discussion, and interactive discussion with the professor. Asynchronous distance students will engage the class through prerecorded presentations or class recordings, real-time web-conferencing, and various forms of online interaction. Through these various means, students in all three programs (residential, distance, collaborative) will engage in learning together as a unified class.

**EVALUATION:** will be based on weekly participation and assignments and three major written assignments (an integrative essay, an exegesis paper, and a final project).

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Required: Mark Allan Powell, *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baker: Grand Rapids, 2018. ISBN 9780801099601.

Recommended: *One* of the following study Bibles:

- *The HarperCollins Study Bible NRSV, including the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books*. Edited by H.W. Attridge. Atlanta: SBL, 2006.
- *The New Interpreter's Study Bible, NRSV with the Apocrypha*. Edited by W.J. Harrelson. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.
- *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. Edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: NRSV*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Edited by Michael Coogan, Marc Z. Brettler, Carol Newsom, and Pheme Perkins. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.