

Oklahoma State University

REL 2023.68427 The New Testament and Its Study

H Credit

Fall 2022 MWF 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm

Agricultural Hall 107



[Left] P90, Gospel of John (18:36-19:7), 2nd century CE.

INSTRUCTOR

NAME: Jin Young Kim (jinkim@okstate.edu)

OFFICE: 254 Social Sciences & Humanities

OFFICE HOURS: Send me an Email for either in-person or Zoom appointment.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

NAME: Zachariah Schelin (zscheli@okstate.edu)

OFFICE HOURS:

CONTACTING INSTRUCTOR AND TEACHING ASSISTANT

*The best way to reach us is via email. Please feel free to email us anytime, for anything. When you send us emails, please have your NAME, REL 2023, AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC in the subject of your email. Ex. "Bart Simpson, REL 2023, Questions about assignment" Please allow us 24 hours for response. If you don't get an answer by this time frame, do not hesitate to send us a reminder email.

COVID-19 OSU Statement Updated 8/15/2022

"OSU encourages faculty, staff and students to wear a mask indoors in public settings during periods of high community transmission regardless of whether you are fully vaccinated, consistent with the current CDC recommendations. This is especially important in classrooms and laboratories because people are together for long periods of time. Wearing a mask during class not only protects you but also helps protect those around you who may be more vulnerable. This is a simple way we can look out for all members of the Cowboy family. If you feel sick, do not attend class. Contact University Health Services at 405-744-7665 immediately, and communicate with me as soon as possible about any work you miss."

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is the New Testament? While most of us might know that it is the holy book of Christianity, not many of us had many chances to ask questions like: When and how was it made into the form we have now? Who wrote it in what contexts? Why do we see some conflicting images about Jesus, Paul, and early churches in the NT? How can we interpret some of its difficult passages? To answer these questions, this course introduces students to the historical-critical study of the New Testament in its ancient cultural, political, and social context. We will approach the NT with a scholarly lens, reading it as a collection of 27 texts that we can critically (not cynically) analyze and think with.

COURSE OUTLINE

1) We begin by considering the distinctive ways in which biblical scholars read and interpret the NT writings, how the NT canon was made, and the historical contexts of the birth of Christianity. 2) We then turn to the letters of Paul, which tell us a lot about the earliest Jesus communities and issues they had to deal with. We will briefly look into Deutero-Pauline letters that continued Paul's legacy. 3) Then we proceed to the gospels and see how they present Jesus' ministry and its significance for believers living 40-70 years after his death, in the changed social and political context after the First Jewish War (66-70 CE). We will consider Acts of the Apostles here as well. 4) Then we go on to understand the fascinating but seemingly mysterious text, the Revelation of John, in consideration of the ancient literary genre called apocalyptic literature and its historical context. 5) We end the course with a brief discussion on the remaining texts of the NT and the development of Christianity from the second century and on.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

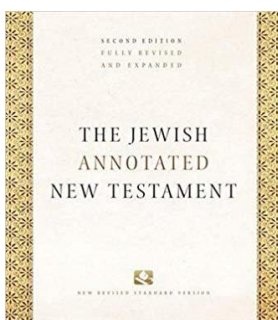
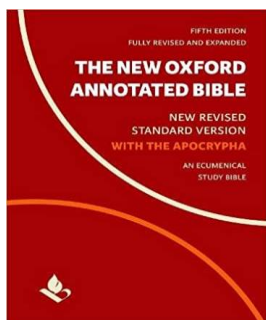
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand different perspectives in reading the NT and reflect upon their own views.
2. Know the historical-critical method in approaching the NT and practice analyzing selected NT passages on their own.
3. Able to read each of the NT writings as a distinctive, individual text produced in different historical and communal contexts with different agendas and thoughts.
4. Critically think about the larger political and social implications that a particular biblical interpretation imports in human history.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

You need to have access to these items:

1. A notepad or piece of paper for daily attendance/participation check
2. The Holy Bible (preferred translations: NRSV, NASB, ESV; not preferred: NIV, KJV): If you do not have the Bible and want to purchase one, I recommend one of these:
 - A. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*. 4th edition. New York: Oxford University, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-195-28960-2
 - B. *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University, 2017. ISBN: 978-0-190-46185-0.
 - C. Accessing online at <https://www.biblegateway.com> (Make sure to choose the preferred translations of NRSV, NASB, or ESV)



3. Additional Readings: For all other readings (including BINT *Brief Introduction to the New Testament*) and assignments outside of the course textbook, please see Canvas.

MEDIA POLICY

Cellphones (except emergency calls and texts) are not to be used during the lecture. Laptops and tablets may be used, but only for the purpose of taking notes, not for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, browsing, shopping, doing other homeworks, etc. Why these restrictions (in the 21st century?) I know that this policy can be disappointing or annoying to some, but there's a considerable body of scientific research showing that multitasking seriously hinders our learning. Attentive listening to each lecture (even if sometimes it can get boring) is crucial to do well in this class. You are also helping me out by not distracting me but allowing me to focus on you and delivering the lectures. Let's spend 50 minutes fully devoted to the topic of religion!

EVALUATION

Grades will be based on the quality and completion of tasks:

Total (100%; 100 points)	Explanation (For due dates, see the Course Schedule below)
Attendance/Participation participation (20%; 20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance is required and vital for your success in this course. ● Attendance/Participation will be checked with random quizzes on the readings and lectures, participation questions, short in-class essays, reflections, etc. ● Bring a piece of paper and pencil every time so that you can submit your Attendance/Participation sheets. ● You will lose approximately half point (0.5 points) for every absence or failure to fully participate (incomplete or unthought answers). ● The only officially excused absences (no deduction) are for official OSU responsibilities or medical reasons. For unexpected absences due to these reasons, please send an email to your TA. ● You can use bonus assignments to regain missing points.
Module Quizzes (20%; 20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Once we finish a module on a certain topic, a Module Quiz will be published. You have a week to submit your answers. There will be a 20% deduction per day after the due date. ● These quizzes cover assigned readings and lectures. Quizzes are designed 1) to review the materials you learned in class and 2) to encourage you to keep up with the assigned readings. Some questions will cover the important concepts and passages discussed during the lecture. Some of the questions

	<p>will cover details that you can only find out by reading the assigned readings (this is to promote your self-learning habit).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will have three attempts to get the full score. So try to get 100% for every Module Quiz. • You will find many Module Quizzes on your midterm and final exam (about 70% - some identical, some slightly modified), so try to do your best studying for these quizzes and fully understanding the contents.
Midterm Exam (17.5%; 15 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class, 50 min. Closed book. • Multiple-choice questions. Covers the materials from the beginning of the course ~ Pauline letter. • About 70% of the exam will be coming from Module Quizzes (some identical, some slightly modified). 30% from lectures and readings. • If you requested special accommodations through Student Accessibility Services (SAS), schedule your exam with the Testing Center (strongly preferably on the exam date) and let me know asap so that I can send the exam over to them before the exam date.
Final Exam (17.5%; 17.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec 14th (Wednesday), In-class, 50 min. Closed book. • Multiple-choice questions. Not cumulative. After midterm ~ end of the course. • About 70% of the exam will be coming from Module Quizzes (some identical, some slightly modified). 30% from lectures and readings. • If you requested special accommodations through Student Accessibility Services (SAS), schedule your exam with the Testing Center (strongly preferably on the exam date) and let me know asap so that I can send the exam over to them before the exam date.
Essay 1: Hypothetical Letter of Paul (12.5%; 12.5points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 750 words (1 ½ pages single spaced) • TBD
Essay 2 (12.5%; 12.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 750 words (1 ½ pages single spaced) • Topic: TBD

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

101 Whitehurst/405-744-5627/http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu

OSU is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and altering academic records) will result in an official academic sanction. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript, and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge.

STUDENTS WITH PHYSICAL OR LEARNING DISABILITIES

If you need special accommodations the University will try to make appropriate arrangements. These arrangements will need to be made ahead of time through the Student Disability Services Office, 315 Student Union (Phone: 405-744-7116; Website: <https://sds.okstate.edu/>).

COURSE SCHEDULE

* Schedule is subject to change at instructor discretion. Please check the updates regularly by visiting this Google Doc syllabus page.

Wk	Dates	Topics	Readings/Assignments
1	Aug 22 Mon	Introduction to the course: Syllabus, Canvas	Read Syllabus carefully, check out Canvas, schedule your study plan for this semester
	Aug 24 Wed	Approaches to the New Testament	BINT pp.1-12
	Aug 26 Fri	Methodologies for the NT Study	BINT pp.1-12
2	Aug 29 Mon	Formation of the NT (1)	BINT pp.1-12
	Aug 31 Wed	Formation of the NT (2)	BINT pp.1-12
	Sep 2 Fri	Formation of the NT (3)	BINT pp.1-12 Module Quiz 1 Published
3	Sep 5 Mon	University Holiday: No Class	
	Sep 7 Wed	Social, Cultural, Historical Contexts of the Jesus Movement (1)	BINT pp. 13-44
	Sep 9 Fri	Social, Cultural, Historical Contexts of the Jesus Movement (2)	BINT pp. 13-44 Module Quiz 1 DUE 11:59pm
4	Sep 12 Mon	Social, Cultural, Historical Contexts of the Jesus Movement (3)	BINT pp. 13-44 Module Quiz 2 Published
	Sep 14 Wed	Paul: Mission and Letters Overview(1)	BINT pp.181-199
	Sep 16 Fri	Paul: Mission and Letters Overview(2)	BINT pp.181-199
5	Sep 19 Mon	1 Thessalonians: How did Paul found a church?	1 Thessalonians (Select Passages); BINT 201-215 Module Quiz 2 DUE 11:59pm
	Sep 21 Wed	1 & 2 Corinthians: Main issues of the early Church (1)	1-2 Corinthians(Select Passages); BINT 216-231
	Sep 23 Fri	1 & 2 Corinthians: Main issues of the early Church (2)	1-2 Corinthians(Select Passages); BINT 216-231
6	Sep 26 Mon	1 & 2 Corinthians: Main issues of the early Church (3)	1-2 Corinthians(Select Passages); BINT 216-231 Module Quiz 3 Published

	Sep 28 Wed	Romans (1): Theological issues	Romans(Select Passages); BINT 250-263
	Sep 30 Fri	Romans (2): Theological issues	Romans(Select Passages); BINT 250-263
7	Oct 3 Mon	Romans (3): Theological issues	Romans(Select Passages); BINT 250-263 Module Quiz 3 DUE 11:59pm
	Oct 5 Wed	Romans (4): Homosexuality	Romans(Select Passages); BINT 250-263
	Oct 7 Fri	Paul on Women and Slavery (1)	Philemon; 1 Cor 7, 11, 14; Galatians 3; Ephesians 5, 6; Colossians 3; 1 Timothy 2; Titus 2
8	Oct 10 Mon	Paul on Women and Slavery (2)	Philemon; 1 Cor 7, 11, 14; Galatians 3; Ephesians 5, 6; Colossians 3; 1 Timothy 2; Titus 2 Module Quiz 4 Published
	Oct 12 Wed	First Jewish War, Historical Jesus, and the Synoptic Problem (1)	BINT pp. 45-57, 127-152, 153-162
	Oct 14 Fri	No Class	Essay 1 (Hypothetical Letter of Paul) DUE 11:59pm
9	Oct 17 Mon	Midterm Exam	Module Quiz 4 DUE 11:59pm
	Oct 19 Wed	First Jewish War, Historical Jesus, and the Synoptic Problem (2)	BINT pp. 45-57, 127-152, 153-162
	Oct 21 Fri	Synoptic Problem (cont'd); Gospel of Mark (1)	Gospel of Mark; BINT 59-75
10	Oct 24 Mon	Gospel of Mark (2)	Gospel of Mark; BINT 59-75
	Oct 26 Wed	Gospel of Mark (3)	Gospel of Mark; BINT 59-75 Module Quiz 5 Published
	Oct 28 Fri	Gospel of Matthew (1)	Gospel of Matthew (Select Passages); BINT 76-93
11	Oct 31 Mon	Gospel of Matthew (2)	Gospel of Matthew (Select Passages); BINT 76-93
	Nov 2 Wed	Gospel of Matthew (3)	Gospel of Matthew (Select Passages); BINT 76-93

			Module Quiz 5 DUE 11:59pm Module Quiz 6 Published
	Nov 4 Fri	Gospel of Luke & Acts of the Apostles (1)	Gospel of Luke, Acts of the Apostles (Select Passages), 94-110; 163-180
12	Nov 7 Mon	Gospel of Luke & Acts of the Apostles (2)	Gospel of Luke, Acts of the Apostles (Select Passages), 94-110; 163-180
	Nov 9 Wed	Gospel of Luke & Acts of the Apostles (3)	Gospel of Luke, Acts of the Apostles (Select Passages), 94-110; 163-180 Module Quiz 6 Published
	Nov 11 Fri	Gospel Forms	
13	Nov 14 Mon	Gospel of John (1)	Gospel of John (Select Passages); BINT 111-126
	Nov 16 Wed	Gospel of John (2)	Gospel of John (Select Passages); BINT 111-126 Module Quiz 6 DUE 11:59pm
	Nov 18 Fri	No class: instructor gone for a conference	
14	Nov 21 - 25	Thanksgiving Holiday: No class	
15	Nov 28 Mon	Gospel of John (3)	Gospel of John (Select Passages); BINT 111-126 Module Quiz 7 Published
	Nov 30 Wed	Revelation of John (1)	Revelation of John (Select Passages); BINT 334-348
	Dec 2 Fri	Revelation of John (2)	Revelation of John (Select Passages); BINT 334-348
16	Dec 5 Mon	Pre-Finals Week: Revelation of John (3)/Conclusion	Module Quiz 7 DUE 11:59pm Module Quiz 8 Published
	Dec 7 Wed	Pre-Finals Week: No class	
	Dec 9 Fri	Pre-Finals Week: No class	
17	Dec 12 Mon	Finals week: no class	Module Quiz 8 DUE 11:59pm
	Dec 14 Wed	Finals week: Final Exam 10:00-11:50am In-Class	

	Dec 16 Fri	Finals week: no class	Essay 2 DUE 11:59pm
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