

**THE NEW TESTAMENT
SPRING 2009**

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Required Books

James W. Aageson, <i>In the Beginning: Critical Concepts for the Study of the Bible</i> . Boulder, Colorado: Westview, 2000. [ISBN 0-8133-6620-8]	[\$32.00/\$24.00]
Raymond E. Brown, <i>An Introduction to the New Testament</i> . New York: Doubleday, 1997. [ISBN 0-385-24767-2]	[\$55.00/\$41.25]
Kurt Aland, <i>Synopsis of the Four Gospels</i> . Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994. [ISBN 0-8267-0500-6]	[\$29.99/\$22.50]
Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., <i>How Do Catholics Read the Bible?, Come and See</i> . Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005. [ISBN 0-7425-4871-6]	[\$19.95/\$14.95]
New Testament Workbook (to be distributed in class on the first night)	[\$3.00]

Recommended Book

The Catholic Study Bible (NAB). New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. [ISBN 0-19-528279-5] [\$45.00/\$33.75]
Please feel free to use whatever version of the Bible you have; you do not need to purchase this version. The two most commonly assigned versions of the Bible for academic study are the New American Bible (NAB) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

Course Description and Objectives

In this course, we will take a look at a representative sampling of the 27 books in the New Testament, as well as some of the books that didn't make it into the canon. We will study not only the form, content, social setting and theological perspectives of the texts, but also some of the methods of exegesis used by scholars around the world today and what the Catholic Church teaches about biblical reading and study.

Since this is the New Testament core course, it is an introduction not only to the New Testament but also to the disciplines of academic inquiry in general and biblical study in particular. Aageson's book and Brown's introductory section will provide orientation to critical study, and from there we will work with the basic tools of New Testament exegesis in class (concordance, synopsis, biblical commentaries, Bible dictionaries, journal abstracts), so that you can use them fruitfully in your final exegetical research paper. This course will also introduce you to the library itself, and its online resources, as lifelong tools for biblical study.

Course Requirements

Weekly Reading

After the first week, each week you will read at least one New Testament book along with some contemporary scholarship on it.

- *Read effectively:* Our focus is the primary (ancient) reading in the New Testament, so focus your deeper reading energy and analysis on that.
- *Read efficiently:* For the primary reading, take notes so that you can bring observations and questions to class. Read the secondary reading more quickly as a kind of overview of the NT and its world. If you try to catch every detail, you will fall behind quickly! In Brown's book, you are never required to read the section titled "General Analysis of the Message," where he discusses the text in detail in commentary style. If a particular episode or argument in the NT text interests you, you might drop in to Brown's discussion of that short passage, but again, it's not required.

Course Requirements (continued)

Attendance & Participation

Class meetings will include some lecture, class discussion and small-group work. Please complete the readings in advance of the class for which they are assigned. Should illness or circumstance necessitate absence, please leave word in advance of class by phone or e-mail. 35% of grade.

Weekly Exercises

There are seven exercises scheduled during the quarter. Some will be done in-class, some will be done in-class and completed outside of class, and some will be prepared entirely outside of class. The first four are designed to expose you to some of the tools needed for biblical research to prepare you for your own project. The remaining exercises give you practice with rhetorical criticism, which is a useful method for analyzing the 21 letters in the NT. An attempt has been made to place those exercises requiring "home" work on lighter reading days. 35% of grade.

Exegetical Paper

A 12-15 page exegetical research paper will be required, due on our last class night (Tuesday, June 12, during finals week). In it, you will explore the social context, theological content, and pastoral significance of one passage or theme in one New Testament text, using an explicit critical method (such as redaction criticism or rhetorical criticism). The reading load in this course is front-loaded, so that you should have more time in the last month to prepare your paper. 30% of grade.

Schedule of Topics

Wk	Date	Pgs	Topic for Reflection & Discussion
1	3/31	[31]	THE HISTORY OF NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLARSHIP & AN INTRODUCTION TO ITS TOOLS <u>Secondary Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Church context:</i> Harrington chs. 1 and 3 <p><i>Have a blessed Triduum!</i></p>
2	4/7	[120]	THE GOSPEL OF MARK <u>Primary Reading:</u> Mark [the version in the New Testament Workbook] <u>Secondary Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Textual Commentary:</i> Brown ch. 7• <i>General Background:</i> Brown ch. 6 (chs. 1 and 3 are optional)• <i>Method:</i> Aageson chs. 1 and 5-9• <i>Church context:</i> Optional - Harrington chs. 4 and 6 <p><i>Exercise #1: Method: Narrative Criticism, A Plotting Exercise (homework, due in class tonight)</i></p> <p><i>Exercise #2: Tools: Using Biblical Research Tools (in-class)</i></p>
3	4/14	[125]	THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW <u>Primary:</u> Matthew; please bring Aland to class <u>Secondary:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Textual Commentary:</i> Brown ch. 8• <i>Social Context:</i> Brown ch. 5• <i>Method:</i> Aageson 27-33• <i>Church context:</i> Harrington ch. 5 <p><i>Exercise #3: Using a Synopsis</i> <i>Method, Redaction Criticism (in-class; follow-up homework exercise due next week)</i></p>

Wk	Date	Topic for Reflection & Discussion
4	4/21 [125]	<p>THE GOSPEL OF LUKE & ACTS OF THE APOSTLES</p> <p><u>Primary:</u> Luke, Acts 1:1–5:11; 9–11; 15–18; please bring Aland to class</p> <p><u>Secondary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Textual Commentary:</i> Brown ch. 9 (ch. 10 is optional) • <i>Social Context:</i> Brown ch. 4 • <i>General Background:</i> Brown ch. 6 (pp. 111-22) • <i>Method:</i> Aageson ch. 4 <p><i>Exercise #3 due in class</i></p> <p><i>In-class introduction to New Testament Abstracts</i></p>
5	4/28 [96]	<p>THE GOSPEL OF JOHN & THE Gnostic GOSPELS</p> <p><u>Primary:</u> John, selections from the Gnostic Gospels (ERes); please bring Aland to class</p> <p><u>Secondary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Textual Commentary:</i> Brown ch. 11 • <i>Method:</i> Aageson ch. 12 • <i>Church context:</i> Harrington ch. 2 <p><i>Exercise #4: Tools: Using New Testament Abstracts (homework; due in class)</i></p> <p><i>In-class introduction to the ATLA Database</i></p>
6	5/5 [37]	<p>THE HISTORICAL JESUS</p> <p><u>Secondary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Method:</i> Murphy, <i>The Historical Jesus for Dummies</i>, chapter 3, pp. 33-46 (ERes); Brown, Appendix 1, “The Historical Jesus,” pp. 817-30 <p><i>Exercise #5: Tools: Using the ATLA database</i> <i>Submitting a Research Proposal (homework; due in class)</i></p>
7	5/12	<p>CLASS CANCELLED</p> <p><i>The professor has a speaking engagement in Livermore. It’s recommended that you use this week to get a jump start on your exegetical research paper.</i></p>
8	5/19 [88]	<p>PAUL</p> <p><u>Primary:</u> 1 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians</p> <p><u>Secondary:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Textual Commentary:</i> Brown chs. 18 and 22 • <i>General Background:</i> Brown chs. 15-16 <p><i>Exercise #6: Method: Historical Jesus Research (homework; due in class)</i></p> <p><i>Exercise #7: Method: Rhetorical Criticism (in-class; follow-up homework exercise due next week)</i></p>

Wk	Date		Topic for Reflection & Discussion
9	5/26	[69]	PAUL <u>Primary:</u> Galatians, Romans <u>Secondary:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Textual Commentary:</i> Brown chs. 19 and 24 • <i>General Background:</i> Brown ch. 17 <i>Exercise #7 due in class</i>
10	6/2	[54]	THE "DEUTERO-PAULINE" CORPUS & THE ACTS OF PAUL & THECLA <u>Primary:</u> Ephesians 5; 1 Timothy; <i>Acts of Paul and Thecla</i> (ERes) <u>Secondary:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Textual Commentary:</i> Brown chs. 28 and 30 • <i>General Background:</i> Brown ch. 25
11	6/9	[62]	REVELATION <u>Primary:</u> Revelation <u>Secondary:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Textual Commentary:</i> Brown ch. 37 • <i>Method:</i> Ageson ch. 13 • <i>Church context:</i> Optional - Harrington chs. 5 and 7-8 <i>Exegetical Paper due in class tonight</i>