



Santa Clara University
Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries
PMIN 210: The New Testament
Winter 2024 (Online)

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the socio-historical contexts, literary characteristics, theological messages, and pastoral challenges of the New Testament text, with special attention to the methodology of biblical exegesis for contemporary Christian communities.

Class Schedule

Class meets online every Tuesday beginning 1/9/23 and ending 3/12/23.

Course Learning Objectives

The following are GPPM program learning outcomes (LO) for this core course on the New Testament:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate a broad and deep understanding of the New Testament in the following ways [LO 1]:
 - a. Demonstrate understanding of the principles, approaches and methods of biblical interpretation, with a special focus on Catholic biblical interpretation.
 - b. Study the social, historical, political and cultural context of the New Testament world, especially as those factors operated in the transformation of the ministry and teachings of Jesus into their final form of the New Testament.
 - c. Comprehension of the variety of New Testament genres and their rhetorical proclivities.
 - d. Employing the principle themes of New Testament theology as they integrate with pastoral ministry.
2. Students will study the New Testament primarily through the lens of pastoral ministry and which will include the following [LO 2]:
 - a. Identify the social justice dimensions of the New Testament and their challenge to contemporary ministry.
 - b. Explore early Christian leadership and community in the New Testament and its challenges for discipleship and pastoral ministry in our diverse local and global worlds.
 - c. Draw inspiration from Jesus' inclusive ministry and its laser focus on those in need as narrated in the New Testament and reflection on its challenges and implications for ministry today.

Required Books:

David A. De Silva, *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Second Edition. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2018. [978-0830852178] [Amazon: print: \$24.69; e-book \$25.17] (Required)

John R. Donahue, S.J., *Seek Justice That You May Live: Reflections and Resources on the Bible and Social Justice*. Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 2014. [9780809148745] [Print: \$11.91-\$18.67; e-book: \$23.97] (Required)

Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., *How Do Catholics Read the Bible?* (The Come and See Series). Maryland: Rowan & Littlefield, 2005. [ISBN 9780742548718] [Print: \$13.17-\$18.64/ E-book: \$13.79] (Recommended, not required)

While you are free to use any version of the Bible, (it is important that it be a "Bible" with both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, as so much of the New Testament rests upon the Hebrew Scriptures for understanding and interpretation), there are two recommended versions or translations: the *New American Bible Revised Edition* (can be accessed online for free @ <http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm>) OR the *New Revised Standard Version* (also accessible online for free @ <http://biblia.com/books/nrsv/article/TITLE>). This is the primary text for the class.

There will be additional readings and materials posted on the Camino course website throughout the quarter.

Course Requirements

1] *Class Attendance and Participation* (20% of Final Grade)

This involves both attendance at sessions (online) and full participation.

2] *Weekly Assignments on the New Testament* (30% of Final Grade)

These assignments will involve reflecting and writing on specific passages under study and their impact and connection with ministry, as well as using specified interpretive approaches. The assignments will take two forms: one starting with the text and its analysis and moving to pastoral or ministerial application, the other starting with a case study from ministry that embodies a theme or aspect of specific section of the NT under study and exploring the ancient and contemporary contexts for their resonances. [LO 1 & 2]

3] *In Class Presentation* (25% of Final Grade)

Students will select a social justice or pastoral issue and provide a presentation to the class employing the New Testament in addressing the issue. These presentations will be integrated into our final Saturday gathering. Guidelines for the project will be provided. [LO 1 & 2]

4] *Final Project – Exegesis Paper* (25% of Final Grade)

A] A 8-10-page exegesis paper. Throughout the quarter, we will be examining the social, historical, and theological dimensions of the New Testament,

specifically as they involve pastoral ministry. In addition, we will explore various critical methods for interpretation throughout the quarter and explore the steps in writing an exegesis paper. [LO 1]

Preparing for Class

All reading assignments will be listed on Camino. The primary reading for each session is always the assigned portion of the New Testament under study. The two required texts, the one by DeSilva primarily and the other by Donahue, will assist in providing background and some of the key literary and historical aspects of the text under examination. For various session, specific themes that predominate in NT reading will be divided among the students. These themes will be the focus of our discussion and consideration each week. Students will focus in their reading on the assigned theme, select a passage from the NT text under study that illustrates that theme, respond to an assignment prompt about that passage as it relates to the entire text and relate their reflections to ministry. We will probe and discuss those selections in class sessions and are referred to above as "Weekly Assignments on the New Testament."

Schedule of our New Testament Study (full assignments posted on Camino)

- 1/9 6:00 PM-9:00 PM
- The Bible and NT: History, Literature and Theology
 - Introductory Concerns
 - NT World
 - Interpretive Methods
 - Introduction to the Gospels
- 1/16 6:00-9:00 PM
- The Gospel according to Mark
- 1/23 6:00-9:00 PM
- The Gospel according to Matthew
- 1/30 6:00-9:00 PM
- Luke-Acts: The Gospel of Luke (Volume 1) and Acts of the Apostles (Volume 2)
- 2/6 6:00-9:00 PM
- John
- 2/13 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- Gospel of John
 - Biblical Christology: Jesus in the Gospels
 - Gospels and Pastoral Ministry
 - Biblical Research Tools and Resources
 - Exegesis Paper Project
 - Introduction to Paul, the Pastoral Minister
- 2/20 6:00-9:00 PM
- Galatians, Corinthians, Philippians & Philemon
- 2/27 6:00-9:00 PM
- Romans
- 3/5 6:00-9:00 PM
- Other NT Letters

- Cook of Revelation
- 3/12 6:00–9:00 PM
- Group Project Presentations

Disabilities Syllabus Statement

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, www.scu.edu/disabilities as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through Disabilities Resources, please discuss them with me during my office hours. Students who have medical needs related to pregnancy or parenting may be eligible for accommodations.

While I am happy to assist you, I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from Disabilities Resources. The Disabilities Resources office will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assisted technology. (Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible). Disabilities Resources must be contacted in advance to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. The Disabilities Resources office would be grateful for advance notice of at least two weeks. For more information, you may contact Disabilities Resources at 408-554-4109.

Title IX Syllabus Statement

Santa Clara University upholds a zero tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence or stalking, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please go to www.scu.edu/studentlife and click on the link for the University's [Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie at [408-554-3043](tel:408-554-3043) or by email at bguthrie@scu.edu. Reports may be submitted online through www.scu.edu/osl/report or anonymously through Ethicspoint: www.ethicspoint.com

Academic Integrity Policy

The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course. In addition, a student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University as a result of the student judicial process as described in the Community Handbook. A student who violates copyright laws, including those covering the copying of software programs, or who knowingly alters official academic records from this or any other institution is subject to similar disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity Pledge

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:

I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code.

Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. For more information about Santa Clara University's academic integrity pledge and resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see www.scu.edu/academic-integrity.