



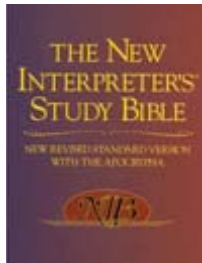
Course of Study

Experiential and Collaborative Learning

COS_511: New Testament II COURSE SYLLABUS

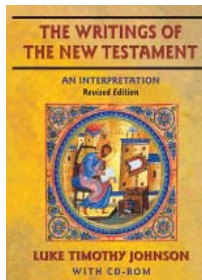
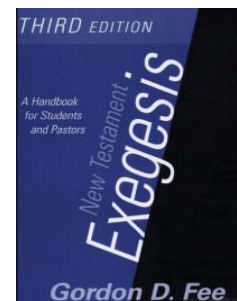
Required Texts

Books can be ordered through Cokesbury online at cokesbury.com, by telephone at 800-672-1789 or through Amazon online at amazon.com. Other major booksellers, like Barnes and Noble (bn.com) and Borders (bordersstores.com), may also carry these books in stores and online.



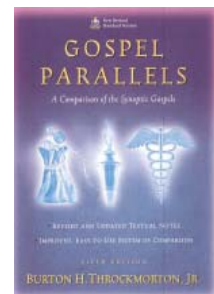
The New Interpreter's Study Bible. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). Walter J. Harrelson, General Editor. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-0-68727-832-9. Recommended.

New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors. Third Edition. Gordon D Fee. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. ISBN: 978-0-66422-316-8.



The Writings of the New Testament: An Introduction. Luke Timothy Johnson. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1999. ISBN: 978-0-80063-439-1.

Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels. Fifth Edition. Burton Throckmorton, Jr. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992. ISBN: 978-0-84077-484-2.





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Introduction

This course continues the third year New Testament course, but focuses on the exegesis of assigned texts. It emphasizes the integration of previous learning in exegesis and biblical studies with contextualization in the practice of ministry. Special emphasis includes the books of Matthew, John, James, and Revelation.

Objectives:

- Improvement of the student's ability to effectively use scripture in the preparation of sermons and Bible studies.
- Deepening of the student's understanding of the various assigned biblical passages.
- Strengthening the student's skills in using critical methods for biblical study.
- Development of a rationale for the hermeneutical task.
- Relating of the process of exegesis with sound hermeneutical methods for the student's pastoral role.
- Assisting the student in relating the eternal biblical message to the context of ministry.

Module 1: The Gospel According to Matthew

- ***New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*** (preferably ***The New Interpreter's Study Bible***)
The Gospel According to Matthew.
- ***The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*** (Johnson)
"The Gospel of Matthew (pp. 187–211).
- ***New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*** (Fee)
- ***Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels*** (Throckmorton),
Paragraph 19 (p. 25), The Beatitudes.

Assignment 1.1: Read the Gospel according to Matthew in the NRSV. Read Johnson, Chapter 8, "The Gospel of Matthew" (pages 187–211). Then write an eight-page paper in which you answer the five questions that Johnson asks on page 207:

1. Why is Matthew's Gospel appropriately called "the gospel of the church"?
2. What role do the infancy narratives play in Matthew's Gospel?
3. How does Matthew's Gospel portray Jesus in chapters 5-7 (the Sermon on the Mount)?
4. What are the basic differences in the portrayals of Jesus in Mark and Matthew?
5. How is Torah central to the symbolism of Matthew's Gospel?

Total Value: 7 points



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Assignment 1.2: Based on your reading of the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3–12), Johnson's Writings, Fee's book on how to do New Testament exegesis, and other resources that you find helpful, write a ten-page exegetical paper on The Beatitudes in which you interpret each of the beatitudes individually, reflecting on the issues that surface in their interpretation and how each of the beatitudes speaks to the modern church. **Total Value: 9 points**

Assignment 1.3: Based on your reading of Matthew 13:1–53, Johnson's Writings, Fee's book on how to do New Testament exegesis, and other resources that you find helpful, write a ten-page exegetical paper on the Parables of the Kingdom. Outline Matthew 13 and discuss why Jesus used parables to teach about the Kingdom of God. What do verses 10–17 and 34–35 tell you about why Jesus taught in parables? Pick any one of the Parables of the Kingdom from Matthew 13:1–52 and, using Fee's method of doing New Testament exegesis as your guide, discuss the issues that surface in the interpretation of that parable and how that parable speaks to the Church today. Total Value: 9 points

Assignment 1.4: Based on your reading of Matthew 16:13–28, Johnson's Writings, Fee's book on how to do New Testament exegesis, and other resources that you find helpful, write a ten-page exegetical paper on Matthew 16:13–28. Using Fee's method of doing New Testament exegesis as your guide, discuss the issues that surface in the interpretation of the passage and how the passage speaks to the Church today. **Total Value: 9 points**

Module 2: Synoptic Parallels

- ***Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels*** (Throckmorton), Paragraph 19 (p. 25), The Beatitudes.
Paragraph 45 (pp. 38–39), The Healing of a Leper.
Paragraph 124 (pp. 101–102), The Transfiguration.
Paragraph 236 (pp. 184–185), The Institution of the Lord's Supper.

Assignment 2.1: Read and study the following paragraphs in Throckmorton's Gospel Parallels:

- Paragraph 19, The Beatitudes (page 25).
- Paragraph 45, The Healing of a Leper (pages 38-39).
- Paragraph 124, The Transfiguration (pages 101-102).
- Paragraph 236, The Institution of the Lord's Supper (pages 184-185).

Read each passage in each of the parallel Gospels in which it appears, noting where the parallel Gospels are similar and where they are different. For your reading assignments in Gospel Parallels, you might want to highlight or underline the assigned passages as follows:



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- Blue: Words found identically in Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
- Yellow: Words found identically in Matthew and Mark.
- Red: Words found identically in Matthew and Luke.
- Green: Words found identically in Mark and Luke.

Then, based on your reading of the assigned paragraphs, write a two-page paper on each assigned paragraph of Gospel Parallels. (That is, write a two-page paper on Paragraph 19, a two-page paper on Paragraph 45, a two-page paper on Paragraph 124, and a two-page paper on Paragraph 236.) Discuss in your papers the similarities and differences between the various gospel texts and the significance of these similarities and differences. Why would one Gospel writer record a story or saying one way while another Gospel writer might add or subtract certain things? Do the differences change the meaning of the story or teaching? What might the differences suggest about the varying life situations of the faith communities for which the three Synoptic Gospels were originally written? **Total Value: 7 points**

Module 3: The Gospel According to John

- **New Revised Standard Version of the Bible** (preferably **The New Interpreter's Study Bible**)
The Gospel According to John.
- **The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation** (Johnson)
"The Johannine Traditions" (pp. 521–523).
"The Gospel of John" (pp. 525–557).

Assignment 3.1: Read the Gospel according to John in the NRSV. In Johnson, read "The Johannine Traditions" (pages 521–523) and Chapter 24, "The Gospel of John" (pages 525–557). Then write a twelve-page-paper in which you answer the six questions that Johnson asks on page 553:

1. What effect did the discovery of early fragments of the Gospel of John on papyri (P52, P66, P75) have on the dating of the Gospel?
2. What are some of the key metaphors of the Gospel of John?
3. Identify some of the specific ways in which the Gospel of John is different from the Synoptic Gospels.
4. How does the Gospel of John use irony? Give some examples.
5. What metaphors are used in the "I am" sayings? What is distinctive about these sayings?
6. What is distinctive about the ending of John? What might that tell us about its composition?

Total Value: 9 points

Assignment 3.2: Based on your reading of John 1:1–18, Johnson's Writings, Fee's book on how to do New Testament exegesis, and other resources that you find helpful, write a ten-page exegetical paper on the Prologue to John's Gospel, using Fee's method of doing New Testament exegesis as your guide. Be sure to include in your paper an outline of the passage, a discussion of the Greek word *logos*, and a survey of the major theological themes that surface in the passage, including the themes of the Word and Creation, light and darkness, and the incarnation of the Word. **Total Value: 9 points**



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Assignment 3.3: Based on your reading of John 3:1–21, Johnson's Writings, Fee's book on how to do New Testament exegesis, and other resources that you find helpful, write a ten-page exegetical paper on John's account of Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus, using Fee's method of doing New Testament exegesis as your guide. Indicate who Nicodemus was and where else Nicodemus appears in the Gospel of John. Do you think that what we see of Nicodemus elsewhere in the Gospel of John suggests anything about how his discussion with Jesus in 3:1–21 influenced him? Include in your paper a discussion of the theological issues that surface in John 3:1–21, along with any word studies that might be helpful in interpreting the passage. Be sure to discuss the meaning of the expressions "eternal life" and "born from above," or "born anew," or "born again," and the significance of Jesus' use of the symbols of the wind, light, and darkness.
Total Value: 9 points

Assignment 3.4: For several weeks during the summer of Year B in the Revised Common Lectionary, the Gospel reading comes from John 6. The Revised Common Lectionary divides the readings from John 6 as follows: Verses 1–21, 24–35, 41–51, 51–58, and 56–69. Based on your reading of John 6, Johnson's Writings, Fee's book on how to do New Testament exegesis, and other resources that you find helpful, write a ten-page exegetical paper on one of the lectionary passages from John 6, using Fee's method of doing New Testament exegesis as your guide. **Total Value: 9 points**

Module 4: The Revelation to John

- **New Revised Standard Version of the Bible** (preferably **The New Interpreter's Study Bible**)
The Revelation to John.
- **The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation** (Johnson)
"The Book of Revelation" (pp. 573–592).

Assignment 4.1: Read the Revelation to John in the NRSV. Read Johnson, Chapter 26, "The Book of Revelation" (pages 573–592). Then write a ten-page-paper in which you answer the four questions that Johnson asks on page 589:

1. What do the terms "millenarian" and "apocalyptic" mean? In what senses is Revelation an apocalypse? How is it different?
2. What does Revelation share in common with the Gospel of John in terms of vocabulary, theme, and perspective?
3. How would you state the central message of the letters to the seven churches in your own words? How was this message particularly important in the first century? In what sense is it an enduring message?
4. What role does persecution play in Revelation? What do we know about the persecutions of the early church in the first century?

Total Value: 9 points



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Assignment 4.2: Based on your reading of Revelation 2:1–3:22, Johnson's Writings, Fee's book on how to do New Testament exegesis, and other resources that you find helpful, write a ten-page exegetical paper on one of the letters to the seven churches, using Fee's method of doing New Testament exegesis as your guide. **Total Value: 9 points**

Module 5: The Epistle of James

- ***New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*** (preferably ***The New Interpreter's Study Bible***)
The Letter of James.
- ***The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*** (Johnson)
"The Letter of James" (pp. 507–518).

Assignment 5.1: Read the Letter of James in the NRSV. Read Johnson, Chapter 23, "The Letter of James" (pages 507–518). Then write a six-page-paper in which you answer the four questions that Johnson asks on page 516:

1. What accounts for the marginalization of James in the history of interpretation? If you had been asked, would you include it in the New Testament? Why or why not?
2. What are the most important connections between James and the teachings of Jesus?
3. What books in the Old Testament is James most like? Why?
4. What does James mean by "friendship with the world" (4:4)?

Total Value: 5 points