

Introduction to the New Testament PE 21520

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PURPOSE: To present students with historical and critical tools for reading the scripture and to provide them an opportunity to practice critical reading of some New Testament Text.

BOOKS: Reading the New Testament: Perkins.
The Bible

Assumptions:

1. There is no contradiction between reason and faith.
2. The Bible is human literature as well as divine revelation therefore, it is subject to the same investigation that we reserve for all other types of literature.
3. Even if we believe the Bible itself is infallible, our interpretations are not.
4. Since our interpretations are provisional they can be reviewed, critiqued and revised as we acquire better data.
5. All interpretations are made in the presence of insufficient data, hence we are dealing with inference and theory which should make us uncomfortable with dogmatic claims.
6. Humor can help us become better critics.

Session 1.....Seminar introduction.

WRATEC

NSEW Game.

Orality and Mythopoetic imagination.

Introduction to storytelling, forms and genres:

Midrash.

SESSION 2.....Jewish antecedents of Jesus.

Between Old and New Testaments: Promise and Fall.

SESSION 3....Between Old and New Testaments Pt. 2.

Dominant metaphors: Exodus and Exile.

SESSION 4.....Introduction to the Gospels

Passion Narratives

Miracles

Parables

Infancy Narratives

SESSION 5...REVIEW: EXAM

SESSION 6... Gospel of Mark
Markan community.
Structure
Message

SESSION 7...Gospel of Matthew

SESSION 8...Gospel of Luke

SESSION 9....Gospel of John

SESSION 10...REVIEW AND EXAM.

Requirements:

Seminars and conversations are at the heart of the class. There is no replacing your actual presence in the center of our discourse. Attendance is crucial to the learning process. Please inform me of any anticipated absences so we can make arrangements for the work you miss.

Weekly Writing: You will receive short writing assignments after each class to deepen your inquiry into the questions we open in class. Please have these typed and double spaced.