

EMB1506: Introduction to the Christian Bible – New Testament, Part II

Winter 2016

Tuesday 9:00am – 12:00noon

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Office hours: By appointment

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Purpose

This course is Part Two of a two-part introductory survey course. It aims to acquaint the student with issues that scholars and other attentive readers of the New Testament often have found to be significant in the Pauline Corpus + Catholic Epistles + Revelation. It offers a foretaste of the feast to come for those who would continue in this line of inquiry.

Outcomes

By the end of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe salient features of each of the different books of the New Testament: Pauline Corpus + Catholic Epistles + Revelation
2. Practice diverse methods of biblical interpretation regarding these texts
3. Demonstrate how the social history that they collectively and individually imply is part of the theological vision that they variously create

Methods of Instruction

1. Assigned reading before class
2. Lectures by the instructor
3. Small-group discussions on the basis of specific questions
4. Four written assignments

Student Assessment

Student assessment will be based upon:

1. Regular attendance with informed participation in classroom discussion (10 %)
2. Constructive and insightful contribution to small-group work (15%)
3. Timely and proper completion of four written assignments (75%)

Textbooks

- *The Christian Bible* (including the Apocrypha, and preferably the Revised or New Revised Standard Version)

- Raymond E. Brown. *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997).
- Bart D. Ehrman. *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*, 5th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Accommodations

Students with diverse learning styles are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, I invite you to approach the Accessibility Office as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy

Quoted from *Emmanuel College Policies and Procedures*: “Academic credit for a course requires regular class attendance, unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus. Attendance means being present in the class for the entire scheduled class meeting, not just part of it. In the event of absence for any reason including sickness, students are responsible for any information or class content missed. Students are expected to inform the instructor prior to class. The instructor may require additional work to make up for an absence. The instructor will be required to inform the Basic Degree Committee if students miss three regular classes. For students who miss three regular classes, this may result in a lower grade or even a failing grade for the course. If attendance is poor due to extenuating circumstances, students may petition the Basic Degree Committee to drop a course without academic or financial penalty.”

Course Outline

I. January 12: Introduction to Paul and the *corpus paulinum*

Ehrman 306-323
Brown 409-455

January 19: 1 Thessalonians

Ehrman 324-338
Brown 456-466

1 Thess 4:13-18

II. January 26: 1 Corinthians

Ehrman 339-349
Brown 511-540

1 Cor 15:20-28, 50-52

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

February 2: 2 Corinthians

Ehrman 349-354
Brown 541-558

2 Cor 12:1-7

February 9: Philippians; Philemon

Ehrman 363-371
Brown 483-510

Phil 1:21-24

February 16: NO CLASS – Reading Week!

February 23: Galatians; Romans

Ehrman 354-363, 372-385
Brown 467-482, 559-584

Gal 2:15-21; Rom 15:14-29

III. March 1: Colossians; 2 Thessalonians

Ehrman 397-406
Brown 585-619

Col 3:18-4:1

SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

March 8: Ephesians

Ehrman 406-410
Brown 620-637

Eph 5:22-6:9

March 15: 1 and 2 Timothy; Titus; Hebrews

Ehrman 410-420, 435-444
Brown 638-704

1 Tim 5:1-6:2; Heb 4:14-5:10

IV. March 22:

Acts

Ehrman 154-175
Brown 279-332

Acts 22:22-23:11

THIRD WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

March 29:

James; Jude

Ehrman 474-477, 484-485
Brown 725-760

Jas 2:14-26

April 5:

Revelation; 1 and 2 Peter; 1-3 John

Ehrman 198-216, 454-464, 485-503
Brown 383-405, 705-724, 761-813

Rev 19:11-21; 1 Pet 2:18-3:7

*** April 12:**

NO CLASS – End of Semester!

FOURTH WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE