

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
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ECOS-521 Bible V: Acts, Epistles, and Revelation

This course focuses on the content and contexts of these writings, and the theological emphases of their writers. In addition to Acts and Revelation, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and 1 John will receive special attention. Students will articulate an understanding of unity and authority of scripture.

Learning Objectives

1. Recognize the genres of Historiography, Epistle, Sermon, and Apocalypse and the critical methods appropriate to each genre.
2. Identify the major theological themes in Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, 1 John, and Revelation.
3. Practice an exegetical methodology that is appropriate and helpful for New Testament interpretation through the application of critical methods.
4. Apply exegesis to preaching, teaching, pastoral responsibilities, or issues of the present day.
5. Articulate an understanding of unity & authority of Scripture.

Delivery Method

This course is offered via a hybrid format (a combination of online and face to face learning). A website (often called the “course hub”) has been constructed for delivery of this course prior to our face to face meeting time in July. The website has learning units that will guide you through the work required for this course. Each unit on the website contains information about course content, the required reading, and the required Activities and Homework for that unit. All of the Activities and Homework found on the course website are required and due prior to our meeting time in July. Your instructor will strive to provide feedback to you on your Online Activities and Written Homework within 2-4 weeks after you have submitted the work. This will allow for interaction with your instructor prior to meeting in July. You will have the opportunity to set your own deadlines for completing the Activities and the Homework (see Activity 2 in the Greeting Unit). Other than the final deadline for the Homework (June 15, 2019), the deadlines you set for yourself are flexible and you can revise your deadline schedule anytime and as often as you desire. See the end of this syllabus for a summary of the homework and the online activities.

Required Books

A Bible, preferably one you can mark up (take notes in). Preferred translations include NRSV, NIV, Common English Bible. No King James Version or paraphrases such as *The Message* or *The New Living Translation* or *Good News Bible*. A particularly good choice would be:

The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha, NRSV, College Edition, 4th ed. (2010). (ISBN-13: 9780195289602, Price \$26.19 at BN.com)

Bassler, Jouette M., *Navigating Paul: An Introduction to Key Theological Concepts.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. (ISBN: 0664227414, Price: \$17.87 at BN.com)

Carter, Warren and Levine, Amy-Jill, *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013. (ISBN-13: 9781630885779, Price: \$39.42 at BN.com)

Croy, N. Clayton, *Prima Scriptura: An Introduction to New Testament Interpretation.* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011. (ISBN-13: 9780801035883, Price: \$25.96 at BN.com)

Other Required Resources

Regular internet access is required in order to complete the Activities and access the Homework assignments posted on the course hub (website). See Delivery Method above and the technical requirements available from the Course of Study School Administrator.

Instructions: how to format your Homework

1. Read the assigned pages, take notes and answer the questions completely in your own words, using complete sentences (unless otherwise noted). Do not quote extensively from the texts you read. Digest the ideas and information, and then put them in your own words.
2. Follow the approximate length given for each Homework assignment.
3. Compose your Homework using Word or another program that will allow you to submit a .doc document. Use a 12-point font, either Times New Roman or Arial. One page equals approximately 250 words. Create headers in your document that include your name and the title of the Homework (for example, Homework 15).
4. If you quote from a printed text, you must use quotation marks and note the source (including pages) in parentheses at the end of each usage. Quotations should never be more than a sentence or two long. Ideas and information should be stated in your own words, not in the words of the authors you have read. For assigned texts, you may cite them using the author's last name and page number. For example, (Carter and Levine 34-35). If you refer to books that are not listed on the class reading list, then you must give full bibliographic information.
5. Late Homework is only accepted with prior approval of the Director of the Course of Study School.
6. Have a copy of your Homework available to you during our July meeting time. This can be hard copies or electronic copies accessible on your computer.

7. Please see the next section titled, “Avoiding Plagiarism.”
8. As you complete your Homework assignments, email your .doc as an attachment to your instructor at Rene.Schreiner@Garrett.Edu and send a courtesy copy (cc) to coshomework@garrett.edu. When composing your email, the subject line should include “COS Last name Homework #” with the Homework number included.

Avoiding Plagiarism

A documented case of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism, requires a conference with the student, faculty member, and the Course of Study Director. The professor is required to submit any suspected instances. Following the conference, the faculty member and COS director will determine the appropriate level of grade deduction and required follow-up work from the student. A second instance of documented academic dishonesty may be cause for the student's automatic dismissal from the COS program. See further information about plagiarism below.

****Please note that some faculty use plagiarism detection software to assist in checking submitted work.****

How to Avoid Plagiarism

To avoid plagiarism, use one of the following style manuals on writing and citation. Students are expected to follow the style manual guidelines outlined from either:

- a. Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2007.
- b. *Chicago Manual of Style*. (16th edition). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2010. Web resources for *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* and *Chicago Manual of Style*: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>.

It is also strongly advised that you review the following from the Office of the Provost at Northwestern University about *How to Avoid Plagiarism*:
<http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/students/integrity/plagiarism.html>.

Grading System

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary uses a grading system of A, B, C, D, F or no credit.

Grading Standards:

- A = exceeds expectation for Course of Study
- B = expected quality for Course of Study
- C = passing work but not of expected quality
- D = unacceptable quality (no credit)
- F = fail

In this class, the final grade is calculated as follows (subject to change)

- Pre-class written homework assignments 40%
- Online class participation including assignments and activities 10%
- Face-to-face class participation including assignments and activities 30%
- Final assignment 20%

Five (5) hours of class sessions will be completed using an online format prior to the residential session and fifteen (15) hours will be completed in face-to-face sessions during the residential session.

To complete the five online hours, you may need a Google account.

The Homework Assignments is in addition to the five (5) online and fifteen (15) face to face hours.

Summary of Homework Assignments (Note: this is only a summary! All homework assignments should be completed according to the instructions given on the course Moodle site!)

Homework Assignments 1-7: Four paragraphs each on the seven assigned chapters in Carter and Levine (28 paragraphs total).

Homework Assignments 8-14: Four to six paragraphs each on the seven assigned chapters in Bassler (approximately 35 paragraphs total).

Homework Assignments 15-16: An exegetical research inventory (approximately 4 pages of outline) and an exegetical summary (four paragraphs).

Summary of Online Activities (Note: this is only a summary! All homework activities should be completed according to the instructions given on the course Moodle site and are subject to change!)

A short introductory video.

An introductory survey.

A fillable form to set your own dates for completion of the homework.

A fillable form about genres and critical methods.

A discussion forum to interact with your class colleagues about homework assignments.