

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Introduction to the New Testament (BIBNT500)
FA23
Sept 3 - Dec 13, 2023

Dr. Dong Hyeon Jeong
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Office Hours: By appointment

Tuesday, 6:30-9:30pm, CST (Blended Synchronous)
Main Building, room ###
Teaching Assistant: ###

Course Description

This course equips the participants to critically, (de)constructively, and creatively engage the New Testament. The participants will examine key foundational issues in New Testament scholarship, closely read primary and secondary texts, and reflect upon the interpretative processes and ideologies of various (especially one's own) communities.

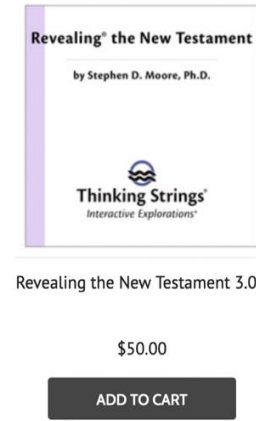
Learning Outcomes

Through reading, listening, discussing, reflecting, and writing, students – after successfully completing this course with a final course grade of B or above – will be able to:

- 1) Identify fundamental concepts, historical contexts, biblical criticisms/hermeneutics, and ideological issues and interpretations of the New Testament.
- 2) Comprehend the literary, theological, and socio-ethical contours of select New Testament texts.
- 3) Analyze the role of contexts and faith in influencing biblical interpretation. By doing so, this class seeks to assist the participants in evaluating contemporary appropriation(s) of the New Testament as a sacred text or an ancient document (depending upon one's perspective).
- 4) Synthesize an exegetical paper based on scaffolding learning process.

Required Materials

- 1) The Bible: Please use your preferred translation.
- 2) Dr. Stephen D. Moore's *Revealing the New Testament* (<https://shop.thinkingstrings.com/> -> "Revealing the New Testament")



3) Other materials are posted on Moodle. We will engage works by scholars such as:
Dr. Margaret Aymer and Dr. Kwok Pui-lan



Course Requirements and Assessments

! All assessments must be submitted on their corresponding due dates. Students have one week to submit late submissions from the due date. After that one week, no assessment will be accepted, and the grade for lateness or the lack of submission will be zero (0) grade/point. For those who need extra time, please consult with the instructor before the due date.

1) Attendance: 10%

- Attendance is of utmost importance because communal learning is one of the hallmarks of theological education. Your presence and participation will assist in creating a learning environment in which we learn from each other.
- If you are unable to join (internet connection, family care, institutional demands, and other reasons), please inform the instructor ahead of time.
- You are allowed to have two absences, no questions asked. If you are going to be absent for more than this, then please inform the instructor. Beyond these two absences, there will be

penalty for absence(s). One absence equals one-point grade deduction. Four absences (excluding the two absences allowed) will lead to failing grade.

- We will follow Garrett's blended synchronous policy.

2a) Ten (10) Weekly Reading Exercise (WRE): 40% [four points each]

- Each WRE worksheet will be posted online. Please submit your responses through Turnitin. The worksheet's questions are based on the reading materials for that week.

- Please submit WRE(s) that correspond(s) to their assigned week(s) **before class**. Late submission will incur grade deduction: one point per day up to maximum deduction of five (5) points. Failure to submit will incur zero (0) point.

- To round up the grading, WRE 10 is free, which means free four (4) points.

2b) Five (5) Weekly Reading Exercise (20%) + Reflection Paper on Dr. Nolasco's book (20%)

- Please work on WRE 1 to 5.

- This option also requires two matters:

= First, please participate in the webinar of Dr. Nolasco's book, *Hearts Ablaze: Parables for the Queer Soul*. The date and time of this event is **TBD**.

= Second, write a two-page reflection paper that engages Dr. Nolasco's book. Here, engaging Dr. Nolasco's book is not about summarizing his work. Rather, it requires these critical engagements:

-> *Agree or disagree* with some key statement and explain why

-> *Identify* something the author is implying or overlooking

-> *Compare and contrast* this author with other ideas/persons

-> *Offer* your own thoughts relative to the subject matter

+ The due date for the reflection paper is on **TBD**.

3) Scaffolded Exegetical Portfolio: 50% (combination of three assessment)

3a) Understanding One's Context: 10%

- Please choose 3 factors (out of 18) that determines your biblical interpretation as listed in Norman Gottwald's article. Please write 1-2 paragraph(s) per factor. These paragraphs should expound upon how they influence/determine your reading of the Bible/New Testament. There is no correct answer to this exercise. What is expected is your genuine, critical, and deep engagement with the factors. If you would like to write about influence(s) that are not listed in Gottwald's article, please do so.

- Please submit it through Turnitin. The due date is **Sept 12th (Tue), 11:59pm CST**.

- Please use professional formatting: Times New Roman font, size 12, one-inch border margin, and double-spaced.

- Grading Rubric:

= Robust and clear exposition of the chosen factors: 60%

= Grammar, syntax, and spelling: 20%

= On-time submission: 20%

3b) Researching One's Topic: 20%

a. Please choose a biblical passage that you would like to write about. The biblical passage could be an entire pericope or a verse. Please write a **short paragraph** on the reason(s) for choosing this biblical passage. For example, you chose this particular biblical passage because it speaks to your current concern, your community's inquiry, a difficult sermon that you have heard before, and/or your academic interest.

b. Please choose three different Bible translations. Then compare and contrast their translations. If you know ancient biblical languages (Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic), then please work with them. Write down their similarities and differences. Then, reflect upon their implications, such as what is being emphasized, debated, added, and/or neglected. This should be around **one to two (1-2) paragraphs**.

c. Please choose two commentaries to work with. Then, please list at least four (4) different types of information from the two commentaries (combined) that you have learned in regard to your biblical passage. See below for approved list of commentaries. This should be around **one to two (1-2) pages**.

d. Please formulate your thesis or at least a trajectory of your thoughts. Please write **one paragraph** about the possible direction of your paper.

- Grading Rubric:

- = (a.) Clear exposition on your reason(s) for choosing the biblical passage: 10%
- = (b.) Convincing comparative analysis of three Bible translations: 10%
- = (c.) Relevant four different types of information from the commentaries: 40%
- = (d.) Thesis or trajectory of your work: 10%
- = Grammar, syntax, and spelling: 10%
- = On-time submission: 20%

- Please submit it through Turnitin. The due date is **Oct 24th (Tue), 11:59pm CST**.

- Please use professional formatting: Times New Roman font, size 12, one-inch border margin, and double-spaced.

3c) Exegetical Writing: 20%

- Please write a **5-6 pages** exegetical paper on your chosen passage. An exegetical paper requires the following:

= Thesis: your argument (not a regurgitation or summary of another person's work)

= In addition to the two commentaries you have already worked with, **please engage an article/book that speaks to your paper**. Engaging the material expects these kinds of analyses:

- > *Agree or disagree* with some key statement and explain why
- > *Identify* something the author is implying or overlooking
- > *Compare and contrast* this author with other ideas/persons
- > *Offer* your own thoughts relative to the subject matter

- Please submit it through Turnitin. The due date is **Dec 12th (Tue), 11:59pm CST**.

- Please use professional formatting: Times New Roman font, size 12, one-inch border margin, and double-spaced.

- Grading Rubric:

- = Convincing thesis: 20%
- = Robust critical engagement with the reading materials: 50%
- = Grammar, syntax, and spelling: 10%
- = On-time submission: 20%

Grading Scale:

- A: 94-100
- A-: 90-93.9
- B+: 87-89.9
- B: 84-86.9
- B-: 80-83.9
- C+: 77-79.9
- C: 74-76.9
- C-: 70-73.9
- D: 60-69.9
- F: below 60

* **Academic Policies:**

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the Academic Handbook for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

= Writing:

- Academic integrity and plagiarism: All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The Turabian Manual for Writers and the Chicago Manual of Style footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online here. In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA).
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing.

= Attendance and Class Participation:

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed. All participants in the teaching and learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.
- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class.
- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At

the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

= Academic Accommodations:

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook. Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.
- Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term.

*** Course Schedule:**

Dates	Topics, Readings, and Assessments
Wks 1 & 2: Sept 5 & 12	<p>* <u>Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary Remarks - Contexts and Ideologies in NT Interpretations - Textual Issues and Canon Formation <p>* <u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moore, Exploring the New Testament (for Weeks 1 to 3) - Norman Gottwald, "Framing Biblical Interpretation." - Watch: "The Danger of a Single Story" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg) <p>* <u>Optional Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hal Taussig, "Introducing a New New Testament." - Lee Martin McDonald, "The Emergence of Christian Scripture" and "The Influence of 'Heresy' and 'Orthodoxy' on Canon Formation." <p>* <u>Assessments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding One's Context Assessment Due: Sept 12th, 11:59pm (CST)
Week 3: Sept 19	<p>* <u>Topic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Testament Backgrounds <p>* <u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Margaret Aymer-Oget, "Rootlessness and Community in Contexts of Diaspora." - Watch: "The Dead Sea Scrolls" by Piled Higher and Deeper - PhD Comics (youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLQB-Y97bxk) <p>* <u>Optional Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leonard J. Greenspoon, "Between Alexandria and Antioch: Jews and Judaism in the Hellenistic Period."

	<p><u>* Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weekly Reading Exercise (WRE) 1
Week 4: Sept 26	<p><u>* Topic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hermeneutics and Criticisms <p><u>* Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kwok Pui-lan, "Reading the Christian New Testament in the Contemporary World." - Musa Dube, "A Postcolonial Feminist Reading of Matthew 15:21-28." - Tat-siong "Benny" Liew, "What is Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics?" <p><u>* Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRE 2
Week 5: Oct 3	<p><u>* Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synoptic Studies - Gospel of Mark <p><u>* Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moore, The Synoptic Problem; and Gospel of Mark - Jin Young Choi, "The Consumed Body: Mark 7:24-30." <p><u>* Optional Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liew, "Re-Mark-able Masculinities? Jesus, the Son of Man, or the (Sad) Sum of Manhood." - Gay Byron, "Ancient Ethiopia and the New Testament: Ethnic (Con)texts and Racialized (Sub)texts." - Shively T.J. Smith, "One More Time with Assata on My Mind: A Womanist Rereading of the Escape to Egypt (Matt 2:13-33) in Dialogue with an African American Woman Fugitive Narrative." <p><u>* Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRE 3
Week 6: Oct 10	<p><u>* Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gospel of Matthew - Gospel of Luke <p><u>* Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moore, Gospel of Matthew; and Gospel of Luke - Elaine M. Wainwright, "Land of the Kauri and the Long White Cloud: Beginning to Read Matthew 1-2 Ecologically." - Nancy Eiesland, "The Disabled God."

	<p><u>* Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRE 4 - Dr. Yeo’s webinar two-page reflection paper due Oct 10th (Mon), 11:59pm CST
<p>Week 7: Oct 17</p>	<p><u>* Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acts of the Apostles - Gospel of John <p><u>* Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moore, Acts of the Apostles; and Gospel and Letters of John (just the Gospel) - Wil Gafney, “Black, Jewish, and Queer: The Ethiopian Eunuch.” <p>Website link: https://www.wilgafney.com/2012/05/04/black-jewish-and-queer-the-ethiopian-eunuch/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adele Reinhartz, “Judaism in the Gospel of John.” <p><u>* Optional Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liew, “Overlapping (His)Stories: Reading Acts in Chinese America” - Daniel Boyarin, “IOUDAIOI in John and the Prehistory of ‘Judaism.’” <p><u>* Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRE 5
<p>Week 8: Oct 24</p>	<p><u>* Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Paul - 1st Thessalonians <p><u>* Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moore, Lives of Paul; Paul, Women, Homosexuality; Letters of Paul (Apocalyptic Thessalonians) - John Byron, “African American Responses to Paul and Slavery.” <p><u>* Optional Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Denise Buell and Johnson Hodge, “The Politics of Interpretation: The Rhetoric of Race and Ethnicity in Paul.” - Melanie Johnson-Debaufre, “‘Gazing Upon the Invisible:’ Archaeology, Historiography, and the Elusive Women of 1 Thessalonians,” in <i>From Roman to Early Christian Thessalonike: Studies in Religion and Archaeology</i>. - Charles H. Cosgrove, “Paul and American Individualism.” - Althea Spencer-Miller, “Lucy Bailey Meets the Feminists.” - Joseph A. Marchal, ed. <i>Bodies on the Verge: Queering Pauline Epistles</i>. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019. - _____, <i>Appalling Bodies: Queer Figures Before and After Paul’s Letters</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

	<p><u>* Assessment:</u> - Researching One's Topic Due: Oct 24th, 11:59pm (CST)</p>
<p>Week 9: Oct 31</p>	<p><u>* Topics:</u> - 1st Corinthians - 2nd Corinthians</p> <p><u>* Readings:</u> - Moore, Letters of Paul (Contentious Corinthians 1, 2, 3) - Antoinette Wire, "Women Prophets in the Corinthian Church."</p> <p><u>* Optional Reading:</u> - Liew, "Redressing Bodies at Corinth: Racial/Ethnic Politics and Religious Difference in the Context of Empire." - Joseph A. Marchal, ed. After the Corinthian Women Prophets: Reimagining Rhetoric and Power. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.</p> <p><u>* Assessment:</u> - WRE 6</p>
<p>Week 10: Nov 7</p>	<p><u>* Topics:</u> - Galatians - Romans</p> <p><u>* Readings:</u> - Moore, Letters of Paul (Anguished Apostle + Judaism after Jesus: Romans) - K. K. Yeo, "Navigating Romans through Cultures."</p> <p><u>* Optional Reading:</u> - Angela Parker, "Moving from Stifled Breath to Full-Throated Faith." In <i>If God Still Breathes, Why Can't I?</i> (available online through Styberg Library) - David G. Horrell, "Paul and the Redemption of the Cosmos." - Yeo, "Christ and the Earth in Pauline and Native American Understandings."</p> <p><u>* Assessment:</u> - WRE 7</p>
<p>Week 11: Nov 14</p>	<p><u>* Topics:</u> - Philippians - Philemon</p> <p><u>* Readings:</u> - Moore, Letters of Paul (Beloved Philippians + Paul and Slavery: Philemon) - Efrain Agosto, "The Letter to the Philippians."</p>

	<p>* <u>Optional Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eric Barreto, "Philemon." - Joseph A. Marchal, ed. <i>The People Beside Paul: The Philippians Assembly and History from Below</i>. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015. - Jennifer A. Quigley. <i>Divine Accounting: Theo-Economics in Early Christianity</i>. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021. <p>* <u>Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRE 8
Thanksgiving Break: Nov 21st	
<p>Week 12: Nov 28</p>	<p>* <u>Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pseudepigrapha and the General Epistles <p>* <u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moore, Pseudo-Pauline Letters; and General Letters - Dong Hyeon Jeong, "Like a Dog Returns to His Own Vomit: Ruminations on the (Re-)Production of Animalizing Hate in 2nd Peter." <p><u>Optional Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deborah Krause, "1 Timothy." - Timothy B. Cargal, "James." Christopher Hoklotubbe, "Civilized Christ-Followers among Barbaric Cretans and Superstitious Judeans: Negotiating Ethnic Hierarchies in Titus 1:10-14." <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> vol. 140:2, 2021. <p>* <u>Assessments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
<p>Week 13: Dec 5</p>	<p>* <u>Topic:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Book of Revelation <p>* <u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moore, Book of Revelation - Barbara R. Rossing, "Revelation." <p>* <u>Optional Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moore, "Beastly Boasts and Apocalyptic Affects." - Yeo, "Hope for the Persecuted, Cooperation with the State, and Meaning for the Dissatisfied: Three Readings of <i>Revelation</i> from a Chinese Context." <p>* <u>Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRE 9 (please note that there is no WRE 10 because it is free!).

Finals Week	*Assessment: - Exegetical Writing Exercise due: Dec 12 th , 11:59pm (CST)
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* Fall extensions due: ###

* **Select Bibliography:**

- Aymer, Margaret, Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, and David A. Sánchez, eds. *Fortress Commentary on the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.
- Bailey, Randall C., ed. “*Yet With a Steady Beat*”: *U.S. Afrocentric Biblical Interpretation*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2003.
- Barr, David L. *New Testament Story: An Introduction*. 4th edition. Boston: Cengage Advantage Books, 2008.
- Blount, Brian K., ed. *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007.
- Byron, Gay L. and Vanessa Lovelace, eds. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings*. 7th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Goss, Robert and Mona West, eds. *Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2000.
- Kim, Uriah and Seung Ai Yang, eds. *T&T Clark Handbook of Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2019.
- West, Mona and Shore-Goss, Robert E., eds. *The Queer Bible Commentary*. Second Edition. London: SCM Press, 2022.
- Dunbar Hill, Ericka S., Angela N. Parker, and Mitzi J. Smith, eds. *Bitter the Chastening Rod: Africana Biblical Interpretation after Stony the Road We Trod in the Age of BLM, SayHerName, and MeToo*. New York: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2022.
- Lozada Jr., Francisco. *Toward a Latino/a Biblical Interpretation*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.
- Melcher, Sarah J., Mikeal C. Parsons, and Amos Yong, eds. *The Bible and Disability: A Commentary*. Waco, Baylor University Press, 2017.
- Patte, Daniel, ed. *The Global Bible Commentary*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Newsom, Carol A. and Sharon Ringe., eds. *The Women’s Bible Commentary*. 3rd Edition. Revised and Updated. Louisville and London: Westminster/John Knox, 2012.
- Segovia, Fernando and R. S. Sugirtharajah, eds. *A Postcolonial Commentary on the New Testament Writings*. Harrisburg, PA: T. & T. Clark, 2007.
- Sheehan, Jonathan. *The Enlightenment Bible: Translation, Scholarship, Culture*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.
- Thomaskutty, Johnson, ed. *An Asian Introduction to the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2022.
- Vena, Osvaldo, D. and Leticia A. Guardiola-Sáenz, eds. *Latinx Perspectives on the New Testament*. New York: Lexington Books/ Fortress Academic, 2022.