THEO 220.
Introduction to the New Testament

Credits: 3. Fulfills theology core requirement.

Prerequisites: THEO-100

Professor: Alberto de Mingo Kaminouchi, STD

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Phone: 678551742 / 913533023

Office Hours: Mo. 13:00-14:00. Th. 15:15-16:15 (or by appointment)

Class Hours: Monday and Wednesday. 14:00-15:15

Required books

- The Bible. Any translation may be used. I recommend the New Revised Standard Version. You must bring your Bible to every class.

Course Description

The course is an introduction to the 27 books of the New Testament with an emphasis on the figure of Jesus as person who gave rise to the traditions contained in these books. The course pursues a historical understanding of the New Testament documents in the cultural, political and religious background of the First Century CE Mediterranean world. This historical understanding is a point of departure for the task of theologically interpreting the message of the New Testament for our present age.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course the students should have acquired the following skills:

1- Become acquainted with the documents that compose the New Testament, as well as with the historical background in which they were produced.
2- Critically interpret texts of the New Testament taking into account both their meaning in their original context and the messages that they can convey to the XXI century reader.
3- Produce a personal interpretation of Jesus of Nazareth as a historical figure after a critical analysis of the available sources.
4- Understand the importance of the New Testament and the relevance of theological questions in the History of the Western civilization and in the present global world.
**Methodology**

Lectures by the instructor followed by questions and commentaries by the students. Students are expected to complete what it is said in class with the reading of the textbook. For some sessions students will be required to reflect in questions posed by the professor. One paper is required as part of the coursework.

**Grading System**

On a scale of 0-100

**Class Participation:** 20 points. It will evaluate class attendance, punctuality and active participation in class sessions with questions and comments. There are no “wrong questions”; students will never be penalized by questions they may ask. Intelligent questions and to-the-point commentaries will be rewarded. (19-20. Excellent questions and commentaries. Very strong contribution to the development of the class. 17-18. Very good questions and commentaries. Strong contribution to the development of the class. 12-16. Average level of participation. 11 and under. Below average participation, passive attitude in class)

**Mid-term Exam:** 20 points. 20 multiple-choice questions on material covered in sessions 1-10. (One point each question)

**Final paper.** It will consist in a commentary of 1000-2000 words about a passage of the New Testament: 20 points.

**The Final Exam. 40 points.** 16 multiple-choice questions (2 points each) and two brief essay questions (4 points each) on material covered in sessions 11-27.

There is the possibility of gaining up to 10 extra points by reading suggested texts or volunteering a presentation.

- For any book of the list “Suggested readings”: 50 pages count for 1 point (other theological books can be included in this list after an agreement with the professor). The reading should be commented with the professor during office hours.
- Upto 3 points can be earned by reading any of the following NT books: The Gospel of Luke, The Gospel of Matthew, Acts of the Apostles, First Letter to the Corinthians, Letter to the Romans, Letter to the Ephesians. The student will have to comment on these readings to the professor during his office hours. (3 points for an excellent understanding of the text, 2 points if it is good, 1 if barely enough).
- You can also get upto 3 extra-points by volunteering a presentation about some of the topics touched in class or suggested by the professor. I specially recommend a presentation about an image of Jesus either in art, literature or film.
- You can earn 1 point by visiting a monument of artifact related to the Bible in your private journeys (Ask the professor before you go)

**Grades Equivalence**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95,0-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90,0-94,9</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80,0-89,9</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73,0-79,9</td>
<td>B</td>
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Attendance policy
Attendance is required. Two absences are allowed for any reason. This should cover most illnesses, extracurricular activities, and family emergencies, so you do not need to talk to me about these cases unless you want to. Your final grade will be lowered by 4 points for each additional unjustified absence. Please email me if you have used up your free absences and will need to miss class due to illness or family emergency. You must provide appropriate documentation. I will then excuse the absence. You are responsible for contacting other students to obtain notes. You may schedule an appointment with me to go over material you do not understand. Those who enter the course late will begin the course with unexcused absences.

Accommodation Statement
In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Saint Louis University’s Policy on Academic Honesty
Please note that, as a student in this course, you are required to adhere to the university's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating, falsification, and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Plagiarism is the intentional representation of someone else’s thoughts or words as if they were one’s own. Any violation of this policy will result in an F for the pertinent academic exercise. A detailed statement of the policy may be found at:
< http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf >
Use of e-mail

Both your Banner and SLU-Global accounts are linked to your “slu.edu” address. Hence you should check your slu.edu account on a regular basis or have the mail from this address forwarded to a preferred account.

Course Outline

Session 01. Sep. 3. Wed. Course Presentation. What is Theology? Why study it? Which is the purpose of this course on NT?


Session 06. Sep 22. Mon. The World of Jesus - II (Second part of RTNT-2). Religious life in Israel in First Century CE.

Session 07. Sep 24. Wed. The Life of Jesus (RTNT-3)

Session 08. Sep 29. Mon. The Preaching of Jesus (RTNT-4)

Session 09. Oct 1. Wed. The Resurrection of Jesus (RTNT-5)


Session 18. Nov. 3. Mon. The Gospel of Mark (RTNT-12)


Final Exam. Dec. 17. 15:30-17:30

Important dates
Sep. 15. Mon. Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and/or to Add a Class
Sep. 30. Tu. Last Day to choose Audit or Pass/No Pass options
Oct. 15. Wed. Last Day to Submit Transfer Application for Spring Semester
Oct. 30. Th. Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W
Nov. 6. Th. Beginning of registration for Spring Semester
Dec. 5. Wd. Last day to present a book at professor’s office hour.

Suggested readings

English
Spanish

Collection of the student work for assessment
Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of your work for this course, including exams, oral presentations, assignments, submitted papers may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes*. If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

Requirements for honor’s program
The student must read a bibliography suggested by the professor on a topic agreed with the student, write a paper and make a presentation to the class on an assigned day.