

**Saint Louis University. Madrid Campus**  
**Course Syllabus. Fall Semester 2014.**

# THEO 220.

## Introduction to the New Testament

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**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.
- **Textbook:** PHEME PERKINS, *Reading the New Testament*, Paulist Press, 1987. I expect students to have a copy.

### 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 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

95,0-100	A
90,0-94,9	A-
80,0-89,9	B+
73,0-79,9	B

70,0-72,9	B-
60,0-69,9	C+
53,0-59,9	C
50,0-52,9	C-
40,0-49,9	D
39,9 and below	F
AF	Failure due to excessive absence

### **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](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](mailto: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](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 02. Sep 8. Mon.** Discussion about faith in God and Scriptures. What is Revelation? The Bible as Revelation in different Christian traditions. The Revelation according to the Second Vatican Council. Public and Private Revelation. The relationship between Scripture and Tradition.

**Session 03. Sep 10 Wed.** Why study the Bible? (RTNT-1=*Reading the New Testament*, by PHEME PERKINS. Chapter 1). The Contents of the NT. The Bible as Classic and Canon. Language, text and translation.

**Session 04. Sep 15. Mon.** Archaeology and the Bible.

**Session 05. Sep 17. Wed** The World of Jesus - I (First part of RTNT-2). The political and social world of New Testament. The historical context of Jesus' ministry.

**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 10. Oct. 6. Mon.** The Beginnings of Christology (RTNT-6). Who is Jesus, theologically?

**Session 11. Oct. 8. Wed.** The World of Paul (RTNT-7)

**Session 12. Oct. 13. Mon.** The Life of Paul -I (RTNT-8. First Part)

**Session 13. Oct. 15. Wed.** *Midterm Exam.*

**Session 14. Oct. 20. Mon.** The Life of Paul –II. *First Letter to Thessalonians, Letters to Philippians and Philemon* (RTNT-8. Second Part)

**Session 15. Oct. 22. Wed.** Christians: Jew and Gentile. *Letters to Romans and Galatians* (RTNT-9)

**Session 16. Oct. 27. Mon.** Divisions in Corinth. *First and Second Letters to Corinthians* (RTNT-10)

**Session 17. Oct. 29. Wed.** Universalizing Paul's message. *Letters to Colossians and Ephesians* (RTNT-11)

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

**Session 19. Nov. 5. Wed.** The Gospel of Matthew (RTNT-13)

**Session 20. Nov. 12 Wed.** The Gospel of Luke (RTNT-14)

**Session 21. Nov. 17. Mon.** The Gospel of John (RTNT-15)

**Session 22. Nov. 19. Wed.** The Book of the Acts of the Apostles (RTNT-16)

**Session 23. Nov. 24. Mon.** The Letter to the Hebrews (RTNT-17)

**Session 24. Nov. 26. Wed.** The Pastoral Epistles (RTNT-18)

**Session 25. Dec 1. Mon.** The Catholic Epistles and the Johannine Epistles (RTNT-19&20)

**Session 26. Dec. 3. Wed.** The Book of Revelation (RTNT-21)

**Session 27. Dec. 10. Wed.** Conclusions of the course. Final reflection on Christianity as the history of the effects of the New Testament

**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.

**Dec. 12. Wd.** Deadline for final paper.

## Suggested readings

### English

Borg, Marcus J, and N. T Wright. *The meaning of Jesus : two visions*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2007.

Meeks, Wayne A. *The first urban Christians: The Social World of the Apostle Paul*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003. Available in Spanish as: *Los primeros cristianos urbanos* (Sígueme)

Tatum, W. Barnes. *Jesus at the Movies: A Guide to the First Hundred Years*. Revised. Polebridge Press, 2004.

Theissen, Gerd, and Annette Merz. *Historical Jesus: A Comprehensive Guide*. Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1998. Available in Spanish as: *El Jesús histórico* (Sígueme)

Thurston, Bonnie. *Women in the New Testament*. Crossroad companions to the NT. New York: Crossroad, 1998.

Vermes, Geza. *Jesus, the Jew*. New York: Mcmillan, 1973. Available in Spanish as: *Jesús el judío* (El Aleph)

Wink, Walter. *The powers that be*. New York: Doubleday, 1998.

Harrington, Daniel J. *Meeting St. Paul Today: Understanding the Man, His Mission, and His Message*. Loyola Press, 2008.

## Spanish

Mingo Kaminouchi, Alberto de. *Símbolos de Salvación: Redención, Victoria, Sacrificio*. Salamanca: Sígueme, 2007.

Pagola, José Antonio. *Jesús, aproximación histórica*. Madrid: Promoción Popular Cristiana, 2007.

Tripiana, Alicia, and María Sobrino López. *Jesús en el Museo del Prado*. Madrid: Promoción Popular Cristiana, 2009.

## 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.

## Requierements 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.