

Saint Louis University, Madrid Campus
Course Syllabus, Fall Semester 2017
THEO 2210 - New Testament – MO2

Credits: 3

Professor: Sergio Rosell Nebreda, PhD.

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Class Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 12:30 - 13:45

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: (SIH 3rd floor, Room 5) by appointment

Class Location: PAH 20

Required Books

- *The Bible*: Any translation may be used. It is recommended that students bring the Bible to class, as they will often use it in our class exercises.
- Perkins, Pheme. *Reading the New Testament*, Paulist Press, 2012 (3rd edition).

Course Description

Literary and historical study of the New Testament, with emphasis on its cultural background, main themes and institutions. A particular focus on the problems modern thought poses for New Testament theological thinking and the permanent significance of Scripture (*Academic Catalog: St. Louis University-Madrid, 2011-2014*).

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester students should have acquired the following skills:

- Become acquainted with the documents that compose the New Testament, as well as with the historical background in which they were produced.
- Critically interpret texts of the New Testament taking into consideration both their meaning in their original context and the messages that they can convey for individuals and communities in the XXI century.
- Reflect on theological topics such as grace, law, community and individual, justice and righteousness, mission, and faith.
- Produce a personal interpretation of Jesus of Nazareth as a historical figure after a critical analysis of the available sources.
- Understand the importance of the New Testament and the relevance of theological questions in the history of Western civilization and in the present global world.

Course Evaluation

20% Class Participation.

You are expected to come to class on time and actively participate in class discussions. Please be prepared to comment on course material, assigned readings, and relevant worksheets in class. Usage of laptops or other electronic devices is limited to accessing

relevant class material and taking class notes. Surfing the web or checking emails during class might result in grade penalization.

20% Reading the Entire New Testament.

Students can earn a 20% credit by reading the New Testament. A reading grid for reading progress (provided by instructor) is to be handed in at the end of the term.

20% Midterm.

The midterm exam will cover lecture material and readings discussed in class.

20% Final.

The final exam is not cumulative and will cover lecture material and readings discussed in class following the midterm exam.

20% Final Research Paper.

You are to write a three (3) to five (5) page research paper including the bibliography. The essay may research a New Testament text, a New Testament theme or the interface between the New Testament and a contemporary issue (war, violence, justice, slavery, gender issues, community, social identity, other faiths, etc.). Your paper should evidence either a concise thesis statement or a clear question to guide your research. You must consult a minimum of four academic sources and follow university guidelines for formatting your research papers. The paper is due one week before the final exam. Late work is not accepted. Justified exceptions must be agreed upon in each case. Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any questions regarding the research paper.

3% Extra Credit (3 options)

- Submission of an additional research paper (3 pages) on any book/passage of the New Testament, explaining its social/vital context, particular message, how pertinent it was to its original hearers/readers, and its relevance for today. The paper and topic must receive prior approval from the instructor.
- Volunteer for a short class presentation/class dynamic (5-15 min. max.) on any chosen topic related to the New Testament. The presentation/dynamic must be handed to the professor in written/PPT form to be appropriately assessed.
- A third option is to turn a reading grid from one or several academic books on the New Testament. 75 pages count for 1 point, up to a maximum of 3 points (or 225 pages). Book/s to be agreed on with instructor.

On-Line Course Evaluation

All students are **required** to complete the on-line course evaluation at the end of the semester. The time when it will be available on-line will be announced in class.

Grading System

93-100 A

90-92 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

76-79 C+

71-75 C

68-70 C-

60-67 D+

0-59 F

AF Failure due to excessive absence

Attendance Policy

If students miss classes, their final grade will be lowered, unless the absence is justified. If you cannot be in class, please email me or call me at my home or office. Consistent attendance is important to meet the learning objectives of this course. More than three unexcused absences will drop a student's grade by 10%.

Academic Accommodation

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 <https://www.slu.edu/madrid/campus-life/student-services/disability-services>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

Title IX Statement: Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Mauri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; [915-54-5858 ext. 213](tel:915-54-5858)) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you

in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858 ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 91-700-1979) To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

St. Louis University's Policy on Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at <https://www.slu.edu/madrid/campus-life/student-services/disability-services>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

Violations of academic integrity will be handled in this way:

- A sanction: e.g., an F for the assignment in which plagiarism has been documented, an F for the Midterm/Final where a student is caught copying.
- All violations of academic integrity will be reported to the chair. In consultation with the professor, the chair will write a report, which will then be sent to the Madrid Campus Committee on Academic Honesty.

St. Louis University's Commitment to Excellence

In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers, exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-

Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

Course Outline (*tentative course themes*)

(Please, be aware that “Reading Due” assignments are to be completed for the class period shown in this course outline)

SEPTEMBER

Session 1: (9/5)- Course Introduction. The New Testament: In What Kind of World Have We Landed? Introduction to the World of the New Testament. **Homework:** a short personal reflection on your expectations/interests in the course.

Session 2: (9/7)- The Logic of Reading the New Testament: Basic Outline. Texts, Languages, Canon, etc. New Testament in its Relation to the Old Testament.

Session 3: (9/12)- Why Study the New Testament? The Main Message of the New Testament.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 1-23.

Session 4: (9/14)- The World of Jesus.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 24-45a

*Sunday 17: Last Day to Drop a Class without a Grade of W and/or Add a Class.
Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options*

Session 5: (9/19)- The Life of Jesus.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 50-75

Session 6: (9/21)- Jesus and His Message.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 76-87

Session 7: (9/26)- Jesus and His Resurrection.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 88-94

Session 8: (9/28)- Jesus: More than Mere Human: The Beginning of Christology.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 95-109

OCTOBER

Session 9: (10/3)- Change of Scenario. Christianity Goes Urban. The World of Paul.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 110-128

Session 10: (10/5)- The Life of Paul. Review for Midterm.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 129-140a

Session 11: (10/10)- The Life of Paul. The Apostle Anti-Power Message.

The Letter to the Philippians. Class exercise. Review for Midterm.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 140b-150

October 12. Spanish National Holiday. University Closed.

Tuesday 17: Midterm Exam

Session 13: (10/19)- Christians: Jews and Gentiles.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 151-163

Session 14: (10/24)- Problems in the Communities: Divisions in Corinth.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 164-177

Session 15: (10/26)- Paul and His Universal Message.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 178-188

Monday 30: Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W

Session 16: (10/31)- Introduction to the Gospels: Four Portrait of Jesus.

NOVEMBER

Session 17: (11/2)- Mark: Jesus, Suffering Messiah.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 189-198

Session 18: (11/7)- Matthew: Jesus, Teacher of Israel.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 199-211

November 9. Spanish National Holiday. University Closed.

Session 19: (11/14)- Luke, Jesus, the Lord.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 212-223

Session 20: (11/16)- John: Jesus, the Divine Son.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 224-235

Session 21: (11/21)- Acts: The Gospel to the Nations.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 236-248

- Acts 1-6

Session 22: (11/23)- Hebrews: The Heavenly High Priest.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 249-257

Session 23: (11/28)- The Pastoral Epistles: A Pauline Tradition.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 258-268

Session 24: (11/30)- The Catholic Epistles: An Apostolic Heritage.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 269-278

DECEMBER

Session 25: (12/5)- The Johannine Epistles: A Church Divided.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 279-286

- *Final Research Papers Due*

- *Extra Credit Work Due*

December 6 & 8. Spanish National Holydays. University Closed.

Session 26: (12/7)- Revelation: Christianity and Empire. Review for Final Exam.

Reading Due:

- Perkins, 287-302

- *Reading List (Entire NT) Due (Wed 20)*

Wednesday 20: Final Exam: 12:00-15:00