

## DICKERSON-GREEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

I. BI 511: Introduction to the New Testament (Fall 2020)

II. Instructor: *Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins*  
Email. *jhopkins@allenuniversity.edu*  
Telephone: 1.803.386.9021

Office Location: *DGTS House*  
Office Hours: Available via Zoom appt.  
*Wed-Th 9:30 -12:30 p.m.*  
*Tue-Th 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.*

Dr. Hopkins' Zoom Meeting Place:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84259636472?pwd=aU9tK0h4bnNNYU9odEZLeVMwYnhSQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 5963 6472

Passcode: 2SackK

### III. Course Name and Description

#### **BI 511: Introduction to the New Testament**

**Credit 3 hrs.**

The course will explore the historical, social, cultural and theological milieu that informs the New Testament. The literary genre and theological issues dealt with throughout the New Testament will be surveyed as will the content of each work. This course will explore the overall nature and place of the New Testament as historical literature and sacred text. The theology that emerges from the literary context will also be dealt with. Key personalities and themes from the New Testament will be explored from Jesus and the Gospels to the Pauline and non-Pauline letters and epistles.

### IV. Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of this course will enable students to orally communicate, identify and clearly write about their understanding of the various genres and content of the New Testament according to its historical milieu. Through quizzes, reflection papers and course participation, students will demonstrate competent knowledge of 1) the background during which the gospels, the epistle and letters, and apocalyptic literature was composed, 2) the overall theme and structure of each writing. Similar assessments will be given to demonstrate student's understanding of New Testament history, its characters, themes and the theology and emergence of the New Testament church.

### V. Course Policies

Class attendance is expected and essential to meeting the requirements of this course. University policies regarding attendance will be applied. Refer to the Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary Handbook for all relevant policies and procedures.

[https://www.scribd.com/document/426726431/mdiv-program-handbook-revised9?secret\\_password=RXxMMFZRAbyZyqIC05VN#download&from\\_embed](https://www.scribd.com/document/426726431/mdiv-program-handbook-revised9?secret_password=RXxMMFZRAbyZyqIC05VN#download&from_embed)

You will be expected to participate in class discussions, especially as the class interacts with the textbooks and assigned readings.

### Websites to help students avoid plagiarism:

<http://plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

- **Bonus Points:** From time to time bonus point opportunities may arise; however, there is never a guarantee for bonus points. The opportunities will be given in class. There are no make-up bonus opportunities.
- **Exam Make up Policy** - Early exams/quizzes are only available to students who have prior University commitments required and arranged by the University. Students must notify the Professor of athletic and or academic commitments to make arrangements prior to the day of the exam. Documentation must be provided explaining the extenuating and unavoidable circumstances and/or commitments. The date and time of the early exam must be no more than a week before the exam is scheduled. Not showing up for the exam without notifying the professor prior to the day of the exam will result in a non-negotiable Fail on the exam/quiz. The only other exceptions to the no makeup exam policy will only be granted for emergencies in which there is a medical note with a date and signature, police report with a date and signature, or other official document with a date and signature.

## VI. Course Procedures, Requirements and Assessment:

1. **20% A series of *Zoom Forum Discussions*:** - (5% participation each X 4 discussions). Throughout the semester, the class will conduct a 40-minute Zoom Forum Discussion on the article readings. All students must show up to these discussion forums and actively participate in order to receive full credit. A schedule for these discussions will be set during the first week of class.
2. **30% *Critical Reflection Submission*:- (10% X 3 Reflections).** Submission of a one-page critical reflection of each assigned article will be due (i.e. 3 reflections - uploaded in E-Learning). Reflections will attempt to capture the author’s argument and your thoughts – what did you like? What did you dislike? Did you agree with the author/argument or did you disagree with the author/argument and why?
3. **50% - *Content Quizzes*:** Throughout the course students will be given a total of 5 quizzes (worth 10% each) that will cover the content of the gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the Pauline epistles and letters, the general epistles and book of Revelation. Quizzes will follow the readings, biblical material and lecture/tutorials, especially what has been brought out in weekly sessions. Lectures/tutorials will not solely be relegated to the text books; however, much of what is highlighted (in lectures/tutorials as well as readings) will be fair game. Quizzes will be given either online in the e-learning format or in class and will consist of a variety of question type (i.e. vocabulary identification, matching, short answer and comparing and contrasting). Some quizzes will also ask students to engage with actual biblical material. In class quizzes will be closed book/note (this includes the prohibition of computers and smart phone technology during exam time) and administered at the beginning of class and in some cases administered on-line, where open book is fair game. Students will be given sufficient time to take quizzes. Full instructions will be made explicit on quizzes. Absolutely no makeup quizzes will be given. If a quiz must be taken early, student must give valid reason (beforehand) with full verification from outside source stating reason(s).

## Outline of Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment	Assessment
<b>Unit I: Christian Canon and Scriptures</b>			
Week 1 – Week of August 17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Introduction to the Course Background and Historical Setting of the NT</i>	<i>Video on “<a href="#">New Testament Overview</a>” Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 19-64 &amp; 67-98</i>	<i><u><a href="#">Development of the Canon</a></u> <u><a href="#">Worksheet</a></u></i>

Week 2 – Week of August 24	<i>Religious and Philosophical Settings of the NT</i>	Video on " <a href="#">Messiah</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 101-112, Read Article – Felder on <a href="https://commons.ptsem.edu/id/princetonseminar1521prin-dmd005">https://commons.ptsem.edu/id/princetonseminar1521prin-dmd005</a>	<u><i>Identifying Jewish Sectarian Groups and Rise of "The Way" Worksheet</i></u>
Week 3 – Week of August 31	<i>Canon and Text of the New Testament</i>	Video on " <a href="#">Son of Man</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 115-146, Read – Wimbush on <a href="https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/f164/10dd7c7f255243265dfcff258369b3bc2a84.pdf">https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/f164/10dd7c7f255243265dfcff258369b3bc2a84.pdf</a>	<b>Content Quiz #1 –</b> <b>Zoom Forum Discussion on Article #1</b> <b>Critical Reflection #1 due</b>
<b>Unit II: Jesus and the Gospels</b>			
Week 4 – Week of September 7	<i>Life of Jesus</i>	Video on " <a href="#">The Gospels</a> " and " <a href="#">Mark</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 149-283	<u><i>Life of Jesus Worksheet</i></u>
Week 5 – Week of September 14	<i>Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew &amp; Luke)</i>	Video on " <a href="#">Matthew Part I &amp; Part II</a> " and <a href="#">Luke Part I &amp; Part II</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 285-328	<u><i>Gospels Worksheet</i></u>
Week 6 – Week of September 21	<i>John's Gospel</i>	Video " <a href="#">Gospel of John Part I &amp; Part II</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 331-379 – Read: <a href="#">Hopkins "Empowering Women in the Gospel of John"</a>	<b>Zoom Forum Discussion on Article #2</b> <b>Content Quiz #2</b> <b>Critical Reflection #2 due</b>
<b>Unit III: Emergence of the Christian Church</b>			
Week 7 – Week of September 28	<i>Acts of the Apostles</i> Read: A Survey of the New Testament,	Video on " <a href="#">Acts of the Apostle Part I &amp; Part II</a> " Read pp. 383-408	<u><i>Mission and Movement of the Holy Spirit Worksheet</i></u> <b>Content Quiz #3</b>
<b>Unit IV: New Testament Letters and Epistles</b>			
Week 8 – Week of October 5	<i>Paul's Early Letters – Galatians-Thessalonians</i>	Video on " <a href="#">New Testament Letters: Historical Context</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 411-451 - Read - <a href="#">A. Smith "Paul and African American Biblical Interpretation"</a>	<b>Zoom Forum Discussion on Article #3</b>
Week 9 – Week of October 12 <b>Midterm Week</b>	<i>Paul's Letters – Corinthian Correspondence and Romans</i>	Video on " <a href="#">New Testament Letters: Literary Context</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 453-478	<u><i>Corinthian Correspondence Worksheet</i></u>
Week 10 – Week of October 19	<i>Paul's Prison Letters</i>	Video on " <a href="#">Corinthians Part I &amp; Part II</a> " and " <a href="#">Philemon</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 481-497 - <a href="#">M. Smith "Slavery in the Early Church"</a>	<u><i>The Apostle Paul Worksheet</i></u>

Week 11 – Week of October 26	<i>Paul's Pastoral Letters</i>	Video on " <a href="#">Timothy I &amp; II</a> " and " <a href="#">Titus</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 499-513 – Read Martin <a href="https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/34731/files/5369196/download?verifier=54BiuoHlizdhO1sWvevp7A6DbevuLyM2Ty5uTokt&amp;wrap=1">https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/34731/files/5369196/download?verifier=54BiuoHlizdhO1sWvevp7A6DbevuLyM2Ty5uTokt&amp;wrap=1</a>	<b>Zoom Forum Discussion on Article #4</b>  <b>Critical Reflection #3 due</b>
Week 12 – Week of November 2	<i>Hebrews</i>	Video on <a href="#">Hebrews</a> Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 515-544	<b>Content Quiz #4</b>
Week 13 – Week of November 9	<i>Apostolic Letters – General Epistles</i>	Video on " <a href="#">James</a> " and " <a href="#">Peter I &amp; II</a> " Read: A Survey of the New Testament, pp. 547-570	
<b>Unit V: Apocalyptic Literature</b>			
Week 14 – Week of November 16	<i>Apocalyptic Literature: Revelation</i>	Video on <a href="#">Revelation Part I &amp; Part II</a>	<b>Content Quiz #5</b>
Week 15 – Week of November 23	<i>Reading the New Testament for Scholarship, the Church and Devotion</i>	<b>Finals</b>	<b>Finals</b>

## VI. Course Textbook

### Required:

Gundry, Robert H., *A Survey of the New Testament* (5th Edition; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).  
*New Revised Standard Version Harper Collins Study Bible*. Harold W. Attridge (Fully Revised and Updated; San Francisco: HarperOne, 2006).

### Articles:

Felder, Cain Hope, "Afrocentrism, the Bible and the Politics of Difference." *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 15 (1994): 131-141.

Hopkins, Jamal-Dominique, "Empowering Women in the Gospel of John: Toward an Afro-Christian Hermeneutic and Methodological Approach," in *Afrocentric Interpretations of Jesus and the Gospel Tradition: Things Black Scholars See That White Scholars Overlook.* (Lewiston, NY: Mellen Press, 2015), 165-189.

Martin, Clarice J., "The Haustafeln (Household Codes) in African American Biblical Interpretation: "Free Slaves" and "Subordinate Women," in *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation* (ed. Cain Hope Felder; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991), 206-231.

Smith, Abraham, "Paul and African American Biblical Interpretation," in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary* (ed. Brian K. Blount; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007), 31-42.

Smith, Mitzi J., "Slavery in the Early Church," in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary* (ed. Brian K. Blount; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007), 11-21.

Wimbush, Vincent L., "Biblical Historical Study as Liberation: Toward an Afro-Christian Hermeneutic." *Journal of Religious Thought* 42 (1985-86): 9-21.