BN8001W  Interpreting the New Testament

BN8001W provides the introductory unit in New Testament studies and serves as a pre-requisite for all other BN units. The unit is based on inductive exegetical workshops that introduce a range of exegetical methods, together with readings and lectures on the genres, background and interpretation of the New Testament. The exegetical exercises sample the Synoptic Gospels, Fourth Gospel, Letters of Paul and Revelation.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Describe the contents of the New Testament: the types of literature, their particular interpretive demands, and their theological outlook;
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the historical and social world of the New Testament era;
3. Use appropriate interpretive approaches to the New Testament in the writing of an exegetical essay;
4. Access and use the tools of New Testament interpretation: lexicons, dictionaries, commentaries, primary sources, on-line resources, and others;
5. Illustrate the relationship of the New Testament to the texts and message of the Old Testament;
6. Demonstrate progress in making the transition from text to life, particularly in terms of theological, hermeneutical, and homiletical application; and
7. Demonstrate understanding and appreciation for the history of research in New Testament studies.

Prerequisites:  Nil

Class Time:  Three hours per week

Assessment:  Three 1,000 word workshop papers (60%)
             One 3,000 word exegetical essay (40%)

Faculty:  Semester 1: Keith Dyer

Offered:  2016: Semester 1  (Also offered online – see BN8701W)

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase


Fee, G D and D K Stuart, How to read the Bible for all it’s worth. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.


