BN9010W  World of the New Testament

Offered: 2016: Semester 1

BN9010W complements the foundational unit in New Testament studies (BN8001W) and provides a more comprehensive survey of the background to the first century circum-mediterranean world (history, politics, religion). Topics will include the Greek Empire, the Maccabees, the rise of the Roman Empire, the Herodians, and the literature of Philo, the Dead Sea Scrolls and Josephus.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Describe the literature engaging and influencing the first century Judeo-Christian world, including Philo, the Dead Sea Scrolls and Josephus;
2. Outline and discuss the impact of the historical, religious, political and social world of the New Testament era, and the complexities of the archaeological evidence;
3. Describe the physical and political geography of the first century Greco-Roman world;
4. Demonstrate the relevance of understanding the context of the New Testament by exegeting a selected New Testament text;
5. Articulate the issues involved in recent anti-imperial and postcolonial approaches to New Testament Studies

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment: Two 15 minute class tests of history and geography (equiv. 500 words) (20%)
One 2,500 word exegetical essay (30%)
One 3,000 word thematic essay (50%)

Faculty: Oh-Young Kwon

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase