BN3711W  The Spirit and the People of God (Online)

Offered:  2017: Semester 1  [Also offered on campus —see BN3011W]

This unit will examine the role of the Holy Spirit in the life and mission of the early church in the Greco-Roman world. The students will study key passages in the New Testament, especially John’s Gospel, Acts, and Paul’s letters concerning the work of the Spirit in the Christian communities. Special attention will be given to the Spirit-Paraclete in the Johannine Farewell, the Spirit-orchestrated trans-ethnic Jesus-communities in Acts, and the Spirit-empowered body of Christ in Pauline literature. The unit will investigate the function and the power of the Spirit in the ongoing transformation of individual Christ-followers, as well as the identity-formation and the mission of the multi-ethnic ekklesiai in the Roman Empire.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

2. Demonstrate the ability to conduct critical analysis of the key New Testament texts on the Holy Spirit within their own rhetorical and socio-historical contexts.
3. Identify and articulate the work of the Spirit regarding the formation of early Christian communities in the New Testament, as well as the identity and transformation of Jesus-followers in the Greco-Roman world.
4. Reflect critically on the contribution of the NT literature to understanding the work of the Spirit in the life and mission of the church today.

Prerequisites:  Nil

Class Time:  Online

Assessment:  Online tutorial participation (at least five entries of approximately 200 words each) responding to set readings and peer interaction (20%) One exegnetical essay (2,000 words) (40%) One thematic essay (2,000 words) (40%)

Faculty:  Siu Fung Wu

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase


