

## BN2010W World of the New Testament

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**Offered:** 2018: Semester 1

BN2010W complements the main introductory unit in New Testament studies (BN1001W) 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 Maccabeans, the rise of the Roman Empire, the Herodians, and the literature of Philo, the Dead Sea Scrolls and Josephus.

Upon successful completion of the 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. List the contributing elements of the historical, religious, political and social world of the New Testament era;
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. Describe the religious context of the rise of Christianity.

**Prerequisites:** Nil

**Class Time:** Three hours per week

**Assessment:** Two 15 minute class tests of history and geography (equiv. to 500 words) (20%)  
One 1,500 word exegetical essay (30%)  
One 2,000 word thematic essay (50%)

**Faculty:** Oh-Young Kwon

### **Recommended Reading:**

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Drane, J *Introducing the New Testament*, Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.

Elwell, W & Yarbrough, R *Encountering the New Testament (2nd ed, with CDs)*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Elwell, W & Yarbrough, R *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Evans, C A and S E Porter (eds.), *Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Ferguson, E *Backgrounds of Early Christianity. 3rd ed.* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B Eerdmans, 2003.

Fitzgerald, J T, T H Olbricht, L M White (eds.) *Early Christianity and Classical Culture*. Atlanta: SBL, 2003.

Green, J B (ed.) *Hearing the New Testament. Strategies for interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI/Carlyle, UK: Eerdmans/Paternoster, 1995.

McLaren J S (ed) *Judaism in Transition 175-150CE. Christian and Jewish Perspectives*. Melbourne: The Council of Christians and Jews, 2008.

Neyrey, Jerome H. and Eric C. Stewart (eds.) *The Social World of the New Testament: Insights and Models*, Peabody: Hendrickson, 2008.

Simmons, William A. *Peoples of the New Testament World: An Illustrated Guide*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2008.