

## **BN8001W     Interpreting the New Testament (BN8701W – Online)**

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**Offered:**        **2018: Semester 1 and Semester 2**     (Also offered online Semester 1 and 2 – as BN8701W)

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:**

<b>Classroom:</b>	Three 1,000 word workshop papers	(60%)
	One 3,000 word exegetical essay	(40%)
<b>Online:</b>	Online tutorial participation (at least 5 entries of approximately 200 words each) responding to weekly exegetical workshops and peer interaction	(20%)
	Two 1,000 word workshop papers	(40%)
	One 3,000 word exegetical essay	(40%)

**Faculty:** Semester 1: Keith Dyer  
Semester 2: Oh-Young Kwon

**Recommended Reading:**

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Achtemeier, P C, J B Green and M Meye Thompson (eds). *Introducing the New Testament: Its literature and theology*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2001.

Coggins, R J and J L Houlden (eds). *A dictionary of biblical interpretation*. London: SCM Press, 1990.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

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

Gorman, M J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Peabody: Hendrickson, rev. edn, 2009.

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

Green, Joel B and Lee Martin McDonald (eds). *The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.

Hayes, J H and C R Holladay. *Biblical exegesis: A beginner's handbook*. Atlanta: John Knox, 2nd ed, 1988.

Johnson, L. *The writings of the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999.

Schweizer, E. *A theological introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991.

Via, D O (ed.). *Guides to biblical scholarship*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1971–2002. (Series of booklets on exegetical methods).