

BN9010W World of the New Testament

Offered: 2018: Semester 1 [Also offered online —see BN9711W]

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; and
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 exegetical essay (2,500 words)	(30%)
One thematic essay (3,000 words)	(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

Lozada F and G Carey (eds.) *Soundings in Cultural Criticism. Perspectives and Methods in Culture, Power, and Identity in the New Testament*. Minneapolis MN: Fortress, 2013.

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.