

**Fifth Year Course of Study**  
**COS 521 – Bible V**  
**Feb 14-15 (21-22 makeup) & Mar 13-14 (20-21 makeup)**

Instructor:

Rev. Britt Leslie Ph.D.  
 Email: [bleslie@united.edu](mailto:bleslie@united.edu)  
 Phone: 219-201-1623

Contacting me: You may contact me by email (preferred) or phone (if urgent). We can also arrange a phone or Skype etc. meeting if needed.

Greeting:

Welcome to Bible V. I am excited about the opportunity to explore the New Testament with you. I was once a pastor too and working another job at the same time while attending seminary. I know how busy things can get. I have done my best to keep the readings and assignments reasonable and still cover all that needs to be covered. If any of you think that you may have a problem completing an assignment for a given week let me know right away and we can work something out.

I find that students and teachers can learn a great deal from each other and I am sure that will be true here. I am eager to hear about your individual ministry contexts and looking forward to discovering together ways to apply New Testament insights to those various contexts. It is my goal that this course will be helpful to you as a pastor. Thanks and feel free to contact me by e-mail with any questions.

## **I. Course Description and Goals:**

This course focuses on the content and context of the New Testament writings, and the theological emphases of their writers. In addition to Acts and Revelation, Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and 1 John will receive special attention. Students will articulate a theology of scripture.

Course Goals:

1. Distinguish these genres of biblical literature, and understand the major theological themes in these writings.
2. Faithfully exegete these forms of biblical literature.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.
4. Articulate the unity and authority of Scripture as a whole.

## **II. Textbooks**

*(Students are responsible for obtaining their own books, you may already own some of these from a prior COS courses):*

- A. Required: (we will use these books throughout the course)
- 1) Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2018. NOTE: if you already have edition 1 (2009) you may use it.

- 2) Carter, Warren, and Amy-Jill Levine. *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.
- 3) Malina, Bruce J. *Windows on the World of Jesus: Time Travel to Ancient Judea*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.
- 4) Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*, Revised and Expanded Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.
- 5) Harrelson, Walter J. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version With the Apocrypha*. Abingdon Press, 2003. (You should have this from a previous COS Bible course.)

B. Supplementary: (You won't have required readings from these for class but they are good for a pastor to own.)

- I am not providing a supplementary text list but rather providing a *plan for building your pastoral library* in biblical studies. You should alternate this plan according to other resource needs such as theology, pastoral care, preaching and church history, etc. according to your priorities and needs.
- In this final year of COS you may already own most of the required texts above. My suggestion to you is to take some of your "book budget" for the course and purchase the following kinds of reference material. They will prove valuable in your future preparation of studies, sermons, etc.
- I have listed them in relative order of importance. Don't try to get them all now but use this as a plan to gradually add these references throughout your pastoral career. I am including some Old Testament resources in this 'plan' as well.

- 1) Start with a One Volume Bible Dictionary: (*Highly recommended* to own at some point in your ministry. You should have one from prior COS courses.)
  - a. Most recommended: Powell, Mark Allan. *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary - Revised & Updated*. HarperOne, 2011.
  - b. Freedman, David Noel, Astrid B. Beck, and Allen C. Myers, eds. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.
- 2) Then add a One Volume Commentary: (Again, *highly recommended* to own at some point in your ministry. You should have one from prior COS courses.)
  - a. Most recommended: Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Petersen, eds. *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary*. Abingdon Press, 2010.
  - b. Mays, James L. *HarperCollins Bible Commentary - Revised Edition*. Rev Sub. HarperOne, 2000.
  - c. See others listed in the bibliography at the end.
- 3) Add a reference work that helps you understand the New Testament social world. (This is very important since they did not think and interact the way we do!)
  - a. Malina, Bruce J. *Windows on the World of Jesus: Time Travel to Ancient Judea*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993. (Highly recommended and accessible to the lay person. Note however, that I already required it for this course.)
  - b. deSilva, David A. *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000. (A bit more

scholarly with quotations, in English, from ancient Greek and Roman authors but still contains valuable information.)

- 4) Then a Theological Dictionary (looks at the use of various Hebrew and Greek words)
  - a. Kittel, G., and G. Friedrich, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament: Abridged in One Volume*. Translated by G. W. Bromiley. Grand Rapids, Mich: W.B. Eerdmans, 1985.
  - b. R. Laird Harris, ed. Gleason L. Archer Jr. and Bruce K. Waltke, assoc. ed. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.
  - c. For both the above works one can find an article on a particular Greek or Hebrew word by searching that word in [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) (see tutorial in course main window) and noting the reference to the word's location in either the TWOT or TDNTA.
  
- 5) As time goes on add a Multi Volume Bible Dictionary
  - a. Most Recommended: Sakenfeld, Katharine Doob. *The New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vol. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009.
  - b. Freedman, David Noel. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vol. Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1992.
  
- 6) Any time after 1) and 2), as needed add multi volume commentaries which usually treat a single biblical book. Recommended series are:
  - a. New Interpreter's Bible
    - each volume contains 3 or 4 biblical books
    - excellent scholarship
    - contains an exegetical (what the passage meant in its original time and place) and an interpretation (what the passage might mean for us today) section
  - b. New International Commentary on the Old Testament and New Testament
    - excellent scholarship
    - more technical and exegetical than interpretive
  - c. Interpretation
    - excellent scholarship
    - less technical, more interpretive
  - d. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries
  - e. Westminster Bible Companion
  - f. Note others in the bibliography at the end

### III. Course Schedule:

#### General:

- ☞ Bring your textbooks
- ☞ Bring your laptops/tablets/i-pads, etc. if you have them, we will look at online resources.
- ☞ As a rule of thumb one should study for two to four hours outside of class per every one contact hour. A COS course is a 20 contact hour course. Taking an average of three hours per contact hour, one spends 20 hours in class plus 60 hours outside of class for the entire length of the course. For reading one can plan on taking an average of 60 minutes per 30 pages (two minutes per page). For writing plan about 60 min. per 1 page. Don't stress out about this. These are just guidelines to help you plan.
- ☞ Thanks and feel free to contact me by e-mail with any questions.

#### Weekend 1: Feb 14-15

**Topics:** NT culture; Letters; John 1, 2, and 3; Acts; Revelation; Exegesis; helpful websites and software

#### **Readings by topic:**

- NT culture: All from Malina read:
  - Introduction, pp. xiii – xv
  - Section I Honor and Shame, pp. 1-19
  - Section III In Group, Introductory Window, pg. 47 and Windows 20-24, pp. 52-61
  - Window 36, pp. 95-96
  - Section IV Lovingkindness, pp. 103-112
- Letters: Powell ch. 10
- Biblical Books and related readings
  - *Note:* you will need to read these early so that you can turn in the assigned Vital Info Sheets prior to class (see assignments below)
  - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John: The letters of John; Powell ch. 27; Carter and Levine ch. 20
  - Acts: The book of Acts; Powell ch. 9; Carter and Levine ch. 5
  - Revelation: The book of Revelation; Powell ch. 29; Carter and Levine ch. 21
- Exegesis: Gorman ch. 1-4

#### Weekend 2: 7/21-22

**Topics:** Paul; Romans; 1-2 Corinthians; Hebrews, James; Exegesis

#### **Readings by topic:**

- Paul: Powell ch. 11
- Biblical books and related readings:
  - *Again,* you will use these readings to complete the assigned Vital Info Sheets
  - Romans: The Book of Romans; Powell ch. 12; Carter and Levine ch. 6
  - 1-2 Corinthians: The books of 1 and 2 Corinthians; Powell ch. 13-14; Carter and Levine ch. 7-8.
  - Hebrews: The book of Hebrews; Powell ch. 23; Carter and Levine ch. 16
  - James: The book of James; Powell ch. 24; Carter and Levine ch. 17
- Exegesis: Gorman chapters 6, 7, 10, appendix B and C

## IV. Assignments and Evaluation

### A. Explanation of assignments and due dates:

- Assignments are due *11:59 pm* at the night of the due date.
- Email submission of written work:
  - Assignments will be submitted to my e-mail address [bleslie@united.edu](mailto:bleslie@united.edu).
  - Assignments should be submitted in MS Word (\*.doc or \*.docx) format or Rich Text format (\*.rtf). Most word processor programs (even for the Macc and I-Pad) have the capability to save documents in those formats. This is usually accomplished by choosing the “save as” feature on the program and then selecting the “rich text” or “word” file type.
  - Adobe Acrobat format (\*.pdf) is also acceptable. Some programs have the ability to save files in this format. Also there are some third party programs and websites which will convert many file types into this format.
  - All assignments will be returned to you in Adobe Acrobat (\*.pdf) format since this is the most efficient way I have found to comment on the contents of written work. So you will need something like the Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download) to read the comments on the graded and returned assignments.
- General information on the papers:
  - Use of sources, citation and bibliography:
    - Papers will follow Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style standards for reference citation and bibliography
      - This may be footnoting with a bibliography
      - This may be author/page (parenthetical) citation with a bibliography
      - Quotations should be placed in quotation marks and quotations over four lines should be single spaced and indented one half inch from the left margin of the main text. See various examples and style sheets in the course main module.
      - For help see:
        - [http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\\_citationguide.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)
        - <http://hbl.gcc.libguides.com/c.php?g=339562&p=2286665>
        - <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/research-guides/turabian-footnote-guide>
        - <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/research-guides/turabian-paren-guide>
    - Note that most of your work will be from your own observations of the biblical text and the exegetical tools you will use to understand that text.
    - You won't be using a lot of secondary resources but when you do, those resources should be given their due. See the Academic Honor Policy below.
    - Quoting verbatim or nearly verbatim from a print, electronic, or internet source *must* be indicated as a quotation and the source cited. Also, when using information or an idea from a particular source it *must* be cited. Failure to do so will result in one or more consequences listed in the Academic Honor Policy below.

- Each paper will report the findings of an exegetical method. (1, 2, and 3 below. This is the “what” of your paper.)
  - Each paper will conclude with how the information discovered will affect preaching and teaching. (This is the “so what” of your paper.)
1. Exegetical Exercise on Literary context (2-3 pages double spaced)
    - a. DUE Friday 2/21 11:59 pm
    - b. Passage: James 2:14-17
    - c. See handout for instructions and more information.
  2. Exegetical Exercise on Historical background/rhetorical exigence (6-7 pages double spaced)
    - a. DUE Friday 2/28 11:59 pm
    - b. Passage: 1 John (the whole epistle)
    - c. See handout for instructions and more information.
  3. Exegetical Exercise on Detailed Analysis/Close Reading (6-7 pages double spaced)
    - a. DUE Wednesday 3/11 11:59 pm
    - b. Passage: Romans 3:21-26
    - c. See handout for instructions and more information.
  4. Vital Info Sheet (VIS) (no more than two pages single spaced)
    - a. DUE:
      - 1) Letters of John (1, 2, and 3 in one VIS); Acts; Revelation; DUE Thursday 2/13 11:59 pm
      - 2) Romans; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians; Hebrews; James; DUE Thursday 3/9 11:59 pm
    - b. Taken primarily from the readings from Powell, Carter and Levine, the (approved) study Bible, and from any other material that might be assigned.
    - c. Will contain information on the particular book of the bible assigned.
    - d. Will address the following:
      - 1) Authorship
      - 2) Date
      - 3) Place (where was it written and where was it received)
      - 4) Audience
      - 5) Exigence (why was it written)
      - 6) Summary of the message
    - e. Basically you are answering: WHO (author) said WHAT (content, major themes) to WHOM (audience)? WHEN (date) did they say it? WHERE was it said (place of writing)? WHERE was it heard (audience location)? WHY (exigence) did the author say it?
    - f. The purpose of these “stat. sheets” is so that *you will have a ready reference* each time you prepare to preach or teach from one of these biblical books.
    - g. With that in mind:
      - 1) Don’t worry about form. The sheet can be in outline form with bullet points etc. and organized in a way helpful to you in later ministry, just as long as it contains the info listed above.
      - 2) Citations should be a simple author and page number in parenthesis method, such as (Powell, 200) or (Harrelson, 1953), placed beside a bit of info so later you will be able to find it.

## B. Assignments by Due Date:

Info Sheets on the Letters of John (1, 2, and 3 in one VIS); Acts; Revelation	2/12
Exegetical Exercise on Literary context	2/21
Exegetical Exercise on Historical background/rhetorical exigence	2/28
Info sheets on Romans; 1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians; Hebrews; James	3/9
Exegetical Exercise on Detailed Analysis/Close Reading	3/11

## C. Grading:

- Letter grades will be assessed
- The weighting of assignments are as follows:

Element	% Value
Historical background/rhetorical exigence	20
Literary context	15
Detailed analysis/close reading	25
Vital Information Sheets (total of 8 for 2.5% each)	20
Participation	20
Total	100

\*Note: I have assigned a percent value to assess the quality of student interaction which should reflect familiarity with the course content and reading material and thoughtful response to the comments of others. However simply *not participating* at all or a large amount of unexcused attendance may result in a greater reduction in the student's final grade than the total percentage assigned to this element and possibly failure of the course.

Grades will be turned in to the MTSO office no later than 30 days after the course ends.

## D. ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student. Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism. A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor policy, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio

- (5) failing grade for the course
- (6) reduction in grade for the assignment

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.

## V. Bibliography of recommended resources

### A. Study Bibles

Harrelson, Walter J. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version With the Apocrypha*. Abingdon Press, 2003. (Most recommended of the three)

Attridge, Harold W., and Society Of Biblical Literature. *HarperCollins Study Bible - Student Edition: Fully Revised & Updated*. Rev Upd. HarperOne, 2006

Coogan, Michael D., Marc Z. Brettler, Carol A. Newsom, and PHEME PERKINS. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*. Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press, USA, 2010.

Renovare, Richard J. Foster, Dallas Willard, Walter Brueggemann, Eugene H. Peterson, Bruce Demarest, et al. *The Life with God Bible NRSV*. HarperOne, 2009.

[NOTE: This is a more “devotional” oriented annotated bible written by sound biblical scholars. You may want to supplement your primary study bible with this.]

### B. Bible Dictionaries

#### 1. One Volume

Freedman, David Noel, Astrid B. Beck, and Allen C. Myers, eds. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

Powell, Mark Allan. *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary - Revised & Updated*. HarperOne, 2011.

#### 2. Multi Volume

Freedman, David Noel. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vol. Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1992.

Sakenfeld, Katharine Doob. *The New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vol. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009.

### C. Biblical world

deSilva, David A. *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture*.

Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Malina, Bruce J. *Windows on the World of Jesus: Time Travel to Ancient Judea*. Louisville:

Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.

### D. One Volume Commentaries

#### 1. General

Barton, John, and John Muddiman, eds. *The Oxford Bible Commentary*. 1st ed. Oxford

University Press, USA, 2001.

Brown, Raymond E., Roland Murphy, and Joseph A. Fitzmyer. *New Jerome Biblical*

*Commentary*. Continuum, 2003.

Dunn, James D. G., ed. *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

Company, 2003.

Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Petersen, eds. *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume*

*Commentary*. Abingdon Press, 2010.

Mays, James L. *HarperCollins Bible Commentary - Revised Edition*. Rev Sub. HarperOne, 2000.

#### 2. Written with social location in mind

Blount, Brian K., Cain Hope Felder, Clarice J. Martin, and Emerson B. Powery, eds. *True to Our*

*Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Fortress Press, 2007.

Newsom, Carol A., and Sharon H. Ringe. *The Women's Bible Commentary - expanded*.

Expanded. Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

Patte, Daniel. *Global Bible Commentary*. First ed. Abingdon Press, 2004. [NOTE: highly

recommended]

### E. Multi Volume Commentaries or Commentary Series

- Abingdon New Testament Commentaries
- Anchor Bible Commentaries
- Augsburg Commentary on the New Testament
- Black's New Testament Commentaries

- Feminist Companion
- Hermeneia (requires biblical languages)
- Interpretation
- New Cambridge Bible Commentary
- Sacra Pagina
- New International Commentary on the New Testament
- New Interpreter's Bible (a recent edition)
- New Testament Readings
- Westminster Bible Companion
- Word Biblical Commentary