Pentecostal Explorations of the New Testament (NT 501 Online)

Course Syllabus

Fall 2013

3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. J. Ayodeji Adewuya

Course Description:

This course is the seminary’s introductory course for New Testament study. It seeks to explore the nature and purpose of the New Testament by utilizing a distinctively Pentecostal approach to its study. The journey begins by raising the basic question, “What is the New Testament,” and continues by means of a brief survey of major scholarly approaches to the study of the New Testament. An articulation of a Pentecostal strategy for studying the New Testament follows, which has implications for issues of genre and methodology. With regard to genre, the documents fall into the following categories: stories of Jesus’ life; story of the early church; letters and sermons of the early church; and vision of the early church. With regard to methodology, the books are explored in the following ways: Structure, content, and theological emphases; canonical context (place in Scripture); original context (Sitz-im-Leben); church context (history of effect); and Pentecostal context. The course concludes with sections devoted to the text and canon of the New Testament.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Experience and give priority to encounter with God through His word, particularly through the New Testament.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the Word of God by showing familiarity with the structure, content, theological emphases, canonical contexts, original contexts, church contexts, and Pentecostal contexts of the New Testament.

3. Rightly divine (interpret/discern) the Word of God, in particular the New Testament, by means of a Pentecostal approach to Scripture that utilizes critical appropriation of spiritual and academic resources.

4. Practice and foster community of faith relationships around the Word of God, specifically around the books of the New Testament.

5. Exhibit knowledge of the New Testament that informs Pentecostal faith and practice, both generally and more specifically.


8. Be people of the Word by ingesting the Word, specifically the books of the New Testament, to the point that it is embodied in one’s life and witness.

Requirements:

Weekly Readings & Reflection Papers (due Friday at midnight each week; 30% of course grade)

Each week, students are required to perform course readings and to turn in a 2-page formal reflection paper to be graded by the professor. These papers should address the questions posted by the professor, adhering to the following format:

1. Address the questions assigned by professor (2 pages)

2. How does this week’s reading challenge or apply to your interpretation of the New Testament? (.5-.1 page)

3. How does this week’s reading speak to the context of the Pentecostal Church today? (.5-.1 page)

Course Postings / Discussion Board (due Sunday at 6:00 PM each week; 10% of course grade)

Each week, one student’s reflection paper will be posted for the class to view. Each student is required to post a comment about the work of their peer, noting points of agreement and points of challenge.

Term Paper (30% of course grade)

A 12-20 page research paper on a book of the New Testament, following the Pentecostal approach to the New Testament which JC Thomas proposes in his article, “Pentecostal Theology in the Twenty-First Century.” This structure is fivefold: Structure, Theological Emphases, Historical Concerns, Church Context, and Pentecostal Context.

Exams (30% of course grade)

Two timed exams will be given through the online platform: a mid-term and a final. The final is not cumulative. A Bible may be used for the exam, but no other materials. Exam questions cover the video lectures and textbook readings. A study guide for each exam will be provided.
**Weekly Course Structure:**

Each week’s class session will include the following components:

1. Weekly reading from textbooks
2. Weekly reflection papers turned into professor
3. Online discussion posts for one student reflection paper
4. Video Message from professor

**Term Paper Guidelines**

I am assuming that you know the standards of masters level writing. If any of this is foreign to you, feel free to contact the seminary writing center for assistance. The basics include:

- Times New Roman font, size 12, double spaced, 1 inch margins

Appropriate citations in Turabian style, properly formatted in both footnotes and the bibliography (see [www.turabian.org](http://www.turabian.org)).

Margins and spaces between letters and words should be standard and not altered in any way.

Papers should be always be proof-read for grammatical and structural errors. Poor writing will not receive a high grade. Research materials need to be high quality. Here are the requirements for research materials:

- Use at least 15 scholarly sources. These sources should be from the world of contemporary scholarship, consisting of at least 5 commentaries, 5 books, and 5 scholarly journal articles. The following sources must be completely avoided:

  Internet Sources (other than scholarly journal articles downloaded from the (ATLA database)

  Whole-Bible Commentaries (Matthew Henry, etc.). Works published before 1970. Study Bibleso CD-ROM sources

  - Only one source can be taken from a Bible dictionary

  - Bibles are not considered one of the 5-8 sources.

  - The best place to obtain commentaries and books on the New Testament is a theological library.

  - Scholarly journal articles can be downloaded for free using the ATLA database. Students have this access through the Lee University Library.
· A helpful list of appropriate commentaries and monographs is found in the syllabus Textbooks:


John Christopher Thomas, Ministry and Theology (Cleveland, TN: Pathway, 1996). 8714486008