

SYLLABUS

Description

This course explores the theological ideas in the various writings of the New Testament and then seeks to integrate these ideas into the unified message of that text.

Objectives

1. Students will understand the history and methods of biblical theology and apply these to a particular text.
2. Students will begin to understand the background out of which the New Testament message arose.
3. Students will be able to summarise the teachings of the various groups of New Testament books.
4. Students will summarise the Theology of the New Testament.

Required Texts

1. George B. Caird, *New Testament Theology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994).
2. Heikki Räisänen, *Beyond New Testament Theology: A Story and a Programme* (London: SCM, 2001²).
3. David Johnson, *A Theology of the New Testament: Backgrounds, Diversity, and Unity* (Otterburne: PBS, 2011).

Requirements

A. Reading.

This is a 'heavy' reading course. Consequently, to receive full credit the reading must be done according to the class schedule. Note that some reading assignments are shorter than others; this is an opportunity to get ahead with the longer assignments (like Caird). Students will submit a signed and dated reading report on the last day of class (page 4 of this syllabus). A maximum of 5 marks will be subtracted from the final mark for the course for incomplete or late reading.

1. The New Testament (I suggest you read individual books in one sitting).
2. Caird, *New Testament Theology*.
3. Räisänen, *Beyond New Testament Theology*
4. D. A. Carson, "Unity and Diversity in the New Testament: The Possibility of Systematic Theology" in *Scripture and Truth*, ed., D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983), 65-95.
5. K. Vanhoozer, "Exegesis and Hermeneutics," in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, ed., T. D. Alexander and R. S. Rosner (Downers Grove, IVP, 2001).
6. D. A. Carson, "New Testament Theology," in *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments* ed. Ralph P. Martin and Peter H. Davids (Downers Grove: IVP, 1997).
7. E. J. Schnabel, "Scripture," in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, ed., T. D. Alexander and R. S. Rosner (Downers Grove, IVP, 2001).

B. Writing

1. Write a 2000-word book review of Räisänen being sure to evaluate his proposal for NT Theology. The evaluation should show evidence of the reading of Carson, "New Testament Theology" and "Unity and Diversity in the New Testament," Vanhoozer, "Exegesis and Hermeneutics," and Schnabel, "Scripture." Three marks will be subtracted for each class period late after the due date (**February 15**). *30 marks*.
2. Write a Theology of the Book of James. "What are the central tenets of jacobian theology and how are they developed and related in the book?" (no more than 1200 words). This assignment gives you the opportunity to apply the process of biblical theology for yourself. The paper must be handed in on time (**March 15**) since it will form the basis of class discussion that day. Late papers receive a 0 and the student fails the course. *30 marks*.
3. Write a 120-word synopsis of the message of the New Testament. Demonstrate in chart form that the main ideas of your synopsis are addressed by the various New Testament authors. The synopsis should be well-written with complete sentences. Essentially, 120 words form one paragraph of six to eight sentences. Do not let the brevity of presentation fool you. This assignment demands much reading and meditation on the New Testament. The reading of Caird and Carson will be helpful. **Due April 12**. *40 marks*.

Note: *All work must be completed to pass the course.*

Schedule

{PRIVATE } CLASS	DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENT DUE
1	Jan 11	History and Methodology of NT Theology	
2	Jan 18	The foundation of NT Theology in the OT and its earliest interpretations.	Carson, "New Testament Theology" and "Unity and Diversity;" Caird, 1-26.
3	Feb 1	The foundation of NT Theology in the life and ministry of John and Jesus.	Vanhoozer, "Exegesis"; Schnabel, "Scripture".
4	Feb 8	Theology of the Synoptic Gospels and Acts	<u>Matthew, Mark Luke, Acts.</u>
5	Feb 15	Pauline Theology I	Review of Räisänen. <u>Romans-2 Corinthians.</u>
6	Feb 22	Pauline Theology II	<u>Galatians-Philemon.</u>
7	Mar 1	Johannine Theology	<u>John, 1, 2, and 3 John, Revelation.</u>
8	Mar 15	The General Epistles	Theology of James. <u>Hebrews-Jude.</u>
9	Mar 22	A Theology of the NT I	Caird, 27-178
10	Mar 29	A Theology of the NT II	Caird, 179-344
11	Apr 5	A Theology of the NT III	Caird, 345-426
12	Apr 12	A Theology of the NT IV	Synopsis.

READING REPORT

{PRIVATE } CLASS	DATE	READING DUE	SIGNATURE AND DATE
1	Jan 11		
2	Jan 18	Read Carson, "New Testament Theology" and "Unity and Diversity;" Caird, 1-26	
3	Feb 1	Vanhoozer, "Exegesis"; Schnabel, "Scripture"	
4	Feb 8	<u>Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts</u>	
5	Feb 15	<u>Romans-2 Corinthians</u>	
6	Feb 22	<u>Galatians-Philemon.</u>	
7	Mar 1	<u>John, 1, 2, and 3 John, Revelation.</u>	
8	Mar 15	<u>Hebrews-Jude.</u>	
9	Mar 22	Caird, 27-178	
10	Mar 29	Caird, 179-344	
11	Apr 5	Caird, 345-426	
12	Apr 12		