

ST. THOMAS SEMINARY . Bloomfield, CT 06002
OFFICE OF EDUCATION, EVANGELIZATION and CATECHESIS

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

Course Title

CBS 200 New Testament Foundations: Jesus and Discipleship

(Pre-Requisite: CBS 100)

Course Description

This year-long course of study continues from CBS 100, developing students' understanding and use of the interpretive and exegetical methods of engaging the biblical texts. Students focus on the foundational texts of the New Testament. They begin by completing a book report on a scholarly monograph covering New Testament

Christology, followed by a six-hour introduction to the literature of the New Testament and the historical and social-political context of the New Testament writings. Then, over the course of weekly classes, students obtain a firm grasp of the basic Christian story of God's saving action through Jesus of Nazareth and continuing in the community of disciples. Students read major portions of the assigned biblical books as well as secondary sources that provide historical, cultural, religious and literary insights into the primary texts—including careful study of the geography of biblical lands in the first and second centuries CE. Students engage the texts through weekly written assignments and have opportunities on a weekly basis to place their understanding of the biblical texts in the context of their lived faith experiences by means of reflection and discussion in small groups. In the spring, students engage in a four-hour intensive study on a biblical topic of contemporary interest. A comprehensive exam completes each of the three units of study in this course.

Instructors

Instructors vary by location.

Students should request the instructor's contact information during Week One.

Faculty Chair

BJ Daly Horell, Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis: 860-242-5573 ext. 2679 or catholic.biblical.school@aohct.org. (Email preferred)

Credits

4.5

Cancellations

Go to <http://www.stsregistrar.org/cgi-bin/CBS/cbsstudentlogin.pl>

Your password is your student ID. If you do not have access to a computer, a voice message will be provided at 860-242-5573 ext. 2670.

Required Texts

A Study Bible. Recommended translations: New American Bible Revised Edition (copyright 2011 or later), New Jerusalem Bible, New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha, Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha, New International Version with Apocrypha. Paraphrased and Condensed Bibles are not an acceptable primary text for use in this program.

The Catholic Biblical School Student Workbook Year 2: New Testament Foundations: Jesus and Discipleship (Paulist Press, 2008) (ISBN 978-0-8091-9586-2)

Eerdman's Dictionary of the Bible, David Noel Freedman, ed. (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, Ltd., 2000) (ISBN 978-0-8028-2400-4)

Oxford Bible Atlas, fourth edition, edited by Adrian Curtis (Oxford University Press, 2007) (ISBN 9780199560462)

Synopsis of the Four Gospels, revised edition, K. Aland, ed., (American Bible Society) (ISBN 978-1585169429)

Jesus: A Gospel Portrait, revised edition, Donald Senior, C.P. (Paulist Press, 1992) (ISBN 0-8091-3338-5)

An Introduction to the New Testament for Catholics, Joseph F. Kelly (Liturgical Press, 2006) (ISBN 9780814652169)

Revelation and the End of All Things, Craig R. Koester (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2001) (ISBN 9780802846600)

The Gospel and Epistles of John: a Concise Commentary, fourth edition, Raymond Brown (Liturgical Press, 1986) (ISBN 9780814612835)

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Describe similarities and differences in chronology and perspective between the gospels of Mark and Luke.
2. Apply readings related to the gospels of Mark and Luke to discussions about what these gospels teach about the life of Christ.
3. Apply readings related to the gospels of Mark and Luke to discussions about what these gospels teach about the development of local faith communities in the first century.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with the chronology, geography, and social and cultural environment of early Christianity.
5. Investigate the structure, themes, and theology of the Acts of the Apostles and ten Pauline letters.
6. Describe the relationship of the structure, themes, and theology of the Acts of the Apostles and ten Pauline letters to the message of Christianity.
7. Investigate the structure, themes, and theology of the Gospel of John, the letters of John, and the Book of Revelation.
8. Describe the relationship of the structure, themes, and theology of the Johannine texts to the message of Christianity.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance** at two day-long "Scripture Days," presented by guest lecturers (leading scripture scholars) (Fall and Spring)
2. **Attendance** at a minimum of 8 out of 10 class meetings per unit
3. **Written Assignment** on *Jesus: A Gospel Portrait*, by Donald Senior, OP, due at the Opening Scripture Day in August.
4. **Unit Exams:** Scheduled on the final class meeting in each unit

5. **Readings** from the Bible and secondary sources
6. **Weekly Homework:** One- to three-page typewritten responses to exegetical and interpretive questions, due at the beginning of class each week, except when unit exams are scheduled.
7. **Integral Challenges:** Students must complete 1-5 additional papers (2-3 pages each in length, typewritten and double-spaced) or suitable project choosing (with advance authorization of the instructor) from among the “optional challenges” provided in the student workbook. These Integral Challenges explore questions of literary criticism, theological hermeneutics, and the social-historical contexts of biblical texts. (To be eligible for an “A” grade in the course, students must satisfactorily complete 5 integral challenges; to be eligible for a “B” grade, students must satisfactorily complete 3 integral challenges; to be eligible for a “C” grade, students must complete satisfactorily 1 integral challenge. All integral challenges will be graded A, B, C, D, or F. Completion of 5 integral challenges does *not* guarantee an “A” grade on either the integral challenge portion of the course requirements or for the course itself.)

Integral Challenge Due Dates:

- 1) Fifth Week of Class: Submit to instructor your plan for the IC projects you intend to complete
- 2) First Class Meeting After Thanksgiving Break: First IC project due
- 3) First Class Meeting After Christmas Break: Second IC project due
- 4) First Class Meeting After February Break: Third IC project due
- 5) First Class Meeting After Holy Week Break: Fourth IC project due
- 6) Final Class Meeting in May: Final IC project due

8. Active Participation in weekly discussion groups and lectures

Recommended Assignments

Geography, vocabulary and memory verses as detailed in students workbook lessons (Not turned in to instructor, but material *will* be tested on Unit Exams)

Course Assessment

Course Requirement	Expectation	Weight
Class Participation	Participation in weekly, small-group discussions; active engagement in full-class presentations and semi-annual Scripture Days	15%
Summer Reading Paper	Two to three double-spaced pages on Summer Reading Assignment: graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	15%
Integral Challenge Papers	Two to three typewritten double-spaced pages on student’s choice (with instructor approval in advance) of “Optional Challenges” listed in Student Workbook: graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	20%
Written Homework Papers	Weekly homework papers: cumulative homework grade (A through F) assigned per unit. All homework must be <i>complete</i> to receive credit toward certificates.	20%
Unit Exams (3)	Graded on a full scale A through F, as below.	30%

Letter Grade	Description	Value	Numerical Points
A	Excellent	4.00	93 - 100
A-		3.67	90 - 92
B+		3.33	87 - 89
B	Good	3.00	83 - 86
B-	Average	2.67	80 - 82
C+		2.33	77 - 79
C		2.00	73 - 76
C-	Low Average	1.67	70 - 72
D+	Less than Average	1.33	67 - 69
D		1.00	63 - 66
D-	Minimum Passing Grade	0.67	60 - 62
F	Failure	0.00	Below 60
I	Incomplete	0.00	0.00
W	Withdrawal	0.00	0.00

Certificates

To be eligible for the Certificate in Biblical Studies at the end of the four-course curriculum, students must pass each course with a grade of “C” or better.

Late Assignments

Can be turned in with no penalty through the last day of each unit, with the permission of the instructor

Make-up Policy

Missed requirements and absences can be made up only by permission of the Chair of the Certificate in Biblical Studies, Ms. Barbara Jean Daly Horell (860-242-5573, ext. 2679, or catholic.biblical.school@aohct.org)

Course Schedule

Unit One:

Class Discussion: Weekly class discussions in Unit One will center around the following issues and theological themes: Historical Development of the Christian Community in the First Century CE; Socio-Political Context of the Christian Community in the First Century CE; Portraits of Jesus in the Gospels of Mark and Luke; Examining the Content of Gospel “Good News”; Who Were the Evangelists?; What is Community Life in the Christian Church?

Week One

Assignment: Joseph F.Kelly, An Introduction to the New Testament for Catholics (Kelly), pages 18-30 and 80-88; Eerdmans’ Dictionary of the Bible (EDB) article: “Jesus Christ: Sources”; Student Workbook Supplementary Reading (SWSR) #1 “Truth and its Many Expressions”; SWSR #2 “The Three Stages of the Composition of the Gospels (Vatican II)”

Week Two

Assignment: Mark 1-3; Kelly, pages 89-96; EDB articles: “Messiah,” “Q” and “Son of God”; SWSR #3 “The Synoptic Gospels and Their Sources”; SWSR #4 “Exploring the Synoptic Gospels: Mark and His Careful Readers”; SWSR #5 “The Gospel According to Mark: Overview”

- Week Three** Assignment: Mark 4:1-8:21; Kelly, pages 96-98; EDB articles: “Kingdom of God,” “Miracle,” “Parable,” and “Syrophoenician”
- Week Four** Assignment: Mark 8:22-13:37; Kelly, pages 99-103; EDB articles: “Eschatology: Jesus and the Gospels,” “Son of Man,” “Temple: Jerusalem Temple,” and “Transfiguration”
- Week Five** Assignment: Mark 14-16; Kelly, pages 103-109; EDB articles: “Abba,” “Lord’s Supper: Matthew and Mark,” “Passion Narratives,” and “Pilate, Pontius”
- Week Six** Assignment: Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2; Kelly, pages 114-117 and 136-141; EDB articles: “Dreams,” “Gabriel,” “Joseph #9,” and “Mary #1”; SWSR #8 “Luke-Acts: Overview”; SWSR #9 “How to Read the Nativity Stories of Jesus”
- Week Seven** Assignment: Luke 3:1-9:50; Kelly, pages 110-112 and 141-145; EDB articles: “Holy Spirit: Gospels,” “Luke,” “Luke: Gospel of,” and “Meals”; SWSR #11 “L Passages”; SWSR # 12 “Material Usually Allotted to Q”
- Week Eight** Assignment: Luke 9:51-19:27; Kelly, pages 145-148; EDB articles: “Father,” “Lord’s Prayer,” “Samaritans,” and “Sin: New Testament”
- Week Nine** Assignment: Luke 19:28-24:53; Kelly, pages 149-156; EDB articles: “Ascension: Jesus” and “Resurrection”
- Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam

Unit Two

Class Discussion: Weekly class discussions in Unit Two will center on the following issues and theological themes: The Content of Paul’s Authentic Writings; Paul’s Theological and Literary Style; The History and Socio-Political Context of First-Century Roman Empire in Palestine; Paul’s Moral Teaching; Charismatic Leadership; The Power of the Risen Christ in the NT Community

- Week One** Assignment: Acts 1-12; Kelly, pages 179-193; EDB articles: “Acts of the Apostles,” “Pentecost,” and “Stephen”; SWSR # 8 “Luke-Acts: Overview”
- Week Two** Assignment: Acts 13-28; Kelly, pages 31-39 and 193-200; SWSR #15 “Outline of Paul’s Chronology”
- Week Three** Assignment: 1 and 2 Thessalonians; Philippians; Kelly, pages 40-42, 49-53, and 201-203; EDB articles: “Eschatology: Paul,” “Kenosis,” and “Parousia”; SWSR #17 “Raptured or Not?”; and SWSR #18 “The Letters of Paul: Overviews-Paul, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, Philippians.”
- Week Four** Assignment: 1 Corinthians; Kelly, pages 54-63; EDB articles: “Body,” “Body of Christ,” “Corinth,” “Corinthians, First Letter to the,” and

“Resurrection: New Testament”; SWSR #18 “The Letters of Paul: Overview-1 Corinthians”; SWSR #19 “House Churches and the Eucharist”

- Week Five** Assignment: 2 Corinthians; Kelly, pages 63-69; EDB articles: “Apostle” and “Corinthians, Second Letter to the”; SWSR #18 “The Letters of Paul: Overview-2 Corinthians”; SWSR #20 “You Are the Body of Christ”
- Week Six** Assignment: Galatians; Kelly, pages 43-47; EDB articles: “Circumcision,” “Galatia,” “Galatians, Letter to the,” “Faith,” and “Judaizing”; SWSR #18 “The Letters of Paul: Overview-Galatians.”
- Week Seven** Assignment: Romans 1-4; Kelly, pages 69-72; EDB articles: “Justification,” “Righteousness,” and “Romans, Letter to the”; SWSR #18 “The Letters of Paul: Overview-Romans.”
- Week Eight** Assignment: Romans 5-16; Kelly, pages 72-79; EDB articles: “Election: New Testament” and “Deaconess”
- Week Nine** Assignment: Colossians; Ephesians; Philemon; Kelly, pages 47-48 and 203-211; EDB article: “Marriage”; SWSR #18 “The Letters of Paul: Overview-Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon”; SWSR #22 “Ten Effects of the Christ Event”; SWSR #23 “Self-Quiz on Paul-2”
- Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam

Unit Three

Class Discussion: Weekly class discussions in Unit Three will center on the following issues and theological themes: Johannine Literary and Theological Styles; The Character of John’s Community; The Nature of Apocalyptic Writings and Eschatological Interests in 200 BCE to 150 CE; Apocalyptic Use Today; Jewish-Christian Relationships

- Week One** Assignment: John 1-4; Kelly, pages 157-164; Brown, pages 9-39; EDB articles: “John, Gospel of”; “The Gospel According to John and the Johannine Letters”; SWSR #24 Overview-The Gospel According to John”; SWSR #25 “Johannine Vocabulary”
- Week Two** Assignment: John 5-12; Kelly, pages 164-171; Brown, pages 39-70; EDB article: “Sabbath”; SWSR #27 “Jewish Calendar and Special Feast Days”
- Week Three** Assignment: John 13-17; Kelly, pages 171-173; Brown, pages 71-87; EDB articles: “Footwashing,” “Holy Spirit: John,” “Paraclete,” and “Truth”
- Week Four** Assignment: John 18-21; Kelly, pages 173-178; Brown, pages 87-104; EDB articles: “Beloved Disciple,” “Kidron,” “Thomas,” “Mary: 2. Mary Magdalene”

- Week Five** Assignment: 1 John; 2 John; 3 John; Kelly, pages 239-246; Brown, pages 105-126; EDB articles: "John, Letters of" and "Antichrist"; "The Gospel According to John and the Johannine Letters: SWSR # 24 Overview-The Johannine Letters"; SWSR # 28 "The History of the Johannine Community"
- Week Six** Assignment: Mark 13; Luke 21; Matthew 24-25; Kelly, pages 102-103 and 128-129; EDB articles: "Apocalyptic," "Parousia" and "Eschatology: Jesus and the Gospels"; SWSR # 30 "Apocalyptic Literature as Dramatic Imagination"
- Week Seven** Assignment: Revelation 1-3; Kelly, pages 247-252; Koester, pages 1-69; EDB article: "Revelation, Book of"; SWSR # 31 "Apocalyptic Literature and the Book of Revelation: Overview"
- Week Eight** Assignment: Revelation 4-14; Kelly, pages 252-257; Koester, pages 71-141; EDB article: "Beast"
- Week Nine** Assignment: Revelation 15-22; Kelly, pages 257-259; Koester, pages 141-205; EDB articles: "Exile," "Millennium," and "Scroll"
- Week Ten** Assignment: Unit Exam