

Catalogue Course Description:

The question "What does the biblical text mean?" will be the focus as students explore what have become the more significant contemporary approaches to biblical interpretation. The Bible will be viewed variously from the perspectives of the worlds behind, of/in, and in front of the text using hermeneutical methods ranging from the typological to the historical-critical, to the liberationist, post-modern. Textual grounding will be achieved through hermeneutical analysis of select passages in both Testaments.

Course Objectives:

- To become knowledgeable of some of the numerous methods of biblical interpretation, including historical-critical, social-scientific, narrative-critical and contextual approaches;
- To become aware of the historical, cultural and religious worldviews of the communities responsible for the composition and preservation of the Scriptures;
- To become familiar with some of the many exegetical tools and resources used in contemporary Scripture study;
- To understand both the strengths and limitations of *author*, *text*, and *reader centered* approaches of biblical interpretation;
- To appreciate the past and present ecclesial contexts within which the interpretation of Scripture takes place.

Evaluation:

- Active participation
- Research paper
- One class presentation
- Final exam

Required Texts:

One of the following Bibles:

CST: The Catholic Study Bible. Second edition. Donald Senior, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. **This is the preferred text since some required readings will be from the "Reading Guides" of this Bible. One copy of this Bible is in Aquinas Library and will be placed on Reserve.**

HCSB: The HarperCollins Study Bible. Wayne A. Meeks, ed. New York: Harper Collins, 1993.

NOAB: The New Oxford Annotated Bible: NRSV with the Apocrypha. Third edition. Michael D. Coogan, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

NJB: The New Jerusalem Bible. Alexander Jones, ed. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1985.

Bergant, Dianne. *Scripture: History and Interpretation*. Engaging Theology: Catholic Perspectives. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2008.

Carvalho, Corrine L. *Primer on Biblical Methods*. Winona: Saint Mary's Press, 2009.

Strongly Recommended:

Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*. Rev. ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2009.

Tate, W. Randolph. *Interpreting the Bible: A Handbook of Terms and Methods*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006.