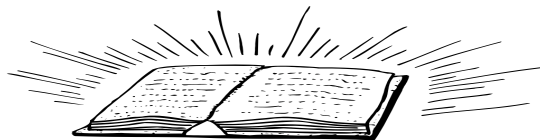


New Testament



Syllabus

Fall Semester 2009

Br. Michael Ward, OFM

Course Goals:

1. To understand the basic information about Jesus and His message as presented in the New Testament.
2. To understand, appreciate, and apply a Catholic approach to Scripture.
3. To recognize the workings of the Holy Spirit in one's own life to assist the student to think critically about the New Testament within the context of one's faith.
4. To assist the student in drawing an image of Jesus so that one is able to work toward a personal and communal response to one's faith.
5. To assist students to apply the Good News of Jesus to their OWN lives for maturation in personal faith and moral living which leads to the desire to live as Christian disciples in today's world and be active members of the Church.
6. After this course, each student should be able to read Scripture with a greater ease and comfort level by developing skills in biblical exegesis and reflection.

Rationale for Goals of the Course:

"There are many ways to study and interpret Scripture. It is important for students to understand and respect Scripture as God's revealing Word. Scripture should be taught in accordance with Church Teaching" (*Journey Through the New Testament: Teacher's Manual*, p.2. Harcourt Press, 2006.).

In the Vatican II document, *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, the Bishops of that council stated that three criteria must be met in teaching Scripture correctly.

1. Special attention should be given to the content and unity of the whole Scripture.
2. Scripture should be read within the living tradition of the Church.
3. Attention should be given to the analogy of faith. In other words, the message of Scripture should deepen our personal faith and be consistent with the whole body of truths taught by the Catholic Church.

Grading:

This is an academic course and therefore requires measurement of success. The letter grade for this course is NOT a measurement of one's personal or familial faith. Students and parents are not to interpret the letter grade as a reflection of faith. Letter grades are **earned**, not given, based on academic performance. Students will **earn** their grade depending on a combination of tests, quizzes, classroom activities, class participation, a group project, homework, reflection and essays.

Explanation of grades:

- Letter grades will be assigned according to the scale outlined in the *Parent and Student Handbook*.
- Breakdown of Grades:
 - Quizzes: 15%
 - Tests: 20%
 - Homework 10%
 - Bible Worksheets 10%
 - Projects (Group and Individual): 15%
 - Homily Reflection (1 per qtr): 10%
 - Lectionary/Scripture Work 10%
 - Class Participation: 10%

General Outline of Class

- We will cover approximately 30 to 40 pages of the textbook per two weeks.
 - o You will be assigned additional readings from the Bible.
- Due most every Friday: prepare for weekend Lectionary Readings..
- Expect a quiz every day. It is highly suggested that you review your notes EVERY day. Ask questions about the notes you have taken.
- Depending on class comprehension, there will be between 3 and 4 test per quarter.
- Depending on class comprehension and scheduling, there should be one or two creative projects each quarter.
- There will be one large written work assignment each quarter.
- There will be an average of 2 homework assignments a week.
- **Weeks 1-3: Introduction to course: Putting the Bible into Context : Chapter 1: Called into Relationship**
 - o Topics/Duties
 - Go over student expectations/requirements
 - Re-introduce Students to the bible
 - Putting the Bible into its Liturgical Context
 - Placing the bible in its contemporary context.
 - Familiarize students with the bible/ lectionary/ liturgical calendar.
 - Lectionary Readings
 - Handout textbooks: discuss how the course is setup.
 - Review outline of the course.
 - Basic introduction into biblical interpretation and how to read the bible.
 - The Development of Scripture
 - World of the Text, World Behind the Text, World in Front of the Text.
- **Weeks 4-5: Chapter 2: Called to follow Jesus.**
 - o Topics:
 - The People of God
 - Judaism at the time of Jesus
 - Politics and Society at the time of Jesus
 - The Beginnings of the Church
 - The Shift from Oral Tradition to Written Tradition
 - Development of the Gospels and the New Testament
 - o Lectionary Readings:
 - o Witnesses of Faith: Dorothy Day and Thea Bowman
- **Weeks 6-7: Chapter 4: Called to Believe**
 - o Topics:
 - Background and themes of *The Gospel According to Mark*
 - The Call of Discipleship and public ministry
 - The Messianic Secret and obstacles to discipleship
 - The central role of the Paschal Mystery
 - o Witness of Faith: Padre Pio
 - o Lectionary Readings:
- **Weeks 8-9 : Chapter 3: Called to be Like Jesus**
 - o Background and Themes of Matthew's Gospel
 - o The Beatitudes and the Parables: What do they teach us about Christianity?
 - o What is Jesus' vision of the Church?
- **Weeks 10-11: Chapter 5: Called To Justice**
 - o Topics:
 - Background on *The Gospel According to Luke*
 - The role of love, forgiveness and prayer
 - The incarnation, the Reign of God and the Infancy Narratives.
 - Jesus' compassion for the poor, the sick, sinners and the outcasts
 - The importance of table fellowship
 - o Witness of Faith: Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
 - o Lectionary Readings:.

- **Weeks 12-13: Chapter 6: Called to Love**
 - o Topics:
 - Background and themes of the *Gospel of John*
 - Images and signs used in John's Gospel
 - The Last Supper Discourses – the command to love
 - Consider the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection for us today
 - o Witness of Faith:: Dom Helder Camara
 - o Lectionary Reading:
 - **Weeks 14-15: Called to Share the Good News**
 - o Topics:
 - Themes and authorship of Acts
 - Pentecost and the Church's beginnings
 - Paul's conversion and the mission to the Gentiles
 - o Witness of Faith:: St. Catherine of Sienna; St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross
 - o Lectionary Readings:
 - **Weeks 16-17 : Called to Be Church**
 - o Topics:
 - Authorship and themes of the Epistles.
 - The Pauline letters as encouragement to the early faith communities
 - Issues of early faith communities and today
 - Book of Revelation: imagery and symbolism
 - o Lectionary Readings:
 - o Witness of faith: Modern Letters written by the Popes.
- Weeks 18-20 Project Completions/ Loose Ends / Finals.**

Important Due Dates

October 12, 2009: First Homily Reflection due.

December 7, 2009: Second Homily Reflection due.

TUTORIALS

Br. Mike will gladly meet with any student outside of class time. Tuesdays after school are the best time. We meet in the library. A sign up sheet will be posted.



Be sure you are "On Time and On Task!."

Stay focused on the material.

While in class you are to work on this class ONLY!