



# HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

## Syllabus

5220 New Testament Theology

Spring Semester Jan 21-May 15

Harding School of Theology • Spring 2020

Prof. Richard E. Oster, Jr.

[roster@harding.edu](mailto:roster@harding.edu) 901-432-7718

My Graduate Assistant: Robert (Andrew) Montgomery

[rmontgomery@harding.edu](mailto:rmontgomery@harding.edu) 1(901) 490-8730

### Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: [roster@harding.edu](mailto:roster@harding.edu)

Office Phone Number: 901-432-7718.

**Textbooks** Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the HST website. The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Additional readings, course notes, a place to submit assignments, and grades are available on Canvas. To access the Canvas course page, go to <http://elearning.harding.edu>.

**Credit Hour Workload** For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

**Students with Disabilities** It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

**Library Resources** If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or 5770 (Research in Counseling), or took either class more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site ([www.hst.edu](http://www.hst.edu)) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, PsycINFO, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990 and 5770. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

**Academic Integrity** Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

*If I need to contact you outside of Canvas, I will use your Harding University/HST email address, so please make sure you check it regularly; or, have your mail from it forwarded to another email address of your choice that you check regularly. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check their HST email site.*

Your grade could be penalized for unexcused absences and coming to class unprepared.

***The following material is adapted from a handout kindly provided by Prof. Carlus Gupton:***

*Course Etiquette for HST Live*

*HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.*

*All absences, late arrivals, and early departures should be respectfully requested by the student and approved by the professor prior to beginning of class session, whenever possible. It is the professor's call to grant (or not grant) the exception. It is considered unprofessional to simply inform the professor that you will be early/late, especially during class.*

*“Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted ONLY in extreme cases such as illness, family emergency, church funeral (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all calendared sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.*

*Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (e.g. a chair at a desk in your office). It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc. [While I have pacifist tendencies, some of the examples of bad classroom etiquette provided by Dr. Gupton in this last paragraph ignite images of punishment by “firing squad” in my mind; Prof. Richard Oster].*

*Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. For example, if you must go to the rest room, except during class breaks, mute your audio/video, go quickly, return to your screen, un-mute, and resume with the class.*

*Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (e.g. no background family noise, TV, etc.)*

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY

### CANVAS ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding’s *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email about a class related issue, always use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system. This provides a secure and convenient means of tracking communication between you and your professor.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, **it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.**

If you wish to contact me via email and it is unrelated to a course, it is best to email me directly at [roster@harding.edu](mailto:roster@harding.edu).

### **HST LIVE INTERACTIVE VIDEO EDUCATION (HST LIVE) via ZOOM**

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform. The HST Live/Zoom Meeting ID for this course is <https://zoom.us/j/9014327718>.

Students new to HST LIVE should attend the HST LIVE Orientation Monday, January 13, at 6:00-8:00 PM. The Zoom ID for the Orientation session will be 3188055566.

#### ***Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:***

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

This course is supported with the video platform [www.Zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and **Canvas** (available at <http://elearning.harding.edu/>) to facilitate class participation. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

Assignments in this course offer opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in the following ways:

- Use of library and electronic databases to do research
- Use of online technology for submissions and class participation
- Exploration of the Internet to identify resources (e.g., dialogue groups, professional organizations, professional writings).

5220 New Testament Theology intersects many of the MDiv outcomes. The following shows ways in which this course reflects many of the goals of the MDiv.

- 1 **Demonstrate knowledge of the basic content of the English Bible.** Effective ministers need to be well versed in the scripture as the source of our knowledge of God and his will for humanity.

- 2 **Demonstrate advanced exegetical skills in the interpretation of scripture.**  
This will equip ministers to understand God and his will at the highest level both for personal spiritual formation and for teaching others.
- 3 **Exhibit an understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology.**  
Ministers need to refine their own understanding of the Christian faith, to be able to respond to contemporary proposals in Christian theology (both academic and popular), and to be able to teach others the central elements of the faith.
- 4 **Exhibit an understanding of the general history of the church and of doctrine, including the Stone-Campbell Movement in particular.** Acquiring this historical understanding equips ministers with the theological resources necessary to intelligently interact with current Christian traditions and issues.
- 7 **Be able to communicate effectively in written, oral, and multi-media forms.**  
Such public communication serves as a primary way a minister contributes to the spiritual formation of the congregation and to the cross-cultural proclamation of the gospel.

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

We will spend the first few weeks of the course looking at some of the pervasive, foundational truths helpful to you in expanding your theology of the New Testament. With familiar phrases Paul laid some of these foundation stones in teachings he shared with the church of God in Corinth:

“yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live” (NIV, 2011).

In the remainder of the course we will turn our attention first to the topic of how Jesus, his Apostles, and the general followers of Christ read and employed the Old Testament in their lives and theology. Finally, we will finish the course by exploring next the “ministry of the Holy Spirit” for followers of Jesus Christ.

## **PRÉCIS OF DATES**

<b>Jan. 23</b>	<b>First class meeting</b>
<b>Jan. 30</b>	<b>List of Scripture verses for memorization due</b>
<b>Feb. 06</b>	<b>Research paper prospectus due</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>HST Spring Break; class does not meet this week</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Midterm Examination</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>HST Study Week; class does not meet this week</b>

April 23	Research paper due
April 30	Deadline for reciting Scripture verses from memory
May 14	Final Examination

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Witherington III, Ben. *The Indelible Image: The Theological and Ethical World of the New Testament, Vol. 1, :The Individual Witnesses.* IVP Academic, 2009. (818 pages to read)

### REQUIRED ARTICLES

Allen, Leonard. "The Future of the Restoration Movement." *Leaven* 4th Quarter, 2006, 159-165. 7 pages. [PLEASE READ THIS BRIEF ARTICLE BEFORE YOU COME TO CLASS ON JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> = THE FIRST CLASS MEETING].

Dunn, James D. G. *New Testament Theology, An Introduction.* Abingdon Press, pp. 53-69. 16 pages

Schreiner, Thomas. *Paul, Apostle of God's Glory in Christ. A Pauline Theology,* pp. 15-35. 20 pages

#### **Total pages 861 of reading**

Credit Course Calculator = 176 total hours

#### **Recommended, but not required, reading**

The Association of Theological Schools [ATS] rightly emphasizes the importance of a seminary's relationship to its ecclesial constituency. This recommended text is mentioned in light of that emphasis.

Ferguson, Everett. *The Church of Christ. A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today.* Eerdmans, 1996. Dr. Ferguson is professor emeritus at ACU.

Gundry, S. N. *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament (Kaiser; Bock; Enns).* Zondervan, 2007.

Wright, N. T. *The Last Word. Scripture and the Authority of God—Getting Beyond the Bible Wars,* HarperSanFrancisco, 2005. In light of current thinking, sometimes fuzzy, about the roles of Scripture and tradition, this small book contributes thoughtfully to these issues, including the importance of *Sola Scriptura*.

## Scripture Memorization

Memorization of God's Word is mentioned in Scripture and has a rich place in Jewish and Christian history (as well as in other world religions). In any case, you probably have memorized words to secular as well as Christian songs, sports facts, historical information, etc. so I know you can master the verses of Scripture required in this course. You need to notify my GA via Canvas email by Jan. 30th which section of Scripture you intend to memorize for this course. Your selection must be 12+ continuous verses of Scripture which I approve. They can be from any section of the New Testament. Once you have made your choice it cannot be changed, nor can you combine verses from different sections of the NT. This requirement will be satisfied by reciting the verses at one setting, to me, privately. **April 30** is the deadline for reciting the verses for me. HST Live students can do this via Zoom any day of the week that can be mutually scheduled. Your grade will be based upon the accuracy of your reciting of the verses. I expect you to recite them with a normal voice and intonation. You need to memorize the verses based upon one of the following English translations: NKJV; NASB; NRSV; ESV; NIV (either 1984 or 2011).

## Research Paper

**Research paper.** A one page prospectus for your 15 page research paper is due by the **third** class meeting (Feb. 06, 2020). In this course the paper needs to focus upon a theological theme in the NT. I **must approve** the topic submitted in your one page prospectus; this protects you from working on an inappropriate topic or doing the paper in a flawed way. If you have not yet taken Advanced Theological Research, then ***it is imperative*** that you receive some preliminary guidance from the library staff about the available resources for your research paper. The deadline for submission of your research paper is **April 23, 2020** at the beginning of class (1:00 PM). I will need an electronic copy submitted at the same time to me via Canvas putting "term paper" in the **Subject** line. *I do not want a pdf format electronic copy of your article.* I need it submitted in a typical word processing format. If your paper includes Greek or Hebrew fonts, then they **MUST** be unicode fonts. If you do not have such, then you can obtain them free from various sites on the internet. If you cannot do this, then have the library staff assist you. *I will NOT accept a paper where the Greek or Hebrew fonts look like rectangular boxes or hieroglyphics, etc.*

If you do not submit your paper on time, then you must notify me immediately via email that you have not submitted your paper on schedule. You also need to inform me at that time when you expect to submit it. If you do not submit it at that later date, then I need another email from you informing me that you have missed the deadline and informing me when you hope to submit your paper. If you fail to notify me that you have not met the deadline, then you will be penalized one letter grade [e.g., your paper could go from a grade of "B" to a grade of "C"].

**Penalty for late papers.** Your paper grade will be penalized one letter grade each week it is late. For example, if it is two weeks late, then the grade would go from a "B" to a "D." This penalty is in addition to the penalty for failure to notify me that you have not submitted your paper on schedule.

*Since your research paper is 40% of your grade, please submit it on schedule.* Naturally you will not be penalized if there are acceptable reasons, e.g., death, serious illness, for your tardiness. I must be notified by email or phone if you believe you have an acceptable reason for tardiness.

### Midterm Examination

The midterm examination is scheduled for March 19, the class meeting immediately following the week of Spring Break. The Exam will consist of an Objective part that includes typically T/F, Fill in the Blank, Listing, etc and Essays. This exam will cover all the lectures given until that point in time. The midterm exam will cover the readings by Allen; Dunn; and Schreiner. Also the midterm will cover Witherington, Indelible Image, chapters 1-3 (pp. 13-388).

### Final Examination

The final examination is scheduled for May 14. The Exam will consist of an Objective part that includes typically T/F, Fill in the Blank, Listing, etc and Essays. This exam will cover all the lectures given until that point in time after the midterm exam. That is, the Final Exam is **not** comprehensive for the entire course; it only covers the material given after the midterm exam. The Final Exam will cover the remainder of Witherington, the Indelible Image (pp. 389-818).

### Grade Distribution

<i>Scripture Memorization</i>	10%
<i>Research Paper</i>	30%
<i>Midterm Examination</i>	30%
<i>Final Examination</i>	30%