301N, DR502F: NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY

15 CREDITS       WEEKS 1-11

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.
COURSE CO-ORDINATOR
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TIMETABLE
The class will meet for one two-hour session per week (Thursday 10-12 am, New Kings NK3).

Students can view the University Calendar at:
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The New Testament includes 27 different works, by a number of different authors, produced over a significant time-span (less than a century). To what extent are these disparate or complementary voices? This course firstly introduces the academic discipline of New Testament Theology – its history, tasks, methods and problems - and then explores a number of New Testament texts, addressing questions of similarity, difference and development within their theology/ies. This will include particular study of one or more key theological themes (e.g. Christology, pneumatology, eschatology, soteriology), by means of close study of selected New Testament texts.
The course offers an overview of attempts, from the nineteenth century to the present, to synthesize the theology of the New Testament. In addition to engaging major figures such as Wrede, Bultmann, Caird and Matera, students will investigate core material questions, including the canonicity and theological consistency of the New Testament. The course will offer a survey of different contemporary approaches to New Testament Theology and do experimental probes into various areas and aspects of the New Testament. Challenges to the discipline and defences of it will be scrutinized and a positive approach developed.

INTENDED AIDS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes
* To familiarise students with the central issues in the discipline of New Testament theology;
* To challenge students to assess the theological and historical issues affecting the course of New Testament theology;
* To introduce students to the current debates over the validity of the enterprise of New Testament theology.

Knowledge and Understanding Outcomes
* The issues defining the major debates in the twentieth century (and since) relating to the construction of New Testament theology;
* The impact of the practice of NT exegesis on the practice of NT theology
* The wider theological issues relating to the construction of New Testament theology;
* The theologies of selected NT authors;
* The unity and diversity in selected aspects of New Testament theology.

Discipline-specific Skills
* Demonstrate the ability to reflect critically and constructively on the theological strengths and weaknesses of a range of theological positions;
* Show familiarity with the ways in which intellectual positions are shaped by contextual and genealogical relationships;
* Demonstrate precision in thinking through the construction and defence of a coherent theological position of one’s own;
* Show how one’s position addresses constructively the best of contemporary research in the field of New Testament studies, and other theological disciplines.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
The sessions of the course (Thursdays 10-12 am, New Kings NK3) will be organised as follows (with adaptations as appropriate/necessary):

Week 1: Introduction: problems and approaches
Weeks 2-11: Jesus of Nazareth; the emergence of Christology and the early Christian mission; the theology of the apostle Paul and his letters; the theology of the Synoptic Gospels and Acts; the voices of the Catholic Epistles, Johannine theology, unity and diversity in New Testament theology, biblical theology and systematic theology.

SECONDARY READING

* Books about New Testament theology
Books of New Testament theology

Wilckens, U., Theologie des Neuen Testaments (several volumes, Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchener, 2002-). [230.0415 Wil]

On individual books of the NT see the series edited by J. D. G. Dunn, New Testament Theology (Cambridge: CUP), especially volumes on Matthew (U. Luz), 1 Corinthians (V. Furnish); 1 Peter (A. Chester and R. P. Martin) and 1-3 John (J. Lieu).

Further reference

McKim, D. K., ed., Dictionary of Major Biblical Interpreters (Downers Grove, IL and Nottingham, UK: IVP, 2007) [220.609 DIC]

In all cases, students will be required to find further bibliography of their own from these and other texts (use of electronic data bases such as ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials is encouraged).

ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

One essay, 2,500 words (40%); 1 two-hour exam (60%).
Exam, 1st Attempt: Admission to the exam depends on the submission of all coursework and each item's assessment at CGS E3 or above.

Resit: 1 two-hour exam (100%).

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*

*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*

Past exam papers can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).

**ESSAY**

Students will be required to write an essay (2,500 words, to be submitted no later than 25 Nov 2015) on an aspect of New Testament theology of their choice (in consultation with the tutor). The essay must encompass to at least some degree exegetical, theological, and historical-theological elements.

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Submit two paper copies to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. All three copies to be submitted by 3.00 pm on the due date (25 Nov 2015).

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.