This course will begin on-campus September 19-20 and conclude online November 1, 2013.

Instructor:
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I. Course Description and Goals:
This course focuses on the content and context of these writings, and the theological emphases of their writers. In addition to Acts and Revelation, Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and 1 John will receive special attention. Students will articulate a theology of scripture.

Course Goals:
1. Distinguish these genres of biblical literature, and understand the major theological themes in these writings.
2. Faithfully exegete these forms of biblical literature.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.
4. Articulate the unity and authority of Scripture as a whole.

II. Textbooks
(Students are responsible for obtaining their own books, you may already own some of these from prior COS courses):

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A. **Required:** (we will use these books throughout the course)


You may also use:


Note: It must be one of these three approved Annotated/Study Bibles: *(Highly recommended to own at some point in your ministry. You may already own one of these from your other COS Bible courses. It must be one of these three since I have verified them to be academically sound resources.)*

B. **Supplementary:** (You won’t have required readings from these for class but they are good for a pastor to own.)

- I am not providing a supplementary text list but rather providing a plan for building your pastoral library. You should alternate this plan according to other resource needs such as theology, pastoral care, preaching and church history, etc. according to your priorities and needs.

- In this final year of COS you may already own most of the required texts above. My suggestion to you is to take some of your “book budget” for the course and purchase the following kinds of reference material. They will prove valuable in your future preparation of studies, sermons, etc.

- I have listed them in relative order of importance. Don’t try to get them all now but use this as a plan to gradually add these references throughout your pastoral career. I am including some Old Testament resources in this ‘plan’ as well.

1) Start with a One Volume Bible Dictionary: *(Highly recommended to own at some point in your ministry. You should have one from prior COS courses.)*


2) Then add a One Volume Commentary: *(Again, highly recommended to own at some point in your ministry. You should have one from prior COS courses.)*

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c. See others listed in the bibliography at the end.

3) Add a reference work that helps you understand the New Testament social world. (This is very important since they did not think and interact the way we do!)

4) Then a Theological Dictionary (looks at the use of various Hebrew and Greek words)
   c. For both the above works one can find an article on a particular Greek or Hebrew word by searching that word in blueletterbible.org (see tutorial in course main window) and noting the reference to the word’s location in either the TWOT or TDNTA.

5) As time goes on add a Multi Volume Bible Dictionary

6) Any time after 1) and 2), as needed add multi volume commentaries which usually treat a single biblical book. Recommended series are:
   a. New Interpreter’s Bible
      • each volume contains 3 or 4 biblical books
      • excellent scholarship
      • contains an exegetical (what the passage meant in its original time and place) and an interpretation (what the passage might mean for us today) section
      • excellent scholarship
      • more technical and exegetical than interpretive
   c. Interpretation
      • less technical, more interpretive

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d. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries
e. Westminster Bible Companion
f. Note others in the bibliography at the end
III. Course Schedule:

On Campus Weekend: September 20-21

- The On-Campus Weekend will begin at 2:30 on Friday and end by 2:30pm on Saturday. There will be a dinner break Friday and a lunch break and chapel on Saturday.
- Bring your textbooks
- Bring your laptops/tablets/i-whatevers if you have them, we will look at online resources.

Online Environment: 9/22 - 11/1

- This course continues with work online. Typical work online includes reading assigned readings, engaging in discussion groups, and writing papers. All online engagement will be complete by 11/1/2013.
- Thanks and feel free to contact me by e-mail (or the course Quickmail system) with any questions.
- As a rule of thumb one should study for two to four hours outside of class per every one credit hour. Taking an average of three hours per credit hour, one spends 3 hours in class plus 9 hours outside of class for a total of 12 hours of study plus class time per week. For a three credit hour course online of course there is no “in class” time but the rule still applies of about 12 hours per week total of reading, writing papers, posting and responding in discussion forums etc. For reading one can plan on taking an average of 60 minutes per 30 pages (two minutes per page). For writing plan about 60 min. per 1 page.
- To help you plan reading time, page amounts are listed in parenthesis () and total pages for the week are in brackets [] while estimated time in hours are in braces {}. Don’t stress out about this. These are just guidelines to help you plan.

Module 1: 9/22-9/27

Topics: NT culture; Paul and Letters; helpful websites and software

Read: [117pp. total] {6hr}

Malina [70pp]:
  - Introduction, pp. xiii – xv
  - Section I Honor and Shame, pp. 1-19
  - Section III In Group, Introductory Window, pg. 47 and Windows 20-24, pp. 52-61
  - Window 36, pp. 95-96
  - Section IV Lovingkindness, pp. 103-112

Powell: Chapters 10 (17pp.) and 11; (25pp.) Powell handouts (5) [47pp. total]

Assignment:
  - Work the Greattreasures.org tutorial
  - Work the Blueletterbible.org tutorial but pick a New Testament passage
  - Participate in discussion forum/s
  - Work ahead on the next paper due
Module 2: 9/29-10/4
Topics: John 1, 2, and 3; Exegesis
Read: The Books of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John (5pp); Powell chapter 27 (15pp); Gorman chapters 1-4 (74pp) [94pp] {5hr}
Assignment:
- Participate in discussion forum/s {1}
- Historical Context Paper Due 10/3

Module 3: 10/6-11
Topic: Acts; Exegesis
Read: The book of Acts (33pp); Powell Chapter 9 (25pp); Gorman chapters 5-7 (56pp) [114pp. total] {6hr}
Assignment:
- Participate in discussion forum/s {1}
- Work ahead on the next paper due

Module 4: 10/13-10/18
Topics: Revelation; Exegesis
Read: The book of Revelation (18pp); Powell chapter 29 (19pp); Gorman chapter 8, appendix B and C (64pp) [101pp] {5hr}
Assignment:
- Participate in discussion forum/s {1}
- Literary Context paper Due 10/17

Module 5: 10/20-25
Topic: Romans; 1-2 Corinthians
Read: The Book of Romans (14pp); Powell Chapter 12 (18pp); The Book of 1 Corinthians (13pp); Powell Chapter 13 (20pp); The Book of 2 Corinthians (8pp); Powell Chapter 14 (14pp) [87pp] {5}
Assignment:
- Participate in discussion forum/s
- Work ahead on the next paper due

Module 6: 10/27-11/1
Topics: Hebrews, James
Read: The Book of Hebrews (11pp); Powel chapter 23(18pp); The Book of James (4pp); Powell chapter 24 (18pp) [51pp] {3hrs}
Assignment:
- Participate in discussion forum/s
- Detailed Analysis Paper Due 10/31
IV. Assignments and Evaluation

A. Explanation of assignments and due dates:

- Assignments are due *Midnight* at the night of the due date. So if something is due Saturday at midnight then you have all day Saturday until midnight between Saturday night and Sunday AM.

- Electronic submission of written work:
  - Assignments should be submitted in MS Word (*.doc or *.docx) format or Rich Text format (*.RTF). Most word processor programs (even for the Mac and I-Pad) have the capability to save documents in those formats. This is usually accomplished by choosing the “save as” feature on the program and then selecting the “rich text” or “word” file type.
  - Adobe Acrobat format (*.PDF) is also acceptable. Some programs have the ability to save files in this format. Also there are some third party programs and websites which will convert many file types into this format.
  - All assignments will be returned to you in Adobe Acrobat (*.PDF) format since this is the most efficient way I have found to comment on the contents of written work. So you will need something like the Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download) to read the comments on the graded and returned assignments.

- General information on the papers:
  - Papers will be submitted electronically.
  - Use of sources, citation and bibliography:
    - Papers will follow SBL standards for reference citation and bibliography
      - This may be footnoting with a bibliography
      - This may be author/page citation with a bibliography
      - Quotations should be placed in quotation marks and quotations over four lines should be single spaced and indented one half inch from the left margin of the main text. See various examples and style sheets in the course main module.
    - Note that most of your work will be from your own observations of the biblical text and the exegetical tools you will use to understand that text.
    - You won’t be using a lot of secondary resources but when you do, those resources should be given their due. See the Academic Honor Policy below.
    - Quoting verbatim or nearly verbatim from a print, electronic, or internet source *must* be indicated as a quotation and the source cited. Also, when using information or an idea from a particular source *it must* be cited. Failure to do so will result in one or more consequences listed in the Academic Honor Policy below.
  - Each paper will report the findings of an exegetical method.
  - Each paper will conclude with how the information discovered will affect preaching and teaching. (This is the “so what” of your paper.)

1. Historical background/rhetorical exigence (6-7 pages double spaced)
   - **DUE Friday 10/3** midnight of Friday night
   - Passage: 1 John (the whole epistle)
   - See handout (posted in course main module) for more information.
2. Literary context (6-7 pages double spaced)
   a. DUE Friday 10/17 midnight of Friday night
   b. Passage: TBA
   c. See handout (posted in course main module) for more information.
3. Detailed Analysis/Close Reading (6-7 pages double spaced)
   a. DUE Friday 10/31 midnight of Friday night
   b. Passage: Romans 3:21-26
   c. See handout (posted in course main module) for more information.
4. Participation in the required discussion forum/s for each week:
   a. This is akin to showing up for class in an online environment.
   b. Posts should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the readings and other posted material.
   c. Posts should follow the guidelines stated for each discussion forum.
   d. Replies should reflect genuine engagement with the post to which you are replying in relation to the readings and other posted material.
   e. Posts and replies do not need to be lengthy (actually concise is better) but should reflect familiarity with the readings and other posted material.
   f. In these forums I am more concerned with thoughtfulness and depth of engagement than with “correctness.” Don’t worry too much about “getting it right,” focus on thinking about and genuinely responding to the assigned material and the posts to which you reply. In the forums I want to know what you are really thinking about the material, not what you think I want to hear.
   g. The minimum for these will usually be one post and one reply.
   h. All initial posts will be due by Thursday midnight so other students will have time to reply.
   i. Replies are due by Saturday midnight.

B. Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>% Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literary context and synoptic comparison</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical background/rhetorical exigence</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed analysis/close reading</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in discussion forums*</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: participation in discussion forums in an online environment is akin to class attendance in a face to face setting. I have assigned a percent value to assess the quality of student interaction which should reflect familiarity with the course content and reading material and thoughtful response to the comments of others as described in 5 above. However simply not participating at all may result in a greater reduction in the student’s final grade than the total percentage assigned to this element and possibly failure of the course.

Grades will be turned in to the COS/United office no later than 30 days after the course ends.

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C. ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY
The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student. Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one’s own work. A writer’s work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer’s distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism. A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor policy, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

(1) warning
(2) probation
(3) suspension for the remainder of the course
(4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
(5) failing grade for the course
(6) reduction in grade for the assignment

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.

V. Bibliography of recommended resources
A. Study Bibles


[NOTE: This is a more “devotional” oriented annotated bible written by sound biblical scholars. You may want to supplement your primary study bible with this.]

B. Bible Dictionaries
   1. One Volume

   2. Multi Volume

C. Biblical world

D. One Volume Commentaries
   1. General


2. Written with social location in mind


E. Multi Volume Commentaries or Commentary Series

- Abingdon New Testament Commentaries
- Anchor Bible Commentaries
- Augsburg Commentary on the New Testament
- Black’s New Testament Commentaries
- Feminist Companion
- Hermeneia (requires biblical languages)
- Interpretation
- New Cambridge Bible Commentary
- Sacra Pagina
- New International Commentary on the New Testament
- New Interpreter’s Bible (a recent edition)
- New Testament Readings
- Westminster Bible Companion
- Word Biblical Commentary