

**Scriptural Foundations: New Testament**  
**THE 612: Course Syllabus**  
**University of Sacramento**

**Date and Times:**

Term: Spring 2011  
Class Dates: Wednesday, January 19- April 27  
Class Time: 6:00-9:10  
Credit: 3 semester hours

**Instructor:**

Prof. Joseph Hollcraft. M.A.  
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Course Notes: [stjohnthebaptistchico.org](http://stjohnthebaptistchico.org) (click the Catholic Hour)

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course will examine the New Testament writings with a particular emphasis on the Gospels. We will consider the core biblical principles of inspiration, inerrancy and the hermeneutic of faith. Along with a study of the latest Exhortation of Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, an introduction to reading Sacred Scripture with *Dei Verbum* and the *Catechism* will also be presented. Particular areas of interest will include the Sermon on the Mount, the Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven, the Lucan Parables, the Christological Titles, the Passion Narratives, and the Resurrection. An addition, a brief investigation into the theology of St. Paul will be considered. Our response to God's Revelation of Himself will also pervade all subject matter.

**Required Texts :**

1. *The Bible* (RSV Catholic version suggested).
2. *Dei Verbum*, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. Vatican Council II, 1965. (Available online).
3. *Verbum Domini*. Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Word of God in the Life of the Church. Pope Benedict XVI (available on-line)
4. Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*. (New York: Doubleday, 2007).
5. --*Jesus, the Apostles, and the Early Church* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2007).
6. --*Saint Paul*, (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2009).
7. Barber, Michael. *Coming Soon: Unlocking the Book of Revelation and Applying its Lessons Today*. (Ohio: Emmaus Road Publishing, 2006).

**Commentaries and suggested Long Term Resources:**

St. Ignatius Series/Navarre Series/ New Jerome Biblical Commentary/Bible Dictionary

**Grading Policy:**

For grading scale see University Catalog

**Attendance:**

Attendance and class participation, while important for any learning environment, are essential at the graduate level. The student who expects an A or A- from this course, in addition to the requirements under *Assignments* stated below, will be diligent in class preparation, reading assignments, as well as active in class participation. Cf. University catalog attendance policy.

**Course Requirements and Grading Policy:**

Students will be evaluated according to the following:

- 1) Attendance and class participation (see above): 10%
- 2) Mini-exam: 15%
- 3) Paper: 25%
- 4) Final examination: 40%
- 5) Response to the Resurrection: 10%

**Required reading between classes:**

Approximately 7-10 hours per week will be required for the reading assignments and homework outside of class. The reading is essential in order to come to appreciate the beauty and scope of the New Testament and will be necessary to enter into classroom discussion.

**Paper Assignment:**

For your paper described below, what is required of the writer is a critical and prayerful exercise of the mind and heart that should result in an intelligent, thoughtful, penetrating reflection into Scripture. That being said, each paper will be graded upon its General Introduction, development of thought, content, transition points, and General Conclusion.

Aside from that, you should observe the following:

- (1) Papers should observe the standard format according to Turabian (For reference cf. *A Manual for Writers: 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*, by Kate Turabian)
- (2) Observe proper grammar, syntax, spelling and proofread for typos (12 font and double spaced).
- (3) Demonstrate critical thinking through analysis, synthesis and clear conclusion.

***Attendance and Class Participation: 10%***

See *Attendance* above

***Paper: 25%***

Reflecting upon Michael's Barber work, *Coming Soon: Unlocking the Book of Revelation*, in 6-8 pages, make a case for the Book of Revelation as a book of conversion and gradual transformation. Be sure to incorporate in your response the core biblical vision of repentance. I

highly encourage you to spend time with the study questions at the end of each chapter to help develop your outline.

***Mini-exam: 15%***

One question that will demonstrate your understanding of the overarching themes to the subject matter as discussed in your readings and class instruction (this will be handed out two weeks before in preparation)

***Final Exam: 40%***

You will be given the option of selecting two of four essay questions that will reflect subject matter discussed in class from dates February 2-April 6. Collectively, the four questions will touch upon some aspect of each week in the aforementioned time period.

***Response to the Resurrection: 10%***

After our last class together, you will receive a prompt question that ties together the class discussion on the Resurrection and your understanding of it. This will be turned in a timely manner.

**Course Outline (Subject to Change):**

**Week 1: January 19 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time): Dei Verbum; Verbum Domini**

--*Introductions and Overview*

--*Revelation; Transmission of Divine Revelation; Hermeneutic of Faith*

**Week 2: January 26 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time): JN, 169-181; Apostles, 7-38**

--*Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church*

--*Disciples*

**Week 3: February 2 ( 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time): Mt.5:1-12, Lk.6:17: 20-23; JN, 64-127; Apostles, 81-85**

-- *The Sermon on the Mount (Part I)*

--*Beatitudes and the Torah*

**\*\*\*handout question for mini-exam**

**Week 4: February 9 ( 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time): Mt.13:10-17, Mk.4:10-12; JN, 46-63, 183-194**

-- *The Gospel of the Kingdom of God*

--*The Nature and Purpose of Parables*

**Week 5: February 16 ( 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time): Mt.13:1-52 + handout**

**\*\*\*Mini-exam**

--*Kingdom of Heaven Parables*

**Week 6: February 23 ( 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time): Lk.10:25-37, 15:11-32, 16:19-31; JN, 194-217**

--*Parables of the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and the Rich Man and Lazarus*

**Week 7: March 2 ( 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time): Lk.11:1-13, Mt.6: 5-18; JN, 64-70, 128-168**

--Sermon on the Mount (Part II)  
--The Lord's Prayer

**Week 8: March 9 (Ash Wednesday): Romans chapter 5; St. Paul, 7-12, 78-110**

--An overview of Pauline Scholarship with an emphasis on Christ fulfilling and transforming the law

**Week 9: March 16 ( 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent): Mt.4:1-11, Mk.1:12-13, Lk.4:1-13; JN, 25-45**

--Temptations of Jesus

**Week 10: March 23 ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent): Mt.16:13-20, Mk.8:27-30, Lk.9:18-21, Jn.6:66-69; JN, 287-318; Mt.17:1-8, Lk.9:28-36, Mk.9:2-10; Apostles, 39-53**

--Peter's Confession  
--Transfiguration

**Week 11: March 30 ( 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent): Jn.4:1-42; JN, 319-355; Apostles, 67-80**

--Samaritan Woman  
--Christological Titles

**--Handout final exam questions**

**Week 12: April 6 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent): Mt.26-27, Mk.14-15, Jn.18-19; JN (VII/excerpt)**

--Passion Narrative

**--Review for final**

**Week 13: April 13 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent): **Final Exam****

**Holy Week: April 20 : No Classes**

**Week 14: April 27 (Easter): Jn.20:1-9; Mt.28:1-10; Lk.24:13-35; St. Paul, 66-71**

--Resurrection

**--Paper Due**