

SCR 100i / BST 400/BST 400i Introduction to Sacred Scripture and their Interpretation

Fall Semester 2021-2022

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

<u>Online hyper-flex:</u>	<u>On-campus:</u>
<u>Course starts:</u> Wednesday 8 Sept [Week 0]	<u>Course starts:</u> Monday 13 Sept [Week 1]
<u>Course ends:</u> Monday 13 Dec [Week 13]	<u>Course ends:</u> Monday 13 Dec [Week 13]
Final exam: date tbd	Final exam:

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

<u>Online hyper-flex:</u>	<u>On-campus</u>
Moodle platform + Zoom platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asynchronous: all time Moodle Individual and group tutorials: Zoom Platform 	Mondays, 6:30 to 9:30 pm – St Francis classroom.

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the sacred scriptures of the Christian faith, their academic study and their interpretation. The various books of the Old and New Testaments of the Catholic Bible are introduced in relation to their historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds, with timely references to geographical and archaeological data. Concurrently, students are introduced to the concepts of biblical inspiration, biblical inerrancy, and the formation of the canon.

This course also includes a seminar that explores the question of the interpretation of scripture with the mind of the Church, during which key Church documents will be analyzed while some major contributions from the world of academia to the field of biblical interpretation will be considered. The aim is to equip students with the exegetical tools and building blocks that will be necessary in subsequent scripture courses in their chosen program, and indeed in their various ministries as exegetes of Sacred Scripture

Course Objectives

This graduate level **core course** aims to introduce the critical and analytical skills necessary for the study of Scripture within the framework of a hermeneutic of faith. The course will focus in particular on historical issues, literary genres and major theological themes encountered in the bible. The course is text-based, and therefore a *significant* amount of time should be spent reading and digesting the primary sources. The instructor will adopt a student-centred, constructivist approach which favours the major principles of andragogy. With this in mind the course focuses on academic learning outcomes that target primarily the cognitive domain of learning.¹ Within this cognitive domain, learning outcomes are designed to address the following six categories: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. By the end of the course you will have engaged with a variety of tasks and assignments that will allow you to develop critical thinking skills foundational for a study of Sacred Scripture that is faithful to the the Mind of the Church.

M.Div.; M.T.S.; and unclassified Theology Students:

M.Div. Program Goals (a,b,c,d below) M.T.S. Program Goal (a below)	BST 400i Learning Outcomes: In this course ...
<p>a) Intellectual Formation [IF] - The program shall foster sound knowledge of the revelation of God in creation, in Israel, and in the person of Jesus Christ as witnessed to by Scripture and the Church's Tradition.</p> <p>b) Cultural Context [CC] - The program shall foster an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world.</p> <p>c) Personal and Spiritual Formation [PSF] - The program shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity, as a personal response to being a disciple of Jesus Christ and as a dimension of public witness.</p> <p>d) Capacity for Ministerial Leadership [CML] - The program shall foster theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. you will engage critically with contemporary scholarly debates surrounding a number of historical and theological issues raised by the material. [IF; PSF; CML] 2. you will analyse and address, both diachronically and synchronically, the official teaching of the Catholic Church on the interpretation of Scripture.² [IF; CC; PSF; CML] 3. you will analyse one text in depth, summarizing the pertinent history of interpretation of the text and formulating an informed interpretation based on the application of the Catholic principles of biblical interpretation. [IF; PSF; CML] 4. you will identify and explain a number of implicit connections between the Old Testament and the New Testament. [IF; CC; PSF; CML] 5. by the end of the course you will be able to articulate an informed understanding of the concepts of Divine Revelation, biblical inspiration, biblical inerrancy, and formation of the biblical canon, as they pertain to your ecclesial membership. [IF; CC; PSF; CML]

¹ This is based on Bloom's 1956 taxonomy of educational objectives, the other two domains of learning being 'affective' and 'psychomotor'.

² Students are expected to apply those principles that pertain to their ecclesial membership.

Instructional activity	Learning Outcomes
Online hyper-flex instruction	#1; #2; #4; #5
Self-directed study / written assignments	#1; #2; #3; #4; #5

M.R.E. and unclassified Religious Ed. Students:

M.R.E. Program Goals	BST 400i Learning Outcomes: In this course ...
<p>a) Theological Instruction - The program shall offer students instruction in the major areas of Catholic theology.</p> <p>b) Religious Education Instruction - The program shall offer instruction in the discipline of Religious education in the competency of a teaching or administrative concentration.</p> <p>c) Cultural Context - The program shall foster a capacity to discern and engage the cultural context as it impacts Catholic education.</p> <p>d) Personal and Spiritual Formation - The program shall offer students with opportunities to grow in their spiritual life and in their vocation as Catholic educators and witnesses to the Gospel.</p> <p>e) Integrating Theory and Praxis - The program shall offer integration of theological knowledge and religious education formation in the professional work of Catholic education.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. you will engage critically with contemporary scholarly debates surrounding a number of historical and theological issues raised by the Christian Scriptures. [TI; CC; PSF; ITP] 2. you will analyse and address, both diachronically and synchronically, the official teaching of the Catholic Church on the interpretation of Scripture.³ [TI; CC; PSF] 3. you will analyse one biblical text in depth, summarizing the pertinent history of interpretation of the text and formulating an informed interpretation based on the application of the Catholic principles of biblical interpretation. [TI; CC; PSF] 4. you will identify and explain a number of implicit connections between the Old Testament and the New Testament. [TI; PSF] 5. by the end of the course you will be able to articulate an informed understanding of the concepts of Divine Revelation, biblical inspiration, biblical inerrancy, and formation of the biblical canon, as they pertain to your professional context as an educator in a Roman Catholic School/District. [TI; ITP]

Instructional activity	Learning Outcomes
Online instruction	#1; #2; #4; #5
Self-directed study / written assignments	#1; #2; #3; #4; #5

³ Students are expected to apply those principles that pertain to their ecclesial membership.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Graduate level students:

As per the *NTC 2021-2022 Academic Calendar*:⁴

All graduate courses, including Intersession and Summer session courses, shall require the following:

- One 15-20 page research paper or the equivalent in the form of student presentations, book reports, and/or short reflection papers. The total amount of written work including exams cannot exceed 35 pages.
- One final examination or two term examinations. Exams may be oral, written in class or ‘take home’. Oral exams should be 15-20 minutes in length.

Written material submitted for assessment ***in this course*** will amount to the following:

	Assignments	Due date	% final grade
MDiv / MTS	Seminar paper 1 (4 pages)	Tbd	20
	Seminar paper 2 (4 pages)	-	20
	Forum Discussions (7 pages)	-	20
	Exegetical paper (5 pages)	-	20
	Oral exam (15 minutes)	-	20
MRE	Seminar paper 1 (4 pages)	Tbd	20
	Seminar paper 2 (4 pages)	-	20
	Forum Discussions (7 pages)	-	20
	Thematic study (5 pages)	-	20
	Oral exam (15 minutes)	-	20

Undergraduate Level students:

As per the *NTC 2021-2022 Academic Calendar*:⁵

All undergraduate courses, including Intersession and Summer session courses, shall require the following:

- One 10-12 page research paper or the equivalent in the form of student presentations, book reports, and/or short reflection papers. The total amount of written work including exams cannot exceed 25 pages.
- One final examination or two term examinations. Exams may be oral, written in class or ‘take home’. Oral exams should be 10 minutes in length.

<i>Online hyper-flex:</i>
Ten Forum Discussions (150 words each)
Two Seminar papers (750 words each)
One exegetical paper (1500 words)
Final exam (Oral – 10 minutes)
See relevant descriptions below
Final grade:
Forum Discussions (20%) + Seminar Papers (30%)
+ Exegetical Paper (30%) + Oral Exam (20%)

⁴ Available at <http://www.newman.edu/Admissions/AcademicRegulations.aspx#CourseWork>

⁵ Available at <http://www.newman.edu/Admissions/AcademicRegulations.aspx#CourseWork>

- Exegetical Paper [EP]: [Theology students only]**
 On a passage of Scripture negotiated with the instructor. The aim of the exegetical paper is to develop and practice exegetical and hermeneutical skills identified in the Scripture documents as consistent with the Mind of the Church. Students will use the book by M. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis* (2009 rev. ed.). A rubric for this exercise is available on Moodle in the Resources section of the course.
- Two Seminar papers [SP]: [All students]**
 These will explore the major Scripture documents promulgated by the Catholic Church between the Council of Trent and Pope Benedict XVI's *Verbum Domini*. The aim of the seminar papers is for students to develop a working understanding of the Church's teaching on the topic of interpretation of the bible in the Church. Topics will be identified at the start of the course.
- Thematic study [TS]: [Religious Ed. Students only]**
 Students will submit a thematic study – theme to be agreed with the professor. The aim of the Thematic study are twofold: *first*, students explore the presentation of a particular theme in a given section of the bible [typically the Pentateuch, or the Prophets, or the books of Wisdom, or the Gospels, etc.]. Think of this in terms of assessment *for* learning. *Second*, students explore the integration in their professional milieu (e.g. Catholic School District/School) of the conclusions drawn from the exploration of the biblical theme in the first part. This is more of an assessment *of* learning. A Rubric for this exercise is available on Moodle in the Resources section of the course.
- Forum discussions [FD] – [all students]**
 There are ten weekly graded forum discussions scheduled through the course – these are based on the readings from Bergsma/Pitre and other sources. Students must contribute to all weekly discussions.
Please note: the aim of the forum discussions is to nurture a student-centred learning community. To this end, assessment is solely based on participation (200 words minimum per forum discussion). Grade calculation: ten points available per forum discussion: 8 for your own contribution and 2 for your response to someone else's contribution.
- Oral Exam: [all students]**
 All students will take a 15-minute oral exam during exam week.

Assessment	Learning Objectives
Forum discussions	#1
Seminar papers	#1
Exegetical paper	#1; #2; #3; #4; #5
Thematic study	#1; #2; #3; #4; #5
Oral exam	#5

Textbooks

** A Catholic Study Bible (latest edition of the RSV or NRSV or NAB)⁶

Theology students:

D. Béchar, *The Scripture Documents – an Anthology of Official Catholic Teachings* (The Liturgical Press: 2002)

J. Bergsma and B. Pitre, *A Catholic Introduction to the Bible – the Old Testament* (Ignatius Press: 2018)

M. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis* (Hendrickson; 2010 rev. exp. Ed.)

C. Hall, *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers* (IVP: 1998)

Religious Education Students:

D. Béchar, *The Scripture Documents – an Anthology of Official Catholic Teachings* (The Liturgical Press: 2002)

Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini* Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation (Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 2010)

J. Bergsma and B. Pitre, *A Catholic Introduction to the Bible – the Old Testament* (Ignatius Press: 2018)

Recommended Reading

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 1994)

Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church - Christ Our Pascha (Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church: 2016)

International Theological Commission – *Theology Today: Perspectives, Principles and Criteria* (2011).⁷

Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana; 2002).

Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Inspiration and Truth of Sacred Scripture* (The Liturgical Press: 2014)

Course Requirements

<u>Online hyper-flex:</u>	<u>On-campus students</u>
Weekly review of recorded video lectures – as per schedule. Careful reading of the materials in preparation for class. Weekly contributions to online forum. Each student is to attend two individual tutorials (online through Zoom - 30 minute each) Each student will have the option to attend one or two group tutorials (online through Zoom)	Weekly attendance to on-campus sessions (attendance policy applies) Careful reading of the materials in preparation for class. Weekly contributions to online forum. Each student is to attend one individual tutorial (online through Zoom - 30 minute each)

⁶ Students who belong to another Christian denomination are of course free to use the version commonly in use for the liturgy or worship in their church.

⁷ Full text available on the Vatican website.

Late Submission Policy.

Late submissions are accepted for a 'fee': 10% off the grade per day late, up to a maximum of THREE days. Beyond this delay an automatic Fail grade is allocated (49% for completed assignments; 0% for non-completed assignments). In case of attenuating circumstances, the submission of supporting evidence (doctor's note and the like) automatically suspends the application of this policy. PLEASE avail yourselves of the Incomplete Grade Policy

Course Schedule

NOTE: a detailed schedule identifying weekly readings and assignments deadlines will be circulated at the start of the course.

Week	Lecture Topics	Biblical books explored
Week 0	Course orientation	
Week 1 13 Sept	Introduction to the Bible – defining our terms; timelines	Genesis 1-2; Luke 24; Revelation
Week 2 20 Sept	The Pentateuch I: Primeval History; Patriarchal History; Covenant	Genesis
Week 3 27 Sept	The Pentateuch II: The Exodus; Covenant	Exodus; Numbers
Week 4 4 Oct	The Pentateuch III: The Exodus; Covenant	Leviticus; Deuteronomy
11 Oct	<i>Interlude 1 – Thanksgiving</i>	
Week 5 18 Oct	Historic Books I: From the Conquest to the Rise of the Monarchy to the Babylonian Exile; Covenant	Joshua; Judges; 1-2 Samuel; 1-2 Kings
Week 6 25 Oct	Historical Books II: Restoration to the Promised Land; Covenant	1-2 Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah; 1-2 Maccabees
Week 7 1 Nov	The Prophets; the Prophetic Books; Covenant	Isaiah; Jeremiah; Ezekiel; Zechariah; Malachi
8 Nov	<i>Interlude 2 – Reading Week</i>	
Week 8 15 Nov	Biblical Wisdom; Covenant	Job; Proverbs; Ecclesiasticus; Wisdom
Week 9 22 Nov	St Paul: Life and Letters; Covenant	Gal; 1 Cor; Phi; Rom ; Pastoral Epistles
Week 10 29 Nov	The Synoptic Gospels and the Book of Acts; Covenant	Matthew; Mark; Luke; Acts
Week 11 6 Dec	The Gospel and Letters of John; Revelation; Covenant	John; 1 John; Revelation
Week 12 13 Dec	The Catholic Epistles; Revelation; Covenant	Hebrews; James; 1-2 Peter
Week 13 20 Dec	Final exam (hint: the exam questions will be on Covenant in the Bible)	

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Academic Calendar in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Academic Calendar in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Academic Calendar.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies			Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7

Marginal	D+ D	1.3 1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Fail	D+ D F	1.3 1.0 0.0
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Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Acharts, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)

A detailed bibliography will be circulated at the start of the course.