



# New Testament

Syllabus

Spring Semester 2011

Br. Michael Ward, OFM

## Course Goals:

1. To understand the basic information about Jesus and His message as presented in the New Testament.
2. To understand, appreciate, and apply a Catholic approach to Scripture.
3. To recognize the workings of the Holy Spirit in one's own life to assist the student to think critically about the New Testament within the context of one's faith.
4. To assist the student in drawing an image of Jesus so that one is able to work toward a personal and communal response to one's faith.
5. To assist students to apply the Good News of Jesus to their OWN lives for maturation in personal faith and moral living which leads to the desire to live as Christian disciples in today's world and be active members of the Church.
6. After this course, each student should be able to read Scripture with a greater ease and comfort level by developing skills in biblical exegesis and reflection.

## Rationale for Goals of the Course:

“There are many ways to study and interpret Scripture. It is important for students to understand and respect Scripture as God's revealing Word. Scripture should be taught in accordance with Church Teaching” (*Journey Through the New Testament: Teacher's Manual*, p.2. Harcourt Press, 2006.).

In the Vatican II document, *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*, the Bishops of that council stated that three criteria must be met in teaching Scripture correctly.

1. Special attention should be given to the content and unity of the whole Scripture.
2. Scripture should be read within the living tradition of the Church.
3. Attention should be given to the analogy of faith. In other words, the message of Scripture should deepen our personal faith and be consistent with the whole body of truths taught by the Catholic Church.

All of the above will be met during the course of the school year.

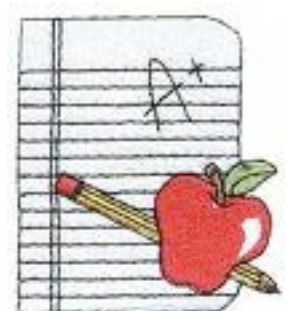
## Grading:

This is an academic course and therefore requires measurement of success. The letter grade for this course is NOT a measurement of one's personal or familial faith. Students and parents are not to interpret the letter grade as a reflection of faith. Letter grades are **earned**, not given, based on academic performance. Students will **earn** their grade depending on a combination of tests, quizzes, classroom activities, class participation, a group project, homework, reflection essays and peer evaluations.

### Explanation of grades:

- Letter grades will be assigned according to the scale outlined in the *Parent and Student Handbook*.
- Breakdown of Grades:

▪ Quizzes:	15%
▪ Tests:	20%
▪ Homework:	10%
▪ Bible Worksheets	10%
▪ Projects (Group and Individual):	15%
▪ Reflection Paper (1 per qtr):	10%
▪ Lectionary Assignments	10%
▪ Class Participation:	10%



## General Outline of Class

- Depending on class comprehension, there will be between 2 and 4 test per quarter.
- Expect at least 1 quiz a week.
- Depending on class comprehension and scheduling, there should be one or two creative projects each quarter.
- There will be one reflection paper (500 words) assignment each quarter.
- There will be an average of 2 homework assignments/lectionary readings/Bible worksheets a week.

### - Weeks 1-3: Introduction to course: Putting the Bible into Context :

- o Topics/Duties
  - Go over student expectations/requirements
  - Re-introduce Students to the Bible
  - Putting the Bible into its Liturgical Context
  - Placing the Bible in its contemporary context.
  - Familiarize students with the Bible/ lectionary/ liturgical calendar.
  - Lectionary Readings:
  - Handout textbooks: discuss how the course is setup.
  - Review outline of the course.
  - Basic introduction into biblical interpretation and how to read the Bible.
  - The Development of Scripture
  - World of the Text, World Behind the Text, World in Front of the Text.
  - Judaism at the time of Jesus
  - Politics and Society at the time of Jesus
  - The Beginnings of the Church
  - The Shift from Oral Tradition to Written Tradition
  - Development of the Gospels and the New Testament



### -Weeks 3-4: Chapters 2 and 4: Called to Believe: Jesus as a “Suffering Servant.”

- o Topics:
  - The People of God
  - Background and themes of *The Gospel According to Mark*
  - The Call of Discipleship and public ministry
  - The Messianic Secret and obstacles to discipleship
  - The central role of the Paschal Mystery
- o Witness of Faith: Padre Pio
- o Lectionary Readings:
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### - Weeks 5-6: Passion and Resurrection of Jesus.

- Passion Narratives a “miniture Gospels
- What does Jesus’ death have to do with Salvation?
- What does it mean to say the resurrection is Christianity’s defining moment?
- The Gospels as post-resurrection accounts. What does this mean?



### - Weeks 7-9 Chapter 3: Called to Be Like Jesus

- o Topics:
  - Background and themes of *Matthew’s Gospel*
  - The Beatitudes and the Parables as religious and moral lessons
  - Jesus as the “New Moses.” Jesus as “Teacher”
  - Jesus’ vision for the Church : Justice for All
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- o Witness of Faith: Sr. Dorothy Stang
- o Lectionary Readings
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### - Weeks 10-11: The Incarnation and Its Implications:

- o What is the Incarnation and what does it mean for a teenager today?
- o Why are there two accounts of the birth of Jesus and what does this mean for our faith?

### - Weeks 12-13 Called To Justice: Jesus as a “Compassionate Savior”

- o Topics:
  - Background on *The Gospel According to Luke*
  - The role of love, forgiveness and prayer

- The incarnation, the Reign of God and the Infancy Narratives.
- Jesus' compassion for the poor, the sick, sinners and the outcasts
- The importance of table fellowship
- Witness of Faith: Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
- Lectionary Readings: . .



**Weeks 14-15 Chapter 6: Called to Love: The Gospel of John**

- Topics:
  - Background and themes of the *Gospel of John*
  - Images and signs used in John's Gospel
  - The Last Supper Discourses – the command to love
  - Consider the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection for us today
- Witness of Faith:: Dom Helder Camara
- Lectionary Reading:
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- **Weeks 16-17 Called to Share the Good News**
- Topics:
  - Themes and authorship of Acts
  - Pentecost and the Church's beginnings
  - Paul's conversion and the mission to the Gentiles
- Witness of Faith:: St. Catherine of Sienna; St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross
- Lectionary Readings:
- **Weeks 18-19: Called to Be Church**
- Topics:
  - Authorship and themes of the Epistles.
  - The Pauline letters as encouragement to the early faith communities
  - Issues of early faith communities and today
  - Book of Revelation: imagery and symbolism
- Lectionary Readings:
- Witness of faith: Modern Letters written by the Popes

- **Week 20 : Finals**

## *Important Due Dates*

**March 14-18: OGT's**  
**March 16-17: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Homily or Sermon Reflection Papers due.**  
**April 5 or 6: Sophomore Retreat for NT.**  
**April 12: San Damiano Crucifix presentation.**  
**April 21: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Service Reflection Papers Due**



## TUTORIALS

**Br. Mike will gladly meet with any student outside of class time. Wednesdays after school are the best time. We meet in the library. Please make a verbal, personal appointment accompanied with a note or email: [mward@paduafranciscan.com](mailto:mward@paduafranciscan.com). Before coming to a tutorial, the student is expected to review the website for this class and come to the tutorial with QUESTIONS!**

Be sure you are "On Time and On Task!."  
 Stay focused on the material.  
 While in class you are to work on this class ONLY!