

BN1010P/ BN1019P  
Earliest Christianity: New Testament Texts & Beliefs

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Semester 1: Classroom-based - not available for academic year 2020 Online – BN1019P  
(Parkville Hub Tutorial for online class, 2-3.30pm every Thursday)

### Description

This unit provides an introduction to New Testament history, texts and theology. Beginning with the letters of Paul as the earliest extant Christian literature, and surveying the development of gospel literature as well as other forms of early Christian writing, it considers the rise of the early Christian movement and explores the range of developing theological beliefs that characterised the first two generations of early Christianity. In using the New Testament texts as the main source for investigation, the unit draws attention to the diversity of texts, genres, theologies and perspectives within the New Testament itself, and considers a number of critical historical, literary and theological issues that emerge from the study of New Testament texts.

### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Describe the historical, cultural, religious, and theological world of the New Testament including an awareness of key figures and dates.
2. Identify the different genres of New Testament literature and the forms of critical analysis appropriate to their interpretation.
3. Demonstrate an awareness of critical skills and tools for exegesis, including relevant reference tools and resources.
4. Research, write and reference an exegetical essay using primary and secondary resources.
5. Integrate methodological understandings, skills, and theological reflection in the study of a NT passage.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Classroom-based</b>	
2 short quizzes (250 words equivalent)	10%
Weekly written synopsis of readings (500 words)	20%
Essay (1200 words)	30%
Exegetical Paper (1800 words)	40%
<b>Online</b>	
2 short quizzes (250 words equivalent)	10%
weekly discussion forum (500 words)	20%
Essay (1200 words)	30%
Exegetical Paper (1800 words)	40%

Pre-requisite: None  
Lecturer: Robyn Whitaker

### Recommended reading

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

\*NRSV Study Bible (New Oxford Annotated Bible or Harper Collins Study Bible)

Boring, M. Eugene. *An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012.

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament* ABRL. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

\*deSilva, David. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods, and Ministry Formation*. Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2004.

Klauck, H. J. *Ancient Letters and the New Testament: A Guide to Context and Exegesis*. Waco, Texas: Baylor, 2006.

Levine, Amy-Jill, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. New York: Harper Collins, 2007.

McDonald, Lee Martin and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Early Christianity and Its Sacred Literature*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2000.

Metzger, B. *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997.

Rowland, Christopher. *Christian Origins: The Setting and Character of the Most Important Messianic Sect of Judaism*. 2nd ed. London: SPCK, 2002.

**Semester 1:** Classroom-based not available for academic year 2020 Online – BN8019P  
(Parkville Hub Tutorial for online class, 2-3.30pm every Thursday)

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This unit provides an introduction to New Testament history, texts and theology. Beginning with the letters of Paul as the earliest extant Christian literature, and surveying the development of gospel literature as well as other forms of early Christian writing, it considers the rise of the early Christian movement and explores the range of developing theological beliefs that characterised the first two generations of early Christianity. In using the New Testament texts as the main source for investigation, the unit draws attention to the diversity of texts, genres, theologies and perspectives within the New Testament itself, and considers a number of critical historical, literary and theological issues that emerge from the study of New Testament texts.

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1. Describe the historical, cultural, religious, and theological world of the New Testament including an awareness of key figures and dates.
2. Identify the different genres of New Testament literature and the forms of critical analysis appropriate to their interpretation.
3. Demonstrate an awareness of critical skills and tools for exegesis, including relevant reference tools and resources.
4. Research, write and reference an exegetical essay using primary and secondary resources.
5. Integrate methodological understandings, skills, and theological reflection to construct an argument for interpretation of a NT passage.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Classroom-based</b>	
2 short quizzes (300 words equivalent)	10%
Weekly written synopsis of readings (1200 words)	20%
Essay (2000 words)	30%
Exegetical Paper (2500 words)	40%
<b>Online</b>	
2 short quizzes (300 words equivalent)	10%
Weekly discussion forum (1200 words)	20%
Essay (2000 words)	30%
Exegetical Paper (2500 words)	40%

**Pre-requisite:** None

**Lecturer:** Robyn Whitaker

### Recommended reading

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Klauck, H. J. *Ancient Letters and the New Testament: A Guide to Context and Exegesis*, Waco, Texas: Baylor, 2006.

Levine, Amy-Jill, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. New York: Harper Collins, 2007.

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