

## MTG201.7 INTERPRETING THE NEW TESTAMENT

### Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

Interpreting the New Testament (MTG201.7)

### SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Diploma Bachelor	One semester	Intermediate	Dr Chris Johnstone

#### Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit  
 elective unit  
 other (please specify below):

Core: Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology,  
 Elective: Diploma in Ministry and Theology, Bachelor of Intercultural Studies

#### Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	48 / 144 credit points

#### Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support:   0   hours per week

**Pre-requisites and co-requisites**

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

Yes  No

If **YES**, provide details of the prerequisite or co-requisite requirements below.

Prerequisite: MTG100.5 The Biblical Story for Everyone

**SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS**

Brief description of the content of the unit
<p>This unit examines the formation, content, background, storyline, main themes and literature of the New Testament canon to facilitate its faithful interpretation for and communication to diverse contemporary audiences. It connects strongly with the MTC formation domain, <i>Engaging God's Story</i>. Students critically analyse the three worlds of the biblical text, developing an informed theory of interpretation and engaging with various perspectives and methodologies. Special focus is given to the cultivation of methods and skills for reading and communicating the various genres within this corpus.</p>

Learning outcomes for the unit
1) Analyse contemporary issues and perspectives in New Testament interpretation, with reference to the world behind, within, and in front of the biblical text
2) Examine the formation, content, background, storyline, main themes and literature of the New Testament canon
3) Critically apply the insights from contextual and comparative studies to the interpretation of various New Testament genres
4) Creatively communicate clear and coherent interpretations of various New Testament genres to diverse audiences

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p><b>1. Quizzes x4</b> (equiv 500 words) Based on textbook readings, students complete four true/false, multiple-choice quizzes addressing the formation, content, background, storyline, main themes and literature of the New Testament canon</p>	2	Wks 3, 6, 9, 13	10%

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p><b>2. Research Essay</b> From a list of topics provided, which address contemporary issues and perspectives in New Testament interpretation, students select, illustrate and assess the contribution made to understanding the three worlds of the biblical text. At least 6 resources are required. (1200 words)</p>	1	Wk 14	25%
<p><b>3. Exegetical Paper</b> Students engage with the background, storyline and main themes of the New Testament and employ specific exegetical methods and skills to interpret two New Testament passages of different genres that address the same theme or issue and present their work in a formal academic paper. A minimum of 6 resources is required, including at least 2 intermediate level commentaries. (1800 words)</p>	2 & 3	Wks 5 (draft of first passage) & 10 (final)	40%
<p><b>4. Multimedia Presentations x 2</b> Based on their exegetical paper on two different NT passages and genres (see assessment task 2), students develop and creatively deliver two multimedia presentations of 10-minutes each designed for two different specifically targeted audiences. (750 words equiv. x 2)</p>	4	Wks 7 & 12	25% (12.5% each)

## 2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

### Prescribed reading:

Duvall, J. and J. Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Longman, Tremper, and Mark L Strauss. *The Baker Compact Dictionary of Biblical Studies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018.

Wright, N. T., and Michael F Bird. *The New Testament in Its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2019.

### Recommended reading:

Aharoni, Yohanan, Michael Avi-Yonah, Anson F. Rainey, Ze'ev Safrai, and R. Steven Notley. *The Carta Bible Atlas*. 5th, revised and expanded ed. Jerusalem: Tyndale, 2011.

Beale, Gregory K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2012.

Bellinzoni, A. J. *The New Testament: An Introduction to Biblical Scholarship*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2016.

Blomberg, Craig L. *A New Testament Theology*. Waco, TX: BUP, 2018.

Brown, J. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.\*

Brown, Sherri, and Francis J. Moloney. *Interpreting the New Testament: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2019.

Drane, John. *Introducing the New Testament*. 4th ed. Oxford: Lion Scholar, 2019.

DeSilva, D. A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods and Ministry Formation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 2018. Fee, G. & D. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2014.

Green, Joel B, and Lee Martin McDonald, eds. *The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2017.

Green, Joel B, ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010.\*

Gupta, Nijay K. *A Beginner's Guide to New Testament Studies: Understanding Key Debates*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2020.

Klein, W.W., Blomberg, C.L. & Hubbard, R.L. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2017.

Lee, Dorothy A. *Ministry of Women in the New Testament: Reclaiming the Biblical Vision for Church Leadership*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021.

McKnight, Scot, and Nijay K. Gupta. *The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.

Richards, E. & B. O'Brien. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2012.

Schultz, R. *Out of Context: How to Avoid Misinterpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.

Stein, R. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

Strauss, M. *How to Read the Bible in Changing Times*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.

### Dictionaries

Evans, C. A., and Porter, S. E., eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.

Green, Joel B, Jeannine K Brown, and Nicholas Perrin, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. IVP, 2013.

Hawthorne, G. F., and R. P. Martin, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

Martin, R. P., and P. H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers

Grove: IVP, 1997. Ryken, L, J. Wilhoit & T. Longman III eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998.

Vanhoozer, K., C. Bartholomew, D. Treier & N.T. Wright eds. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

\* Seminal Work