

## MTG201.9 INTERPRETING THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

Interpreting the New Testament (MTG201.9)

### SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma Masters	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: Master of Divinity  
 Elective: Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies, Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies,  
 Graduate Diploma in 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	24 / 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: MTG100.8 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, methodologies and biblical criticisms. 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, perspectives and criticisms in New Testament interpretation, evaluating their significance for engaging with the world behind, within, and in front of the biblical text
2) Evaluate the contribution of non-canonical studies and literature for New Testament interpretation
3) Analyse the background, storyline and main themes of the New Testament and apply to the interpretation of various New Testament texts
4) Synthesise and critically apply the insights from contextual and comparative studies to the interpretation of various New Testament genres
5) Creatively communicate clear and coherent interpretations of various New Testament genres to diverse audiences, justifying the strategies employed

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p><b>1. Research Essay</b>                      From a list of topics provided, which address contemporary issues, perspectives and or criticisms in New Testament interpretation, students select, analyse and evaluate the contribution made to understanding the three worlds of the biblical text.                      8-10 resources are required, including Tate’s <i>Biblical Interpretation</i>.                      (1500 words)</p>	1	Wk 7	30%

Assessment tasks			
Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed – year, session and week	Weighting
<p>2. <b>Study Paper: Non-canonical literature &amp; NT interpretation</b></p> <p>From a list provided, students analyse one writing from each of the OT Apocrypha, OT Pseudepigrapha, and the Dead Sea Scrolls and evaluate the contribution each makes to New Testament interpretation.</p> <p>Students engage with the non-canonical literature plus at least 5 additional sources (1000 words)</p>	2	Wk 4	20%
<p>3. <b>The Bible Speaks Today – Exegetical Project</b></p> <p>Students select a biblical, theological, social, ethical and or pastoral theme or issue as the focus for their exegetical research, in which students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the background, storyline and main themes of the NT to determine the significance for understanding the issue</li> <li>Identify and exegete at least two substantial NT passages of different genres that speak to the issue, justifying both the selection of NT passages and the exegetical methods employed</li> <li>Synthesise the results of their exegetical work into a clear and concise summary, including an evaluation of the NT contribution to the issue</li> <li>Communicate points 1 &amp; 2 in a formal academic paper (2000 words) and create and deliver two 10-minute multimedia presentations (500 words each equiv), one designed to speak to a Christian context, and the second designed to speak within the public domain.</li> </ol> <p>A minimum of 12 resources is required, including at least 2 advanced level commentaries. (3000 words equiv)</p>	3, 4 & 5	<p>Written presentation: Wk 9</p> <p>Multimedia Presentations: Wks 11 &amp; 13</p>	<p>50% (Written 30% Multimedia 10% each)</p>

## 2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

### Prescribed reading:

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

Tate, W. R. *Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

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.

DeSilva, D. A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods and Ministry Formation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 2018.

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

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.

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

Marshall, I. H. *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

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

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.

Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. 2nd 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.

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*. 2nd 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