

# The Bible as Literature: The New Testament BEN53001

**Class Time:** Mondays 78, 3:30-5:20, **Room** R0302

**Website:** <http://english.scu.edu.tw/jmklassen/>

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**Office Hours:** Mondays 10-1, Thursdays 3-6, and by appointment

## Texts

- Full English text of the Bible in any version. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is recommended. Bring this to class each week. E-Bibles on tablet computers and cell phones are also acceptable.
- You will need a notebook in which you can insert A4 pages and keep your own notes.
- Supplementary reading is available through the Moodle website.
- Download and print out the 22-page packet of handouts and lecture outlines.

## Class Goals

This course introduces the literature of the **English New Testament** in the Bible. The goals of the class are to

- Understand the range and diversity of the books within the New Testament: genres, forms, & motifs
- Know some of the most important narratives, personalities, and passages that have been influential in English and American literature.
- Understand important themes and concepts; and the history of the Biblical texts, including canonization and translation
- Become familiar with the principles of biblical interpretation.
- Gain sufficient understanding of the background of the Bible and methods of interpretation so that you will be able to continue to find meaning in the Bible on your own, outside of class.
- See the influence of the Bible on modern and historical cultures and literatures in English.

## Class Requirements

- **Form groups** with 4-6 members each.
- **Quizzes:** There will be frequent quizzes at the beginning of class covering the reading for that week and ideas from the previous week.
- **Be on time** and prepared for every class, presentation and assignment with or without reminders.
- **READ THE ASSIGNED READING BEFORE COMING TO CLASS.** Prepare to discuss ideas from the passages.
- **Presentations**
  - Partner presentation to the class on a New Testament Bible passage
  - Presentation critique. Each group provides critiques of the presentations in one other class.
- **Papers**
  - Paper 1 (3 pages; 500-700 words): a. Jesus in Culture
  - Paper 2 (3 pages; 500-700 words): a. Question/Problem and Answer/Solution
  - Papers are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be accepted with the following penalties: -5 if late on the same day or within the first week, -10 for each week late.

## Class Schedule and Policies

- Refer to the class website for class policies, reading schedule, assignments, homework, class topics, and exam times.
- Check the Moodle Website for handouts, supplementary reading, class forum, and student presentations.
- Note: The official schedule is posted on-line and is subject to change, so be sure you check it regularly.

## Grading

<b>Participation</b>	10%	(attendance, discussion, presentations, reading responses, etc.)
<b>Quizzes</b>	10%	(frequent quizzes cover the reading and previous class lecture.)
<b>Papers</b>	30%	Two papers 3-4 pages each
<b>Midterm</b>	20%	(This covers key terms and ideas as well as content of Bible passages.)
<b>Final</b>	30%	(Same as midterm but focuses on information after the midterm.)