

New Testament Epistles

2 credits, Humanities

Spring 2016

Instructor: Adam Kotsko

Course Introduction

This course will offer a survey of the epistolary literature of the New Testament, with attention to historical context and contemporary scholarship.

Student Assessment

We will meet six times over the course of the semester. In addition to reading and discussing, there will be a written component consisting of a brief 1-2 page reflection (highlighting points that were especially interesting or surprising in the readings as well as questions the student would like to focus on), to be submitted via e-mail in advance of the meeting.

Course Goals

After taking this course, the student will be able to

- recognize the existence of diverse and even conflicting views in the New Testament
- describe the influence of the New Testament epistles on the early development of proto-Catholicism
- engage with biblical scholarship, particularly works stemming from liberation perspectives.

Required Course Texts

A Bible of the student's choice (preferably NRSV translation; not KJV or NIV)

Christiaan Beker, *Heirs of Paul*

Early Christian Writings (Penguin)

Neil Elliott, *Liberating Paul*

Theodore W. Jennings, *Outlaw Justice*

Elizabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, *1 Peter*

Elsa Tamez, *The Scandalous Message of James*

Course Schedule

Meeting 1: 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, Romans; Jennings, *Outlaw Justice*

Meeting 2: 2 Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus; Beker, *Heirs of Paul*

Meeting 3: 1 and 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon; Elliott, *Liberating Paul*

Meeting 4: James; Tamez, *The Scandalous Message of James*

Meeting 5: 1 and 2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude; Fiorenza, *1 Peter*

Meeting 6: Hebrews; 1 Clement and Barnabas in *Early Christian Writings*