

NTSR9302 Reading Colloquium: Spring 2006
NT Theology, Linguistics, and Johannine Studies
Dr. Charlie Ray

SEMINARY PURPOSE STATEMENT

The mission of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

DESCRIPTION

The PhD reading colloquiums in New Testament cover a variety of topics essential for a complete understanding of the field of New Testament studies. For each colloquium the student is expected to read thoroughly the assigned material and to participate actively in the monthly discussions of the material. Written reviews and summary of some work may be expected. This colloquium combines three diverse areas of study, New Testament theology, linguistics, and Johannine studies.

PURPOSE

Well-rounded scholars are expected to be conversant with areas of study that are not directly related to their areas of specialization. This colloquium will provide an introduction to three such areas. The student should be able to summarize accurately the major thesis, method of development, and strengths/weaknesses of each assigned book. In addition, the student should be able to communicate clearly those observations to the professor and to other colloquium members and to evaluate the contribution of the book in light of other work in the field.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Linguistics

- *Barr, James. *The Semantics of Biblical Language*. SCM, 1961. (out of print)
- Neill, Stephen, and Tom Wright. *The Interpretation of the New Testament: 1861-1986*. 2d ed. Oxford, 1988.
- The following volumes from the *Guides to Biblical Scholarship* series (Fortress):
 Beardslee, William. *Literary Criticism of the New Testament*.
- Powell, Mark Allan. *What Is Narrative Criticism?*
- Cotterell, Peter, and Max Turner. *Linguistics & Biblical Interpretation*. InterVarsity, 1989.

Johannine Studies

- Brown, Raymond. "Introduction." *The Epistles of John*. Vol. 30. The Anchor Bible. Doubleday, 1984.
- Koester, Craig R. *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel: Meaning, Mystery, Community*. Fortress, 1995.
- Culpepper, R. Alan. *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel: A Study in Literary Design*. Fortress, 1983.

- Culpepper, R. Alan, and C. Clifton Black, eds. *Exploring the Gospel of John: In Honor of D. Moody Smith*. Westminster/John Knox, 1996.

New Testament Theology

- Hays, Richard. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*. Harper San Francisco, 1996.
- Ladd, George Elton. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. edited by Donald Hagner. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1993.
- Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Vol. 1. Fortress, 1992.
- *Dunn, James. *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament: An Inquiry into the Character of Earliest Christianity*. 2d ed. Trinity, 1990. (out of print)
- Balla, Peter. *Challenges to New Testament Theology: An Attempt to Justify the Enterprise*. Hendrickson, 1997.

ASSIGNMENTS

- All assigned reading must be completed by the beginning of the week for which they were assigned. Class discussion will focus on books that are reviewed by all members, though members should be prepared to discuss any assigned books. All written assignments must be posted in the digital drop box on Blackboard by midnight on the Sunday before the week the books will be discussed. Each review should be 4-5 pages single-spaced. Written assignments fall into one of two categories:
 1. Written reviews turned in to the professor. The purpose of these assignments is to provide accountability for completing assignments. The review should include current biographical information about the author, the thesis and/or purpose of the book, a description of how the thesis was developed, critique of the arguments, and a short synopsis of 3 reviews of the book published in scholarly journals.
 2. Written summaries distributed to everyone in the seminar. The purpose of these assignments is to provide colloquium members with additional information about sections of books that they did not read. The summary should contain the purpose/thesis for the chapter and a more detailed summary of the chapter development. Biographical information and critique of arguments are not necessary. See the table at the end of the syllabus for chapter summary assignments.
- Because of the nature of the colloquium, attendance and participation are essential. Active participation is expected.
- Students are expected to check Course Documents on Blackboard to find summaries for the books being discussed. During each week the colloquium is in session, students are expected to check Discussion Groups on Blackboard for forums related to the books being discussed. Students are expected to post their own questions and observations, as well as respond to questions by the professor and other students. The forum will be considered open for a full week.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- February 6 Read *The Interpretation of the New Testament*
Read and review *The Semantics of Biblical Language*
Read and summarize the assigned chapter in *Linguistics & Biblical Interpretation*
- March 6 Read and review *Anatomy of the Fourth Gospel*
Read and review “Introduction” in *The Epistles of John*
Read and summarize the assigned chapter in *Exploring the Gospel of John*
- April 3 Read *Symbolism in the Fourth Gospel*
Read and review the following chapters in *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*: Introduction, 6-7, 9-10, 16
Read and review the following chapters in *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament*: Introduction, ii, v, xi, and xv
- May 1 Read and review *Challenges to New Testament Theology*
Read and review *The New Testament and the People of God*
Read and summarize the assigned chapter in *A Theology of the New Testament*

CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS

To be completed after final registration.