**COS 521 – Bible V: Acts, Epistles, and Revelation**

ALPS/Tennessee-Western Kentucky/Holston Course of Study

Part I: October 10-11, 2025 (Zoom teleconferencing)

Part II: November 7-8, 2025 (Zoom teleconferencing)

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**Course Content and Learning Goals**

This course focuses on the content and the context of these writings, and the theological emphases of their writers. In addition to Acts and Revelation, Romans, Galatians, 1 Corinthians, Colossians, Hebrews, and James will receive special attention.

By the completion of the course, students should be able to:

 1. Distinguish the genres of biblical literature represented by these books.

 2. Understand the major theological themes in these writings.

 3. Demonstrate faithful and fruitful exegesis of selected portions of these biblical books.

 4. Apply the fruits of exegesis to preaching, to other pastoral responsibilities, and to issues of the present day.

**Required Texts**

Warren Carter and Amy-Jill Levine, *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings* (Abingdon, 2013) ISBN ‏‎ 978-1-426-74190-6

Jouette Bassler, *Navigating Paul: An Introduction to Key Theological Concepts* (Westminster John Knox, 2007) ISBN 978-0-664-22741-8

**Reference Texts:**

*The New Interpreter’s Study Bible* (based on the New Revised Standard Version),

 or *The NIV Study Bible* (based on the New International Version),

or *The CEB Study Bible with Apocrypha* (based on the Common English Bible)

 *Oxford Bible Atlas* (Third or Fourth Edition)

**Supplementary Texts**

Mark Allan Powell, *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey. Second Edition* (Baker Academic, 2018) ISBN 978-0-8010-9960-1

M. Eugene Boring and Fred B. Craddock, *The People’s New Testament Commentary* (Westminster John Knox, 2009) ISBN 978-0-664-23592-5

**Required Written Work**

 1. Pre-course paper assignment

 2. Mid-course paper assignment

 3. Final exam

**Grading System**

 Pre-course paper(s) 30 %

 Mid-course paper(s) 30 %

 Final exam 30 %

 Class participation 10 %

*Note Regarding Assignments:* Failure to submit the pre-course assignment, the mid-course assignment, or the final examination will result, not simply in a grade of F for that assignment, but for the class as a whole.

**Pre-Course Assignments**

Read pages 1-16 and 91-358 of Carter and Levine’s *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings.*

Read the discussion of *faith* in Carter and Levine (pages 171-74), Bassler (pages 13-21 and 23-33), and if available to you, Powell (pages 278-79, 282, 332-333, 336-37, and 471-72). Write a 1500 word paper (five typed, double-spaced pages, using a 12-point font) discussing the following:

(1) Summarize the different ways faith can be and has been understood in relationship to “works of the Law;” and

(2) Summarize also the different interpretations of *pistis Christou* as faith *in* Christ and the faith *of* Christ.

After summarizing the basic points at stake in both issues, explain which understanding or interpretation of each you find most compelling and why.

Read chapter seven (“Then Comes the End . . .”) in Bassler, *Navigating Paul*. Write a 1500 word paper (five, typed, double-spaced pages, using a 12-point font) summarizing Paul’s understanding of the Parousia and the resurrection of the dead as reflected in 1 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Philippians, and Romans.

The two-part pre-course paper assignment is due by Friday, October 3. Please submit as Microsoft Word documents and send as email attachments to the instructor’s email address listed above.

The topic for the mid-course paper assignment will be assigned at the end of the Zoom session on Saturday, October 11. The mid-course paper assignment is due by Thursday, November 6. Please submit as a Microsoft Word document and send it as an email attachment to the instructor’s email address listed above.

Please scan and attach to the pre-course paper assignment, the mid-course paper assignment, and the final examination a completed and signed “Cover Sheet”, indicating that you are abiding by the Honor Code of the ALPS-TWKH Course of Study. To access that cover sheet, please [**Click here**](https://www.alpsumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/academic-honor-code-MTH-updated-10-11-15.pdf).