Santa Clara University
Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministry
PMIN 210: The New Testament
Winter 2027

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the socio-historical contexts, literary characteristics, theological messages, and pastoral challenges of the New Testament text, with special attention to the methodology of biblical interpretation. Exploration of the pastoral issues facing the original authors will serve as a resource for theological reflection on how the minister might translate the good news in Christian communities today, in service of building a world of justice and peace. (A foundational New Testament course.)

GPPM Program Learning Goals

By completing a Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministries, students will demonstrate:

1] Theological Foundation: Knowledge of the broad intellectual foundation for ministry in the areas of scripture, systematic and contextual theology, and spirituality; and incorporate theological reflection to enrich their ministerial practices across varying contexts. Foundational areas are Fundamental Theology, Christology, Ecclesiology, Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Theological Ethics, and Sacraments and Liturgy.

2] Pastoral Proficiency: Familiarity with ministerial practices in various manifestations of church life, expressed in concrete pastoral applications which include discernment, compassion, and ministries of accompaniment.

3] Servant Leadership: A commitment to identify injustices and developing skills to work individually and in collaboration with other ministers in accompanying those in need and in service to the poor, the marginalized, and the alienated, both within and outside the Church.

4] Diversity Fluency: Awareness of and critical engagement with how one's own culture influences ministry and then be able to engage in ministries that build the community of Christ and are sensitive to and respectful of all cultures and traditions, and individuals who vary by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and dynamics of wealth, poverty, and power.

While Learning Goals 1 and 2 will be our primary focus, we will integrate the other Program Learning Goals also.

Class Schedule

Online classes: Winter 2027Quarter - Wednesdays 6:00-9:00 pm: 1/6; 1/13; 1/20; 1/27; 2/3; 2/10; 2/17; 2/24; 3/3; 3/10.

Course Learning Objectives

The following are GPPM program learning objectives for this core course on the New Testament:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate a broad and deep understanding of the New Testament in the following ways [*LO 1A]*:
    a. Demonstrate understanding of the principles, approaches and methods of biblical interpretation, with a special focus on Catholic biblical interpretation.
    b. Study the social, historical, political and cultural context of the New Testament world, especially as those factors operated in the transformation of the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus into their final form of the New Testament.
    c. Comprehension of the variety of New Testament genres and their rhetorical proclivities.
    d. Employing the principal themes of New Testament theology and spirituality as they are integrated with pastoral ministry today.
2. Students will study the New Testament primarily through the lens of pastoral ministry and which will include the following *[LO 4B]*:
    a. Identify the social justice dimensions of the New Testament and their challenge to contemporary ministry.
    b. Explore early Christian leadership and community in the New Testament and its challenges for discipleship and pastoral ministry in our diverse local and global worlds.
    c. Draw inspiration from Jesus' inclusive ministry and its laser focus on those in need as narrated in the New Testament and reflection on its challenges and implications for ministry today.

Required Books

David A. De Silva, *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Second Edition. Downers Grove, OL: Intervarsity Press, 2018. [978-0830852178] Connect to this link for unlimited online availability at SCU library: **https://libcat.scu.edu/Record/b4119751** Should you want a hard copy of this text; it is also available online for purchase. **(Required)**

John Dominic Crossan & Michael Okinczyc-Cruz, *Jesus and Justice: Organizing for God's Reign on Earth Then and Now*. Chicago, IL: AMNA Press, 2026. [979-8-218-81199-2] Available for purchase online. **(Required)**

Also required is ready access to the Bible with both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. It is important that it be a "Bible" with both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, as so much of the New Testament rests upon the Hebrew Scriptures for understanding and interpretation. There are two recommended versions or translations: the *New American Bible Revised Edition* (can be accessed online for free @ http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm) OR the *New Revised Standard Version* (also accessible online for free @ https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrs/). This is a primary text for the class.

There will be additional readings and materials posted on the Camino course website throughout the quarter.

Course Requirements

1] ***Class Attendance and Participation*** (20% of Final Grade)
This involves both attendance at sessions and participation. Students are expected to be present and on time for each class. For an unavoidable absence, please speak with me before the absence.

2] ***Weekly Assignments on the New Testament*** (30% of Final Grade)
These assignments will involve reflecting and writing on specific passages under study and their impact and connection with ministry, as well as using specified interpretive approaches. The assignments will take two forms: one starting with the text and its analysis and moving to pastoral or ministerial application, the other starting with a case study from ministry that embodies a theme or aspect of specific section of the NT under study and exploring the ancient and contemporary contexts for their resonances.

3] ***In Class Presentation*** (25% of Final Grade)
Students will select a social justice or pastoral issue and provide a presentation to the class employing the New Testament in addressing the issue. These presentations will be integrated into our final Saturday gathering. Guidelines for the project will be provided.

4] ***Final Project – Exegesis Paper*** (25% of Final Grade)
A 6-8-page exegesis paper with ministerial application. Throughout the quarter, we will be examining the social, historical, and theological dimensions of the New Testament, specifically as they involve our pastoral ministry. In addition, we will explore various critical methods for interpretation throughout the quarter and explore the steps in writing an exegesis paper.

Grade Scale

A 94-100
A- 90-93
B+ 87-89
B 83-86

B- 80-82
C+ 77-79
C 73-76
C-70-72
D+ 67-69
D 64-66 D- 60-63
F Below 60

Preparing for Class

All reading assignments will be listed on Camino. The primary reading for each session is always the assigned portion of the New Testament under study. The two required texts, the one by DeSilva primarily and the other by Crossan & Okinczyc-Cruz, will assist in providing background and some of the key literary and historical aspects of the text under examination. For various sessions, specific themes that predominate in NT reading will be divided among the students. These themes will be the focus of our discussion and consideration in our Zoom sessions each week. Students will focus their reading on the assigned theme and a passage from the NT text under study, respond to an assignment prompt about that passage as it relates to the text and incorporate their reflections on ministry. We will probe and discuss those selections in our weekly class sessions and are referred to above as "Weekly Assignments on the New Testament."

Class Schedule (full assignments posted on Camino)

1/6 6:00- 9:00 PM
- The Bible and NT: History, Literature and Theology
- Introductory Concerns
- NT World
- Interpretive Methods
- Introduction to the Gospels

1/13 6:00-9:00 PM
- The Gospel according to Mark

1/20 6:00-9:00 PM
- The Gospel according to Matthew

1/27 6:00-9:00 PM
- Luke-Acts: The Gospel of Luke (Volume 1) & Acts of the Apostles (Volume 2)

2/3 6:00-9:00 PM
- Gospel of John

2/10 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- Toward a Biblical Christology: Jesus in the Gospels
- Gospels and Pastoral Ministry
- Biblical Research Tools and Resources
- Exegesis Paper Project

- Introduction to Paul, the Pastoral Minister

2/17 6:00-9:00 PM
- Paul's 7 Letters

2/24 6:00-9:00 PM
- Other NT Letters

3/3 6:00-9:00 PM
- Book of Revelation

3/10 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Group Project Presentations

Academic Integrity

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of—and commitment to—a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:

> *I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code*.

Academic integrity is part of your intellectual, ethical, and professional development. I expect you to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. I will clarify expectations on academic integrity—including the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT and course sharing sites for all assignments and exams in this course. If you have questions about what is appropriate on any assignment, please let me know before you hand in work. For more resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see this LibGuide on Academic Integrity.

Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct (Title IX)

Santa Clara University is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence.

Please know that as a faculty member, California law and University policy require me to report any information brought to my attention about incidents of sexual harassment or misconduct to the SCU Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX (408) 551-3043. This includes, but is not limited to, disclosures in writing assignments, class discussions, and one-on-one conversations.

Should you need support, SCU has dedicated staff trained to assist you in navigating campus resources, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and filing a formal complaint with the University or with law enforcement. Please see the

Student Rights & Resources Brochure for more information about reporting options and resources.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence and wishes to speak to a confidential resource who is not required to report, please contact one of the following SCU resources for support:

- SCU Wellness Center
- CAPS
- Any individual (clergy, counselors) acting in a professional capacity for which confidentiality is mandated by law. I am happy to help connect you with any of these resources.

Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Santa Clara University is committed to creating and maintaining a non-discriminatory learning environment for all students, including students who are pregnant or parenting. Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy and childbirth will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's doctor, and students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Students needing accommodations can often arrange accommodations by working directly with their instructors, supervisors, or departments. Students needing accommodations can also seek assistance with accommodations from the Office of Accessible Education (OAE) or from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX. This resource page from the Title IX Office provides information regarding support for students and employees who are pregnant or parenting.

Office of Accessible Education

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact the Office of Accessible Education (OAE) as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through OAE, please be sure to request your accommodations through the OAE portal and discuss them with me during my office hours within the first two weeks of class. To ensure fairness and consistency, individual faculty members are required to receive verification from the Office of Accessible Education before providing accommodations. OAE will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assistive technology.

Students who are approved for extended time or other exam accommodations should talk with me as soon as possible. The Office of Accessible Education must be contacted in advance (at least two weeks' notice recommended) to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. Students should

continue to reach out to OAE (oae@scu.edu) regarding access barriers related to this course or content.

Academic Freedom

The University is dedicated to an uncompromising standard of academic excellence and a commitment to academic freedom, freedom of inquiry, and freedom of expression in the search for truth. We are here to engage a set of ideas and research findings that often have long and complicated histories. Scholars may disagree on the topics we will be discussing. Assignment of and references to sources (readings, films, websites, etc.) are not an endorsement of the opinions or content contained in those materials. Students are expected and required to become familiar with the literature relevant to the topic of this course regardless of whether the professor, the University, or the students find this content agreeable. You are invited to introduce additional challenges in a serious and open-minded manner.

Use of Classroom Recordings

Depending on the learning objectives and pedagogical approaches used in a lesson, some classes may be recorded and made available on Camino. However, in line with the item 12 of the Student Conduct Code, dissemination or sharing of any classroom recording without the permission of the instructor would be considered "misuse" and, therefore, prohibited. Violations of these policies may result in disciplinary action by the University. At the instructor's discretion, violations may also have an adverse effect on the student's grade.

Copyright Statement

Materials in this course are protected by the United States copyright laws. I am the copyright holder of the materials I create, including notes, handouts, slides, and videos. You may make copies of course materials for your own use and you may share the materials with other students enrolled in this course. You may not publicly distribute the course materials without my written permission.

Technology Support

SCU can provide you with technical assistance, and you can also reach out to our providers directly for questions. For support with Camino (SCU's branded instance of Canvas), contact caminosupport@scu.edu or call 408-551-3572. You can also find support resources via the help button within the Camino platform (on the left-hand navigation) to access after-hours support via email, chat, or phone.

For Zoom assistance, contact Media Services at mediaservices@scu.edu or 408-554-4520. You can also get support from the SCU website or the Zoom Help Center website.

For SCU network and computing support, contact the SCU Technology Help Desk at techdesk@scu.edu or 408-554-5700. They can provide support for MySCU Portal, Eduroam, Duo, hardware and software issues, and more.

Land Acknowledgment

Santa Clara University occupies the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ohlone and Muwekma Ohlone people.

Respect for All

It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students of all backgrounds bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of all identities and perspectives. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.

Gender Inclusive Language

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you go by a name different from what is on the class roster, please let me know. Using correct gender pronouns is important to me, so please share your pronouns with me and correct me if I make a mistake. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. For more on personal pronouns see www.mypronouns.org

Wellness Statement

I know you will do the best you can in this class (and all of your classes); however, it should never be at the expense of your own mental and physical health and your overall well-being. Jesuit education is grounded in cura personalis, concern for the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. What does this mean for you? Be kind to others, and more importantly, be kind to yourself. Attend to your sleep (quantity and quality); drink lots of water; move; get outside; and pay attention to beauty that isn't coming to you on a screen. Eat good food, laugh, enjoy friends and family, look for opportunities to connect with others in new ways, pray, meditate, or otherwise attend to your spirit. And ask for help, even if you don't think you need it. Lots of folks, including me, are here to support you. It's never too late to reach out, and I am committed to helping you.

SCU has many resources and programs to support you. These resources may be especially helpful:

Wellness Center

The Wellness center provides resources to aid and promote student well-being across the eight dimensions of wellness, including student peer groups for healthful living, violence prevention, and recovery.

CAPS

Santa Clara students are provided confidential counseling sessions at no cost through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). Students have access to clinically appropriate, short-term therapy; group therapy; and other resources for care. A new 24/7 support line is also available: 408-554-5220.

SCU Culture of Care

If you are concerned for the mental or physical welfare of one of your peers, the Office of Student Life Culture of Care website provides resources for recognizing and helping someone in distress.

Academic Concerns If you are concerned with your progress in this class, please contact me so that we can find solutions together. Drahmann Center can also offer support with issues regarding your academic progress more broadly.

SCU also has multiple options for free academic tutoring. Students can make appointments to discuss work in a range of courses:

- Drahmann Tutoring (for many courses in the College of Arts & Sciences including Natural Sciences, Modern Languages, Economics, and Computer Science)
- The HUB Writing Center (Writing and Public Speaking assignments across departments)

Grief Resources and Support

An important part of healing from loss is the support of others. The SCU community is committed to supporting you during this difficult time. If you need to miss class or foresee being late on upcoming deliverables due to bereavement, please let me know immediately so we can make appropriate arrangements. If you need additional support, you can contact the Dean of Students Office at (408) 554-4583 or email dso@scu.edu Staff in DSO can notify other faculty and/or campus supervisors on your behalf and connect you with helpful campus resources.