

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

Alps/Memphis/TN/Holston Course of Study

Martin Methodist College

September 15-16 and October 13-14, 2017

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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, 1 Corinthians, Hebrews, James, and 1 John 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.
5. Articulate an informed understanding of the unity and authority of Scripture as a whole.

### **Required Texts**

Warren Carter and Amy-Jill Levine, *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings* (Abingdon, 2013)

Jouette Bassler, *Navigating Paul: An Introduction to Key Theological Concepts* (Westminster John Knox, 2007)

## **Supplementary Texts**

Victor P. Furnish, *The Moral Teaching of Paul: Selected Issues, Third Edition* (Abingdon, 2009)

Mark Allan Powell, *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* (Baker Academic, 2009)

## **Required Written Work**

1. A pre-course paper
2. A mid-course paper
3. Final exam

## **Grading System**

The pre-course paper	30 %
The mid-course paper	30 %
The final exam	30 %
Class participation	10 %

## **The Pre-Course Paper Assignment**

Read the discussion of *faith* in Carter and Levine (pages 171-74), Bassler (pages 23-33), and if available to you, Powell (pages 263-64, 313-14, 319-20, and 454-57).

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

(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.

The paper should be approximately 1500 words (five typed, double-spaced pages). It is due at the beginning of the first session of the class.