MATS Educational Goals Supported by the Course
2. The student will prepare papers, sermons, classes, and other assignments demonstrating familiarity with methods and principles of exegesis of the Old and New Testaments.

Course Objectives
1. Students will increase their familiarity with the contents and literary structure of the Scriptures of the New Testament, the founding documents of the Christian Church.
2. Students will acquire the essential information needed to profit from the literary, historical, and theological exegesis of Scripture available in English.
3. Students will compile a bibliography of works useful for the interpretation of Scripture in personal study and in the preparation of sermons and classes.

Required Texts
1. A recent translation of the Bible (e.g., ESV, RSV, NASB, REB, NIV, NJB, NRSV). Two excellent tools for study are the HarperCollins Study Bible and the NIV Study Bible, which give the reader rapid access to current mainline Protestant/academic and evangelical lines of interpretation, respectively.
3. Richard Bauckham, ed., The Gospels for All Christians (Eerdmans)
4. Recommended reading: a collection of essays available for individual duplication in the David Worley Library. (See the detailed list on the reading schedule below.)
5. Recommended tools for study:
   a. The Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece (27th or 28th ed.), for consultation of both the Greek text of the New Testament (if applicable) and the full marginal references to parallel passages.
   b. Kurt Aland, Synopsis of the Four Gospels (American Bible Society); also available in Greek and Greek-English editions as Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum.
   c. For definition of various terms introduced in the course, a general dictionary (Webster’s, American Heritage, the Oxford English Dictionary, etc.) or a specialized dictionary such as Richard N. Soulen, Handbook of Biblical Criticism.

Course Requirements
1. Prompt attendance at all scheduled meetings of the class, completion of assigned reading, and informed participation in class discussion. The student should note that the reading assignment includes consultation of the Scripture references in the secondary discussion. Each student is
allowed one free absence in the course of the semester without grade penalty. Absence beyond this may result in the reduction of the course grade by one letter per additional absence; in this connection, three tardies will be treated as one absence.

2. Preparation of two (2) brief essays (2 pp. double-spaced) identifying the aim/thesis of a book of the NT and showing how each section of the book contributes to or develops this aim/thesis, and two (2) oral presentations of ten (10) minutes each based on these essays to the class during the week the NT book is scheduled for consideration (see the Schedule below). In preparation for this assignment, the student should plan to carefully review the reading assigned for this NT book and reread the NT book itself as many times as needed to discern its principal aim/or thesis and see how each of its parts furthers this. The list of “Focal NT Texts” provided in course may be used as a starting point for the student’s attempt to identify the thesis that provides coherence to the NT book. The student will prepare and present:

• one (1) essay and oral presentation on a Gospel; and
• one (1) essay and oral presentation on another book of the NT (except Philemon, 2 Peter, 2 or 3 John, or Jude).

To satisfy the requirement, a student must submit via email a draft of the paper one (1) week in advance of the session at which the NT book is scheduled to be discussed and prepare the oral presentation in the intervening week.

3. A semester writing assignment to be completed and turned in during the week scheduled for final examinations (i.e., by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, May 13). The assignment is a critical book review (7–9 pp. in length) of Richard Bauckham’s The Gospels for All Christians. The review must cite at least three (3) of the other works assigned for the class and employ a substantive point from them in the evaluation of one of the book’s principal theses. The general sort of reading appropriate to a critical review is fully discussed in Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, How to Read a Book. Michael Gorman’s Elements of Biblical Exegesis is a useful guide to interpreting biblical literature specifically. Helpful models for the assignment can be found by consulting the reviews and review essays appearing in the journals First Things, Pro Ecclesia, and Touchstone, or in the Journal of Biblical Literature and other specialized journals available for consultation in the David Worley Library.

4. Plagiarism and Citation of Sources: Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s work as your own and is a form of theft. This includes material composed by other students, purchased from an online paper mill, or copied from published books and articles or from the Internet. If in any assignment you employ material written by someone else, you must give the author proper credit, documenting the source with an appropriate citation and marking any words directly quoted with quotation marks (or with indentation if four or more lines are quoted). Failure to appropriately credit the sources you use will result in a reduction in your grade for the assignment in question and/or the requirement that you revise the assignment. Intentionally representing another person’s work as your own will be grounds for academic discipline, including your possible dismissal from the School. For more information on how to acknowledge sources properly and avoid plagiarism, refer to the School’s “Guide to Written Work” (http://www.austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/guide_for_written_work.htm).
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Required reading is in **bold type**, recommended reading in plain type. Collections of essays by Nils Dahl are abbreviated as follows:

- JMEC = *Jesus in the Memory of the Early Church* (1976)
- SP = *Studies in Paul* (1977)
- JTC = *Jesus the Christ* (1991); this collection incorporates Dahl’s *Crucified Messiah* (1974)

**Tuesday, January 20:** *How to Read the New Testament*
The New Testament as Literary Composition, as Historical Source, and as Norm for Christian Faith, Preaching, and Discipleship
  Johnson 1–136, 547–52

**Tuesday, January 27:** *The Pauline Mission and the Pauline Corpus: Philemon*
  Johnson 227–48, 337–46

**Tuesday, February 3:** *Paul’s Letters to the Thessalonians and Philippians*
  Johnson 249–88, 325–36

**Tuesday, February 10:** *Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians*
  Johnson 249–88, 325–36
  Recommended: Dahl, “Paul and the Church at Corinth,” SP 40–61

**Tuesday, February 17:** *Paul’s Letters to the Galatians and Romans*
  Johnson 289–324

**Tuesday, February 24:** *Paul’s Letters to Colossians, “Ephesians,” 1–2 Timothy, Titus*
  Johnson 347–402

**Tuesday, March 3:** *Paul, the Fourfold Gospel, and Jesus*
  Johnson 553–6

**Tuesday, March 10:** *The Gospel: According to Mark*
  Johnson 143–164

**Tuesday, March 17:** **NO CLASS MEETING** (Spring Break)
Tuesday, March 24: **The Gospel: According to Matthew**  
**Johnson 165–186**  

**Johnson 187–226**  

Tuesday, April 7: **The Synoptic Question (a.k.a. “Synoptic Problem”)**  
[www.archive.org/details/synopticproblemw00good](http://www.archive.org/details/synopticproblemw00good)

Tuesday, April 14: **The Letters and Gospel of John**  
**Johnson 465–506**  

Tuesday, April 21: **Hebrews and General Letters** (except Johannine Letters)  
**Johnson 405–460**  

Tuesday, April 28: **The Apocalypse/Book of Revelation**  
**Johnson 507–24**

Tuesday, May 5: **The New Testament Canon and the Faith of the Christian Church**  
**Johnson, 525–546**  

Wednesday, May 13  
Critical review of Richard Bauckham’s *The Gospels for All Christians* due by 4:30 PM, emailed as attachment to peterson@austingrad.edu.