Uganda Christian University
Reading the New Testament in Africa
January 2013 semester

Rev. Jessica Hughes 0779 522 401
Office in the upper part of the old library

Tuesdays 2-3:30 & Thursdays 9:30-11:00

Course description
An upper division New Testament elective focusing on the history, method, and themes of New Testament studies on the African continent. The course surveys contributions of North African Church Fathers and continues through colonialism and modern translation to the development of contemporary scholarship. Issues include the place of historical criticism and other textual theories, indigenous sensibilities and resources applied to Scripture, hermeneutical themes and exegetical methods. The final sessions of the course will look at examples of African work on specific passages of the New Testament.

Objectives
- Exposure to often under-represented contributions and perspectives in New Testament studies.
- Gain a sense of the methods and concerns of African New Testament scholarship and understand how they compare to general trends in the field outside of Africa.
- Gain an appreciation for and a sensitivity to the contingencies of context in New Testament interpretation and application.
- Increased understanding of the diversity of Christianity across the globe. And, I hope, an appreciation for what each can offer and learn in a sharing of perspectives and ideas, seeking to follow the same Lord and submit to the same Scriptures in different contexts.

Format
This will be a seminar style class sometimes including a short lecture on the topic of the week. The quality of our time together will largely depend on your preparation and participation.

Assignments and Evaluation
10% attendance, meaningful contributions. You should complete all the reading before class on the first date of a topic, unless instructed otherwise. Come ready for thoughtful participation, demonstrating careful and engaged reading. Write down one question or observation from the reading that you would like to discuss further in class. These will sometimes be solicited verbally or collected toward participation points.

35% seminar presentations. Your first one will be worth 15%, the next 20%. These are 20-30 minute presentations consisting of a two-page, tightly written handout (single-spaced) on the topic and reading for the day. Please come with a copy of your handout for each member of the class, including me. Your job is not simply to summarize the reading for us, but to provide some context, connections, and observations, and to get us started on discussion and analysis. Further ideas for things you might consider in your presentation: How and why does
this topic fit into the class as a whole? How do this topic and reading tie into others already addressed in class? How do the readings for the day relate or compare to one another?

10% report on a particular use of the NT in Uganda. A 2-3 page report on a sermon, Bible study, song, or any other public use of the NT. Summarize the method of delivery and the content and offer comments on themes, style, approach, etc. Due by September 29.

15% analysis of a particular use of the NT in Uganda. A 3-4 page analysis of a sermon, Bible study, song, or any other public use of the NT. Analyze how your sample fits with what we have learned in class. Due by November 17.

30% term paper or project on the topic of your choosing. I want you to pursue something you find interesting and important. Be thinking about it from the beginning so you are ready to write when the time comes. Topic and idea for format due to Rev. Jessica in class on November 5. Final project due by December 3.

Suggestions: Write a Bible study for an African small group, showing how you would teach a passage or approach a book study or theme study in context. Write something for your home church in the U.S. demonstrating how they might learn and benefit from what you have discovered about the New Testament in Africa. Get involved in Sunday School and report on use and reception of Scripture among the children. Research a theme, a person, or scholarship on a passage.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Seminar Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Intro</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1    | Biblical studies and modern Africa | - West, Gerald O., “Mapping African Biblical Interpretation” 83-103 in *Interpreting the NT in Africa*  
- LeMarquand, Grant “And the Rulers of the Nations Shall Bring their Treasures into it’: A Review of Biblical Exegesis in Africa” *Anglican Theological Review* (Spring 2006) (packet) |                |
| 2    | Performing the text: rhetorical and artistic modes | - Mijoga, Hilary B.P., “Interpreting the Bible in African Sermons” 123-144 in Interpreting the NT in Africa  
- Noss, Kathleen Jenabu, “Communicating Scriptures through African Performing Arts” 152-164 in Interacting with Scriptures in Africa |                |
| 3    | “Ordinary” readings | - Ukpong, Justin S., “Bible Reading with a Community of Ordinary Readers” 188-212 in *Interpreting the NT in Africa*  
| 4 and 5 | Back in time: African Church Fathers | - Augustine pages (packet)  
http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf106.html  
- Heisey, Nancy, pages 27-38; 141-148; 169-178; 216-219 in Origen the Egyptian (Paulines: Nairobi, 2000) |
- Joseph, George, “Reading Wolof Bible with Muslims” 86-99 in Biblical Texts and African Audiences |
| 8 | NO CLASS | Rural homestays – have a great week! Don’t forget that the paper topic is due on your return. |
- Ukachukwu Chris Manus “The Healing of the Leper: Its Relevance to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic” 139-149 in Intercultural Hermeneutics in Africa |
| 11 | Examples: selections on the Lord’s Prayer | - Mt 6:5-14; Luke 11:1-4  
[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2265.2005.00271.x/abstract;jsessionid=93D1F00F11A41E09699EB4BBCD239413.d04t04?systemMessage=Wiley+Online+Library+will+be+disrupted+on+15+December+from+10%3A00-12%3A00+GMT+%2805%3A00-07%3A00+EST%29+for+essential+maintenance](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2265.2005.00271.x/abstract;jsessionid=93D1F00F11A41E09699EB4BBCD239413.d04t04?systemMessage=Wiley+Online+Library+will+be+disrupted+on+15+December+from+10%3A00-12%3A00+GMT+%2805%3A00-07%3A00+EST%29+for+essential+maintenance)  
- Manus, Chris U., “Paul’s Speech at the Areopagus: An African Reading” 213-230 in *Interpreting the NT in Africa*  
- Ekem, John David Kwamena, “Developing Akan Study Bible Material on 1 Corinthians 11.2-16” 102-122 in *Interacting with Scriptures in Africa* |
| 12 | Summary and wrap-up | PAPERS DUE |

Readings come from the course packet you will receive in class, or the following books are available in the USP section of the library (some are in the Ham Mukasa library, some in the USP office library). Please note there are 3-5 copies of each book for several students and
one teacher, so we will need to share access accordingly. You can also find many if not all of these books at St. Paul’s Catholic Bookshop on Kampala Road.

- Origen the Egyptian (Paulines: Nairobi, 2000)
- Translating the Message (Orbis: New York, 1989)
- The Bible in African Christianity (Nairobi: Acton, 1997)
- Interacting with Scriptures in Africa (Nairobi: Acton, 2005)
- Intercultural Hermeneutics in Africa (Nairobi: Acton, 2003)

A Partial Bibliography

Journals
Africa Theological Journal (ATJ)
African Ecclesiastical Review (AFER)
The African Journal of Biblical Studies
Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology
The Bulletin for Old Testament Studies in Africa [found online at <http://www.mhs.no/article_204.shtml>]
International Review of Mission (IRM)
Journal of Theology for Southern Africa (JTSA)

Essay compilations and books
Adamo, David Explorations in African Biblical Studies (Wipf and Stock, 2001)
Adamo, David Reading and Interpreting the Bible in African Indigenous Churches (2001)
Dube, Musa W. and Musimbi Kanyoro Grant Me Justice: HIV/AIDS & Gender Readings of the Bible (2005)
Loba-Mkole, Jean-Claude and Ernest R. Wendland (eds), Interacting with Scriptures in Africa (Nairobi: Acton, 2005)
Mbiti, John S. *Bible and Theology in African Christianity* (Nairobi: Oxford University Press, 1986)

Mijoga, Hillary B.P. *Preaching and the Bible in African Churches* (Nairobi: Acton, 2001)

Mosala, Itumeleng J. *Biblical Hermeneutics and Black Theology in South Africa* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989)


Stine, Philip C. and Ernst R. Wendland (eds) *Bridging the Gap: African Traditional Religion and Bible Translation* (Bible Society, 2001)


Ukpong, Justin and Musa Dube (eds), *Reading the Bible in the Global Village: Cape Town* (Atlanta: SBL, 2005)


West, Gerald and Musa W. Dube (eds) *Reading With: An Exploration of the Interface Between Critical and Ordinary Readings of the Bible* (Atlanta: SBL,

West, Gerald O. *Biblical Hermeneutics of Liberation: Modes of Reading the Bible in the South African Context* (Pietermaritzburg: Cluster, 1991)


You can find Rt. Rev. Dr. Grant LeMarquand’s 155 page bibliography of the Bible in Africa as of 2000 at [http://www.tsm.edu/sites/default/files/Faculty%20Writings/LeMarquand%20-%20A%20BIBLIOGRAPHY%20OF%20THE%20BIBLE%20IN%20AFRICA%20_2_.pdf](http://www.tsm.edu/sites/default/files/Faculty%20Writings/LeMarquand%20-%20A%20BIBLIOGRAPHY%20OF%20THE%20BIBLE%20IN%20AFRICA%20_2_.pdf)