

GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
(Northern California Campus)

S5352 The Epistle to the Hebrews in Jewish Christianity

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seminar *The Epistle to the Hebrews in Jewish Christianity* explores issues surrounding the literature, theology, hermeneutics, and contexts (e.g. religious, social, cultural, political, and historical) of the earliest Jewish believers in Messiah Jesus, providing students with extensive opportunities for critical reflection, discussion, research, and writing in this area of study. Special focus rests on the New Testament book of Hebrews as an exemplar of the literature arising from early Jewish Christianity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will grow in ability to execute critical research and writing, assess the research and writing of others, and participate in scholarly dialogue.
2. Students will gain a broad overview of literature and contemporary discussions relevant to the study of early Jewish forms of Christianity.
3. Students will demonstrate growing skills in hermeneutics, exegesis, and theological reflection as they engage the biblical texts of early Jewish Christianity.

4. Students will grow in an understanding of the Uses of the Old Testament in early Jewish Christianity.
5. Students will demonstrate a general understanding of contemporary Hebrews research as it relates to the study of early Jewish forms of Christianity.
6. Students will reflect on the integration of the studies engaged in this seminar for life as Christ-followers and as leaders in the church of the twenty-first century.

REQUIRED TEXTS and RESOURCES

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the God of Israel: God Crucified and Other Studies on the New Testament's Christology of Divine Identity*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2008.

Beale, G. K, and D. A Carson. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007.

Guthrie, George H. *The Structure of Hebrews: A Text-Linguistic Analysis*. Supplements to Novum Testamentum, v. 73. Leiden ; New York: E.J. Brill, 1994; republished Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

_____. "The Structure of Hebrews Revisited." SBL presentation, 2006. Available online under class resources at www.uu.edu/personal/gguthrie.

_____. "Hebrews' Use of the Old Testament: Recent Trends in Research," *Currents in Biblical Research* 1.2 (April 2003): 271-94.

_____. "Hebrews in Its First Century Contexts: Recent Research," pp. 414-43, in *The Face of NT Studies*, ed. Grant Osborne and Scot McKnight. Baker Books, 2004.

Skarsaune, Oskar, and Reidar Hvalvik. *Jewish Believers in Jesus: The Early Centuries*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson Publishers, 2007.

STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

Structure

Seminar Week combines lectures from the professor, discussion of a variety of readings, and the translation of several primary source texts. Seminar Weekends, on the other hand, center on the presentation and discussion of papers, with discussion of focused primary and secondary source materials. Paper presentations will involve the presentation itself (20-25 min.), a response (10-15 min.), a rejoinder (5-10 min.), and open discussion (30 min.).

Requirements

1. *Attendance*: Each student must attend all sessions of the seminar and participate actively in seminar discussions. Unexcused absences of two hours or more are penalized by 5 points being subtracted from the student's final grade for the seminar.
2. *Reading Assignments*: Students are expected to read all of the seminar readings as detailed in the course schedule and all of the papers produced for the seminar. At the end of the term students must submit a report of the percentage of assigned reading accomplished. Further, students are expected to come to the seminar ready to discuss each reading.
3. *Translation Work*: From time to time specific biblical texts will constitute the focus of seminar discussion. Each student must translate the text prior to the seminar session for which the biblical text is assigned and be prepared to translate and discuss interpretation of the texts in the seminar session.
4. *Research Paper, Presentation, Response, and Critical Analysis Questions*:

Research Paper. Each student will produce and present a major, thesis-oriented, Turabian-style *research paper* of no fewer than 25 double-spaced pages and no more than 30 double-spaced pages. The paper is to address a research topic in the area of Early Jewish Christianity, preferably in the book of Hebrews (*this can be negotiated with the professor*). A brief prospectus of the research topic is due to the professor via email in PDF format no later than Friday, February 10. A provisional outline of the paper and a working bibliography are due on Friday, February 24. If the paper is due during the February 24th Seminar Weekend, a PDF copy of the paper must be submitted via email to every member of the seminar before midnight of the Thursday one week prior to the session in which the paper will be presented (i.e. midnight Feb. 16th), and no less than two weeks prior, on Thursday midnight, for papers due during the March 30th or May 4th Seminar Weekends. *Late papers are assessed a 1/3 letter grade penalty per 24 hour period late.*

Presentation. Each student will present his or her research findings (20-25 min.) and interact with a formal response given by another student. The presentation should include the following:

- An overview of the research project (and the methodology used)
- Focus on one aspect of the research that was challenging or posed a critical question to be addressed
- A key insight offered by the research project
- The implications of the insight for contemporary life as a believer in Christ
- Ways the research might be extended

NOTE: The student must NOT simply rehash the contents of the research paper, which the members of the seminar will have already read! The purpose of the presentation is to focus and extend the insights gained from the paper itself.

Rejoinder. Following a formal response by another student, the presenter will make a 5-10 minute rejoinder.

Response. Each student will serve as the primary respondent for one paper presentation. The response is to be typed and of no more than five double-spaced pages. The response is due to the professor and the author of the paper at least by noon of the Wednesday prior to the day on which the paper is to be presented. The response should point out strengths and weaknesses of the paper and especially raise critical questions about the research project.

Paper Evaluations. For each paper presented to the seminar, every student except the primary presenter and the respondent must submit a paper evaluation form (attached).

COURSE GRADE

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

Research Paper	40%
Presentation	15%
Reading, Translation Work	20%
Response Paper & Presentation	15%
Seminar Participation/Contribution (includes evaluation of papers)	10%

MEETINGS AND CONTACT WITH THE PROFESSOR

I want you to know from the beginning that I take seriously the mentor role of the professor and the Christian community ethos of the seminar. When I am in San Francisco, I will be available to meet with you at your convenience, and when I am back home, I want you to always feel free to contact me via the information provided at the beginning of this document.

A Partial Bibliography on Hebrews

Commentaries

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- Bleek, Friedrich. *Der Brief an die Hebräer erläutert durch Einleitung, Übersetzung und fortlaufenden Commentar*. 2 parts in 3 vols. Berlin: Ferdinand Dümmler, 1936-40.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. NICNT. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, rev. ed., 1997.
- Buchanan, George Wesley. *To the Hebrews*. AB 36. New York: Doubleday, 1972.
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- Cockerill, Gareth L. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. NICNT. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans, 2011.
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- Grässer, Erich. *An die Hebräer*. 3 vols. Evangelisch-Katholischer Kommentar. Neukirchen: Benziger, 1990.
- Guthrie, George H. *Hebrews*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Hagner, Donald A. *Hebrews*. Edited by W. Ward Gasque. NIBCNT 14. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1990.
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- O'Brien, Peter T. *The Letter to the Hebrews*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
- Riggenbach, D. Eduard. *Der Brief an die Hebräer*. 2nd-3rd ed. Kommentar zum Neuen Testament 14. Leipzig: Deichert, 1922.
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- Thompson, James W. *Hebrews*. Paideia. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.
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Other Works

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Bateman IV, Herbert W. *Early Jewish Hermeneutics and Hebrews 1:5-13*. American University Studies, Series VII: Theology and Religion 193. New York: Peter Lang, 1997.

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Bauckham, Richard. "The Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews." Pages 15-36 in *The Epistle to the Hebrews and Christian Theology*. Edited by Richard Bauckham, Daniel R. Driver, Trevor A. Hart, and Nathan MacDonald. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

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PROVISIONAL COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic &/or Assignments</i>	<i>Completed</i>
Prior to Seminar Week	<p>✓ <i>Contact Dr. Guthrie to initiate conversation on a research topic for your paper.</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Read the Following:</i></p> <p>Skarsaune and Hvalvik, <i>Jewish Believers</i>, xi-240</p> <p>Guthrie, <i>The Structure of Hebrews</i> (on reserve in the library)</p> <p>Guthrie, “The Structure of Hebrews Revisited”</p> <p>(also note the translations due on Jan. 25)</p>	
23 January	<p align="center">☞ <i>Introduction to the Seminar</i></p> <p align="center">☞ <i>Issues in the Study of Early Jewish Christianity</i></p>	
24 January	<p>☞ <i>Issues in the Study of Early Jewish Christianity cont.</i></p>	
24b January	<p align="center">☞ <i>Hebrews in Early Jewish Christianity</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Read the Following:</i></p> <p>Guthrie, “Hebrews in Its First Century Contexts”</p>	
25 January	<p align="center">☞ <i>Hebrews in Early Jewish Christianity cont.</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Translate the Following:</i></p> <p>Hebrews 1:1-2:4 and the associated quotations in both the MT and LXX texts.</p>	
10 February	<p><i>Paper Prospectus Due</i></p>	

<p>24 February</p>	<p><i>☞ Uses of the Old Testament in Early Jewish Christianity</i> <i>(note: the papers do not have to correspond to this topic)</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Read the Following:</i></p> <p>Beale and Carson, <i>Commentary</i>, 919-95</p> <p>Guthrie, “Hebrews’s Use of the OT: Recent Trends”</p> <p>✓ <i>Translate the Following:</i></p> <p>Hebrews 3:7-4:11 and Ps. 95:7-11/Gen. 2:2 in both MT and LXX</p> <p><i>Provisional Outline and Working Bibliography Due</i></p> <p><i>Paper:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Response:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Paper:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Response:</i> _____</p>	
<p>30 March</p>	<p><i>☞ The Christology of Early Jewish Christianity</i> <i>(note: the papers do not have to correspond to this topic)</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Read the Following:</i></p> <p>Bauckham, Chs. 1, 3, 4, & 7</p> <p>✓ <i>Translate the Following:</i></p> <p>Hebrews 8 and associated quotations in the MT and LXX texts</p> <p>Hebrews 10:1-18 and associated quotations in the MT and LXX texts</p>	

	<p><i>Paper:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Response:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Paper:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Response:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Paper:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Response:</i> _____</p>	
<p>4 May</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>☞ Summary Reflections on Early Jewish Christianity</i></p> <p>✓ <i>Translate the Following:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Hebrews 12:18-29 and associated quotations in both the MT and LXX</p> <p><i>Paper:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Response:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Paper:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Response:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Paper:</i> _____</p> <p><i>Response:</i> _____</p>	

RESEARCH PAPER REFLECTION FORM

YOUR NAME:

PAPER WRITER'S NAME:

PAPER TITLE:

WRITING & FORM: HIGH SATISFACTORY LOW FAIL

- a. Grammar & Punctuation
- b. Organization
- c. Spelling
- d. Turabian Form
- e. Clarity of Writing

COMMENT:

RESEARCH: HIGH SATISFACTORY LOW FAIL

- a. Treatment of Topic
- b. Thoroughness
- c. Quality of
 sources consulted
- d. Incorporation of Research
 Insights in a Clear Presentation

COMMENT:

CHIEF CONTRIBUTIONS/STRENGTHS:

Probing Questions for the Paper Writer:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.