Course catalogue: NT513

NT513 - The New Testament - Biblical Theology

Person responsible for the course: Karl Olav Sandnes (Karl.O.Sandnes@mf.no)
Credit point (ECTS): 10
Start of studies: Autumn
Study programme:
- Master's degree (2 years) - Master of Theology
- Master's degree (2 years) - Master in Christian Education
- Master's degree (5 years) - Professional Degree in Methodist Theology and Ministry
Department: Department of Theology and Ministry
Examination support material permitted: List E, List F

General information
This is a basic New Testament course which does not require knowledge of Greek. It consists of three subtopics: A. The cultural context of the New Testament (NT) (2 ECTS); B. The Gospels read in light of Israel’s Holy Scriptures (the Old Testament) (4 ECTS); C. Pauline theology (4 ECTS).

The aim of this course is to provide knowledge of the theology of central parts of the New Testament, and an understanding of the cultural context of the NT. The course will also address methodological and hermeneutical questions related to the presentation of a biblical theology.

Subtopic A provides knowledge of the Jewish and Graeco-Roman context in which the New Testament was created and to which its first readers belonged. With this as a starting point, there will be focus on the following questions: What kind of development can be detected within Jewish history, thinking and culture in the time of the Second Temple? Which Jewish parties existed? What were the main characteristics of the Graeco-Roman culture? To what extent were Jews influenced by, and how did they relate to this culture?

Subtopic B focuses on how the four canonical gospels use Israel's Holy Scriptures in order to formulate their messages. Some key questions will be: How does Israel's history work as a backdrop for the message of the gospels? In what way are the Scriptures used to draw a picture of Jesus' life and work? What visions are drawn for the people of God and its mission?

Subtopic C provides an introduction to Pauline theology. Some key questions will be: What methodological challenges are connected with a presentation of a comprehensive Pauline theology? What hermeneutical consequences are related to the fact that Paul was a traveling missionary who wrote contextually specific letters? Is there a centre or a basic structure in Pauline theology? What are the central themes of a Pauline theology?

Overlapping courses
- Students who have already completed TEOL2210 will receive 4 credit points (ECTS) for NT513 on their transcript of records or diploma.
- Students who have already completed BIB511 will receive 3 credit points (ECTS) for NT513 on their transcript of records or diploma.
- Students who have already completed BIB501 will receive 7 credit points (ECTS) for NT513 on their transcript of records or diploma. MF therefore recommends not to combine these courses.
- Students who have already completed NT503 will receive 0 credit points (ECTS) for NT513 on their transcript of records or diploma. MF therefore recommends not to combine these courses.

Students who are planning to take more than two of these overlapping courses are asked to contact a student advisor.

Course requirements
In order to receive a final assessment, the student must:
- participate in the evaluation of the curriculum and/or of the learning environment, if such evaluation is stipulated in the relevant term.

Final assessment
The final assessment of NT513 The New Testament is based on one written exam (6 hours). In order to receive a final assessment, the student must fulfill the course requirements within the fixed deadline. The mark (A-F) is given on the basis of the written exam.

Course objective and content

KNOWLEDGE
The student has:
- good knowledge of Jewish culture in Hellenistic times
- knowledge of the significance of the Graeco-Roman culture as backdrop and context for the New Testament

SKILLS
The student can:
- relate knowledge of Jewish and Graeco-Roman culture to the interpretation of New Testament texts
clarify what it means that the New Testament texts are created in and reflect a particular historical and cultural context

Part B: The Gospels read in light of Israel's Holy Scriptures (The Old Testament)

KNOWLEDGE
The student has:
- good knowledge of the use of the Scripture in the Gospels
- knowledge of the distinct literary and theological character of the canonical Gospels

SKILLS
- good ability to discuss to what extent and in what ways the use of the Scriptures have shaped the message of the Gospels
- ability to discuss the criteria used to identify the use of the Scriptures in the Gospels

Part C: Pauline Theology

KNOWLEDGE
The student has:
- good knowledge of the methodical challenges related to a presentation of Pauline theology
- good knowledge of central themes in Pauline theology

SKILLS
The student can:
- discuss how and to what extent central themes in Paul's letters are related to each other
- explain what it means that any presentation of a Pauline theology has to be based on letters written to particular addressees - letters which reason, authorship and date often are disputed

Literature

To access electronic literature when you are not at MF:
Log in to Oria, or use "External access" in the library's list of databases.

PART A LITERATURE
- Skarsaune, O. (2002). In the shadow of the temple: Jewish influences on early Christianity (p. 23-132). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press. ISBN/ISSN: 0-8308-2670-x

PART B LITERATURE

PART C LITERATURE
Choose one of the following options:
Either:
Or:

Examination dates/written assignment deadlines

Written school exam
Examination date: 13. Nov 2020
Start time: 09:00
Duration: 6 hours
Release date for results: 4. Dec 2020
Withdrawal deadline: 1. Nov 2020

Written school exam
Examination date: 25. Jan 2021
Start time: 09:00
Duration: 6 hours
Release date for results: 15. Feb 2021
Withdrawal deadline: 10. Jan 2021