Instructor: Catherine Murphy
Office: Bannan 354
Office hours: MW 4:00-5:00 p.m., F 1:00-2:00 p.m. and by appointment
Phone: (408) 551-1909
E-mail: cmurphy@scu.edu

Required Texts:
Mark Allan Powell, What is Narrative Criticism? (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1990) [$16.00/$12.00]
Norman Perrin, What is Redaction Criticism? (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1969) [$12.80/$9.60]
Luise Schottroff, Silvia Schroer, and Marie-Theres Wacker, Feminist Interpretation (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1998) [$19.20/$14.40]
Richard Elliott, What is Social-Scientific Criticism? (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1993) [$20.00/$15.00]

Recommended Text:

Course Description and Objectives
The results of reading a text depend upon the questions one brings to the reading. This course explores select New Testament books through five different types of questions or critical methods: literary criticism (Gospel of Mark), redaction or editorial criticism (the relationship of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark and Luke), rhetorical criticism (Letter to the Romans, Letter to the Galatians), social-scientific criticism (Letter to James, Letter to Philemon), and feminist criticism (First Letter to the Corinthians, First and Second Letters to Timothy, Gospel of Mary). Through your close reading of the texts and of the various theories of criticism, your active role in the process of reading and interpretation will be exposed and illuminated, so that your reading of any text will hopefully become more sophisticated.

The course will also help you develop certain skills essential to your continuing success at Santa Clara, such as types and styles of questioning, your own style of inquiry, group work, oral presentation, writing, and university-level research.

Course Format
Introductory Class(es). Each new unit except for the first will begin with a summary of the student group presentation from the prior class (5-10 minutes). The professor will provide an overview of the critical method being introduced. Students will have a chance to raise questions and issues that came up for them when reading the secondary literature. The critical method will then be applied to select passages in the primary reading (gospels and epistles of the New Testament).

Applications. The final day of each unit will be reserved for group presentations on particular passages. These presentations will follow the format of the ones facilitated by the professor. Further guidelines will be posted in the course web site.

Course Requirements
Attendance & Informed Class Participation
Students are expected to be present and on time. Should illness or circumstance necessitate absence, please notify the professor in advance or soon after the class. Notice renders the absence excused; lack of notice constitutes an unexcused absence. One unexcused absence without penalty is allowed. With two unexcused absences, the student has missed 10% of the course and can earn at most a grade of B-, regardless of the completion of assigned work. Six unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Excused absences affect the grade at half the rate of unexcused absences. Daily roll will be taken. 10% of grade up to 2 unexcused absences; grade more severely affected thereafter.

Class participation will be assessed regularly by informed verbal participation. 20% of grade.
Course Requirements (continued)

Critical Inquiry

Reading Summaries
Each student is responsible to write a 3-page paper describing each of the methods we treat in class. These papers will be summaries of the five books we are reading in the class. They will be due on the applications day for that unit. 20% of grade.

Application of Method
Students, working in groups of 3, will select one of the five critical methods and become the resident experts in that method. Your task as a group will be to discuss your selected method and to then apply it to a particular New Testament passage. You will present your analysis to the class in a 30-minute format, and then field questions from the other students about your topic. 20% of grade.

Respondents
Students, working in groups of 3, will serve as the official note-takers during another group’s presentation. They will prepare a written summary of the group’s presentation to be read at the beginning of the following class (5-10 minutes). 5% of grade.

Exegetical or Theoretical Paper
Each student will prepare either an exegetical paper examining a particular biblical passage with a particular critical method, or a theoretical paper that examines the origins, benefits and shortcomings of a particular critical method. Students are required to have a consultation with the professor by the fourth week about their paper topics; you are also encouraged to submit a draft for feedback by the end of the seventh week. 15% of grade.

Examinations
There will be one brief essay exam at the end of the course. 10% of grade.

Grades

Grade Philosophy
Your level of engagement in a course determines your success in that course. That does not mean that a lot of effort will earn you an “A”; it does mean that a lot of effort will enable you to exceed yourself in several measures of performance beyond grades, such as self-discipline, note-taking, coherent writing, oral confidence, initiative, creativity, and group leadership.

A letter grade can only measure the final product you create, and that against the output of your classmates. It is a very limited “return” on your investment in the class. In this class, therefore, you’ll receive not only a letter grade, but also an evaluation of your individual performance. This is intended to provide you with feedback for you as a learner, to identify areas of success and suggestions for improvement. The general format and criteria of this evaluation will be posted on the course web site.

Grade Breakdown
Attendance 10%
Class Participation 20%
Reading Summaries 20%
Application of Method 20%
Respondents Presentation 5%
Exegetical or Theoretical Paper 15%
Final Exam (cumulative) 10%

Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.5–100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0–93.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86.7–89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.3–86.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0–83.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76.7–79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.3–76.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66.7–69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0–66.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>70.0–73.2</td>
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Plagiarism Policy
Students are expected to collaborate to share ideas, resources, and questions. This sharing becomes plagiarism when the student presents as original the insights or work of another. Work on research essays and exams is expected to be original to each student. Reliance on other authors should be fully documented in the standard format presented in the essay guidelines. Failure to abide by the spirit and letter of this policy may result in immediate dismissal from the course.
UNIT 1. INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL CRITICISM, LITERARY CRITICISM

1 9/20 [20] INTRODUCTIONS, INTRODUCTION TO NEW TESTAMENT CRITICISM
   Optional Reading: "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church," first reading

9/22 [70] LITERARY CRITICISM: GOSPEL OF MARK
   Primary Reading: Mark 1-16
   Secondary Reading: Powell, Narrative Criticism 1-50
   ➞ Sign-ups for Application Presentations

2 9/27 [60] LITERARY CRITICISM: GOSPEL OF MARK
   Primary: Particular readings from Mark to illustrate events, characters, and settings
   Secondary: Powell, Narrative Criticism 51-105
   Optional: "Interpretation of the Bible," pp. 9-10 (Narrative Analysis)

   Primary: To be assigned by student groups
   ➞ Reading Summary due

   Primary: Revelation 4:1-22:5
   Note: Class will only last one hour today. For the other hour, plan to attend one of the
   Library Sessions this week and one 15-20 minute consultation with the professor during the
   quarter to discuss your paper.

10/5 ➞ Library Sessions: Tools for Religious Studies Research, Library Classroom in SE corner of
   Reference Room, Time TBA

10/6 Holiday: Student Planning Day

10/11 Holiday: University Day

UNIT 2. REDACTION CRITICISM

10/13 [55] REDACTION CRITICISM
   Primary: Select passages from Gospel Synopsis (to be distributed)
   Secondary: Perrin, Redaction Criticism 1-39

10/15 ➞ SANTA CLARA LECTURE: Joseph Daoust, S.J., “Of Kingfishers and Dragonflys: Faith and
   Justice at the Core of Jesuit Education,” Recital Hall of Performing Arts Center, 8:00 p.m.
   ➞ Consultation with professor for your Exegetical/Theoretical paper should be done by this week

10/18 [45] REDACTION CRITICISM
   Secondary: Perrin, Redaction Criticism 40-79
   Optional: "Interpretation of the Bible," pp. 5-7 (Historical-Critical Method)

10/20 REDACTION CRITICISM: APPLICATIONS
   Primary: To be assigned by student groups
   ➞ Reading Summary due
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk Date</th>
<th>Pages of Topic of Lecture &amp; Discussion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 10/25</td>
<td>Rhetorical Criticism: Letter to the Galatians (Primary: Letter to the Galatians, Secondary: Kennedy, Rhetorical Criticism, 3-72, 141-56)</td>
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<td>Rhetorical Criticism: Letter to the Romans (Primary: Letter to the Romans, Secondary: Kennedy, Rhetorical Criticism, 73-140, Optional: &quot;Interpretation of the Bible,&quot; p. 8 (Rhetorical Analysis))</td>
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<td>7 11/1</td>
<td>Rhetorical Criticism: Applications (Primary: To be assigned by student groups)</td>
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<td>Reading Summary due</td>
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<td>Unit 3: Rhetorical Criticism</td>
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<td>11/3</td>
<td>Social-Scientific Criticism (Primary: Letter of James, Secondary: Elliott, Social-Scientific Criticism 1-59)</td>
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<td>If you are submitting a draft of you Exegetical/Theoretical Paper, it must be in by today</td>
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<td>Social-Scientific Criticism: Applications (Primary: To be assigned by student groups)</td>
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<td>Unit 4: Social-Scientific Criticism</td>
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<td>9 11/15</td>
<td>Feminist Criticism: First Corinthians (Primary: 1 Cor 1:1-16:24, Secondary: Wacker, Feminist Interpretation 3-82)</td>
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<td>Feminist Criticism: First Corinthians (Primary: 1 Cor 7; 11-12, Secondary: Schottroff, Feminist Interpretation 179-217, Optional: &quot;Interpretation of the Bible,&quot; pp. 17 (The Feminist Approach))</td>
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<td>10 11/29</td>
<td>Feminist Criticism: Pastoral Epistles, Gnostic Gospel of Mary Magdalene (Primary: 1 Timothy, Gospel of Mary (Gospel to be distributed in class), Secondary: Schottroff, Feminist Interpretation 218-54)</td>
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<td>Feminist Criticism: Applications (Primary: To be assigned by student groups)</td>
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<td>Reading Summary due</td>
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<td>Last Day to submit Exegetical or Theoretical Papers</td>
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<td>12/7</td>
<td>Final Exam, 9:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. (Tuesday)</td>
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