

Fulfillment of the M.Div. NT Requirement via Prior Coursework

All M.Div. students at YDS are required to complete twelve credit hours of coursework distributed between Hebrew Bible and New Testament. Ordinarily, this must include at least three credit hours in Old Testament Interpretation (REL 503/504) and at least three credit hours in New Testament Interpretation (REL 505/506). The YDS introductory courses are based on the denominational ordination requirements of the majority of our MDiv students. Many denominations require those seeking ordination to take a national exam on the contents of the Old and New Testaments and also require an exegesis paper on a passage that is determined each year by the denomination.

It is rare for undergraduate courses to include comprehensive consideration of historical methods (source, form, tradition, and redaction criticism, as well as evidence from material culture and the contextualization of New Testament texts in relation to contemporaneous Judaism), as well as newer methods, such as feminist criticism, postcolonial criticisms, newer approaches in literary criticisms, and attention to issues such as anti-Judaism, race, economics, and disability. It is for this reason that we strongly encourage students to take New Testament Interpretation at YDS.

In exceptional cases, students who have taken comparable course work in New Testament may apply to the Office of Academic Affairs to substitute a more specialized course in New Testament taught by one of the core faculty in the area in lieu of the two courses designated New Testament Interpretation. The Sr. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may approve such a substitution when presented evidence (a syllabus, transcript, and cover note) that the student has taken a college or graduate-level course (or courses) that:

- dealt with major portions of the New Testament
- considered and used historical methods (source, form, tradition, and redaction criticism, an understanding of the historical context of the Roman Empire and second temple Judaism)
- engaged with newer methods, such as feminist criticism, postcolonial criticisms, newer approaches in literary criticisms, and attention to issues such as anti-Judaism, race, economics, and disability.
- required a paper of 8 pages or longer that engaged in exegesis or close reading of a NT passage.

Your cover note should briefly outline how your previous classes covered these topics.