

THOMAS R. BLANTON, IV
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., 2006. Biblical Studies (University of Chicago, Chicago, IL)
Dissertation: *Constructing a New Covenant: Discursive Strategies in the Damascus Document and Second Corinthians* (Advisor: Prof. Hans-Josef Klauck)

M.T.S., 1995 (Duke University, Durham, N.C.)
Thesis: "Apocalyptic as the 'End of History': A Critique of a Critical Category"

B.A., 1991 (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C.)
Major: Psychology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion. Luther College (Fall 2007 to present)

"Apostle Paul: Discourse and Practice," identifies the practical and discursive strategies that Paul deployed in an effort to garner the prestige, authority, and economic resources necessary to sustain his enterprise.

"Apocalypse Then and Now" explores the ways in which ancient and modern religious groups construct imaginary futures, employing taxonomies that promote group identity and legitimate social and political agendas.

"The World of the Bible: the Dead Sea Scrolls," an examination of the ideologies and practices evident in the scrolls, utilizing the perspectives of contemporary theorists in the areas of literature, sociology, anthropology, ritual, and religious studies.

"Introduction to the Bible," an examination of the literature of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament.

Lecturer in Religious Studies. Saint Xavier University (Fall 2006)

"New Testament Christianity," an examination of selected NT texts in light of contemporary parallels from the emperor cult, Greco-Roman religion, and Jewish apocalyptic and wisdom traditions.

Lecturer in Religious Studies. Albion College, Albion, MI (Fall 2005 to Spring 2006)

“Introduction to Western Religions,” a survey of Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

“Introduction to the Hebrew Bible”

“Introduction to the New Testament”

“Jewish Life and Thought”

“Introduction to Biblical Greek”

Each of these classes surveyed the literature and practices of the respective groups or corpora, exploring the ways in which the ideologies presented in various texts were formulated in relation to particular historical situations.

Lecturer in Koine Greek. The Divinity School, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Autumn 2002 to Spring 2004)

“Introduction to Koine Greek I-III.” The first two quarters served as an introduction to the grammar of Koine Greek. The third quarter constituted an intermediate-level Greek reading and exegesis course.

Instructor. The Graham School of General Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Autumn 2006 and Autumn 2003)

“Ancient Mediterranean Religions” (Autumn 2006), an examination of the myths and iconography of Babylonian, Canaanite, Israelite, Persian, Greek, and Roman religions.

“Politics, History, and Myth in the Dead Sea Scrolls” (Autumn 2003), an introduction to the ideology of the Dead Sea scrolls. The class explored the ways in which this ideology was shaped in response to the dominance of the Hasmonean regime, as well as to the claims and practices of rival parties such as the Pharisees.

Teaching Assistant. The Divinity School, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Winter 2000)

“The Exodus Narrative in Jewish and Christian Traditions.” Directed students’ discussions of course material during bi-weekly recitation meetings.

PUBLICATIONS

Constructing a New Covenant: Discursive Strategies in the Damascus Document and Second Corinthians (WUNT II/233; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007)

Articles “Antonia, Tower of” and “Abilene” in the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, vol. 1: *A* (Aleph)-*Antinomianism* (Berlin: de Gruyter; forthcoming)

Entries in the New Testament Language Project's contextual lexicon of NT Greek: *anaginōskō*, *exaiphnēs*, *heuriskesthai katheudontes*, *ho huios tou anthrōpou*, *hypomenō eis telos*, *synteleia*, *telos*, *throemai* (Oxford Press; forthcoming at <http://www.ntlp.net/>)

Review of Kathy Ehrensperger, *Paul and the Dynamics of Power: Communication and Interaction in the Early Christ-Movement* (London: T&T Clark, 2007); *Review of Biblical Literature* (under contract)

PAPERS

“Spirit, Law, and Covenant Renewal in Early Judaism and Second Corinthians”
Interdisciplinary Academic Seminar entitled “New Perspectives on Paul and the Jews,”
sponsored by Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (September 2009; invited paper). View the
conference website at http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/page/conf_paulandthejews/

“Spirit and Covenant Renewal: A Pre-Pauline Theologoumenon” Second Corinthians:
Pauline Theology in the Making Seminar, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting
(Boston, 2008)

“Were Paul's Opponents in 2 Corinthians Emissaries of the Jerusalem Church?” Society of
Biblical Literature Midwest Region Meeting (2005)

“The Damascus Document’s ‘Critique of the Princes of Judah’: A Veiled Criticism of
Aristobulus I and Alexander Jannaeus” American Oriental Society/American Schools of
Oriental Research/Society of Biblical Literature Midwest Region Joint Meeting (2003)

AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Primary: New Testament, Second Temple Judaism, Koine Greek

Secondary: Hebrew Bible, ancient Mediterranean religions, elementary-intermediate
Biblical Hebrew

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Luther College Faculty Development Grant for language study at the Goethe Institut,
Chicago (Summer 2008)

Wabash Fellowship in Pedagogy and the Study of Religion; University of Chicago, Chicago,
IL (Spring 2005)

Dissertation Fellow; Martin Marty Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (2002-2003)

Milo P. Jewett Prize (Divinity School, University of Chicago, 2002) for the paper, “The
True Jew According to Paul (Rom. 2:17-19) and Criticisms of Greek Philosophy”

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Indexer-Analyst. American Theological Library Association (August 2006 to August 2007)
Indexed publications in current periodicals in the areas of New Testament, early Christian
studies, and early Judaism for the ATLA database.

Assistant Researcher. New Testament Language Project, Cambridge, MA (June 1998 to Sept. 2000)
Contributed entries for the New Testament Language Project's online contextual lexicon of New Testament Greek.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society of Biblical Literature
American Academy of Religion
Chicago Society of Biblical Research

LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge of Ancient Greek, Hebrew, French, and German.
Some instruction in Aramaic, Syriac, Ethiopic, and Coptic.

REFERENCES

Hans-Josef Klauck, University of Chicago (klauck@uchicago.edu)
Bruce Lincoln, University of Chicago (blincoln@uchicago.edu)
James VanderKam, University of Notre Dame (VanderKam.1@nd.edu)
Adela Yarbro Collins, Yale University (adela.collins@yale.edu)