

Birmingham Theological Seminary

**Dothan Campus
Dothan Community Church
4390 Westgate Parkway
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Fall 2019

NT 2022 New Testament I

Professor: Dr. W. Charles Lewis

Class Hours: 2

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COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – and the Book of Acts in the New Testament. It is to cause them to know and understand the content of each book, their relationship to each other, and their relationship to the rest of scripture. The student should know how to outline each book, to declare the themes of each book, to show the major divisions of each book, and to know where to find key subject matters in each book.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to articulate how the four Gospels and the Book of Acts fit into the New Testament Canon.
2. The student will be able to explain the credibility of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as worthy to write the four Gospels and the Book of Acts.
3. The student will be able to delineate the literary genres of the New Testament and be able to identify the literary genre of the four Gospels and the Book of Acts.
4. The student will be able to discuss the purpose of the author in writing the four Gospels and the Book of Acts and how the purpose accounts for the content and order of their material.
5. The student will be able to discuss the content of the four Gospels and the Book of Acts.
6. The student will be able to explain the use of parables as a teaching technique.
7. The student will be able to discuss the principles and practices of Jesus' personal life.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts: (Only ** texts required for certificate students)

Bruce, F.F. *New Testament History*: Doubleday-Galilee edition, 1980.

ISBN: 0-385-02533-5

**Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah: New Updated Edition*.

ISBN-10: 09435755834

ISBN-13: 978-09435755834

**Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. InterVarsity Press Academic, 2009.

ISBN-10: 0830814027

ISBN-13: 978-0830814022

White, A.N. Sherwin. *Roman Society and Roman Law in the New Testament*: Oxford University Press, 1981.

ISBN: 0-8010-8148-3

**The New Testament in the following modern translations: ESV & NIV

Recommended Reading:

Horne, Herman Harrell. *Teaching Techniques of Jesus*. Kregel Publications.

ISBN-10: 0825428041

ISBN-13: 978-0825428043

Chamber, Oswald. *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*. Discovery Publishing House.

ISBN-10: 1572930098

ISBN-13: 978-1572930094

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance and participation, including quizzes: more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading assignment on time.
3. Five three-page (two pages for certificate students) papers. These papers are short. Be concise and precise.
 - Paper 1 – Explain how Matthew’s final chapter compares to his first chapter.
 - Paper 2 – What is Mark’s Gospel about? Where in Mark’s gospel is the basic overview of his book given? Explain.
 - Paper 3 – List three themes that Luke highlights in his Gospel. How does he develop them? Explain.
 - Paper 4 – To what does “these” refer in John 20:31? List them and give the biblical references.
 - Paper 5 – Using scriptural divisions, outline the Book of Acts. On what biblical passage is this outline based?
4. Write a 10 – 15-page (7-10 pages for certificate students) paper on one of the following:

- The Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7). Give the basic subjects addressed in this passage and what is said about them. Give this “sermon” a title.
- Delineate the specific aspects of Jesus’ discipleship method as presented by Mark. Provide a Scriptural chronicle of this method as presented by Mark.
- Present and explain/interpret five (5) of the Parables in Luke’s Gospel.
- In one of John’s opening statements (John 1:18) he says that Jesus revealed/disclosed God. What did Jesus reveal concerning God in John’s Gospel? Be specific.

COURSE GRADING

1. Quizzes – 10%
2. Completion of reading and ability to participate in discussion – 10%
3. Five short papers are worth 10% each for a total of 50% of grade
4. 10-15-page paper – 15%
5. Final exam – 15%

COURSE FORMATS & STYLE STANDARDS

Note: All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade. Times New Roman #12 font doubled-spaced.

Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is crucial.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Therefore, course materials may be submitted for up to six weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six weeks grace period, the student’s grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six-week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student’s transcript.

COURSE OUTLINE

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|------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9/5 | Introduction/The Gospels and Acts in Canonical Perspective |
| 9/12 | Matthew. *Matthew reading due. **Paper 1 due |
| 9/19 | Matthew. Assigned reading due. |
| 9/26 | Mark. Mark reading due. Paper 2 due |

10/3	Luke. Luke reading due. Paper 3 due. 10-15-page paper due.
10/10	Luke. Assigned reading due.
10/17	FALL BREAK
10/24	John. John reading due. Paper 4 due
10/31	John. Assigned reading due.
11/07	Acts. Acts reading due. Paper 5 due.
11/14	Acts. Assigned reading due.
11/21	Review
11/28	THANKSGIVING
12/5	Final Exam

* The reading of each Book is due before it is scheduled to be discussed in class. For example, Matthew's Gospel is to be read in its entirety prior to the 9/19 class.

** Papers are due at the beginning of the class period.

***Reading assignments from the Required Texts will be distributed as first-class meeting.

New Testament Bibliography

Primary Documents

Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row Publishers, 1995.

Hennecke, Edgar, and Wilhelm Schneemelcher, eds. *The New Testament Apocrypha*. English trans. ed. by R. McL. Wilson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1963.

Kee, Howard Clark. *The New Testament in Context: Sources and Documents*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984.

Lightfoot, J. B. and J. R. Harmer, eds. and trans. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations of Their Writings*. 2d ed. Ed. and rev. by Michael W. Holmes. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.

Robinson, James M., gen. ed. *The Nag Hammadi Library in English*. New York: Harper & Row, 1977.

Vermes, Geza, ed. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. New York: Penguin Books, 1975.

Whiston, William, ed. and trans. *The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1987.

History and Background

Bruce, F. F. *New Testament History*. New York: Doubleday, 1971.

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.

House, H. Wayne. *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.

Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus: An Investigation into Economic and Social Conditions During the New Testament Period*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969.

Keener, Craig. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Malina, Bruce J. *The New Testament World: Insights from Cultural Anthropology*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1981.

McRay, John. *Archeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.

Reicke, Bo. *The New Testament Era: The World of the Bible From 500 B.C. to A.D. 100*. Trans. by David Green. London: Adam & Charles Black, 1969.

Text and Canon

Brooks, James A. "The Text and Canon of the New Testament," in *Broadman Bible Commentary*, Vol. 8: "General Articles, Matthew-Mark," pp. 15-18. Clifton J. Allen, gen. ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1969.

Bruce, F. F. *The Canon of Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

_____. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1960.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.

_____. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*. 3d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

New Testament Introductions

Carson, D. A. Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Feine, Paul, J. Behm, and W. G. Kummel. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.

Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 3d rev. ed. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1970.

Kummel, Werner Georg. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Trans. Howard Clark Kee (based on the 17th German edition). Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1975.

Lea, Thomas D. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.

Bible Dictionaries

Bromiley, Geoffrey, et al., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Rev. ed. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-1988.

Buttrick, George A., gen. ed. *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.

Freedman, David Noel. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Green, Joel, Scot McKnight & I. Howard Marshall. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Martin, Ralph P. & Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Mills, Watson E., gen. ed. *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1990.

Ryken, Leland, James Wilhoit, Tremper Longman III. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Gospel Studies

Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*. English Edition. New York: American Bible Society, 1982.

Beardslee, William A. *Literary Criticism of the New Testament*. Nashville: Fortress, 1970.

Dodd, C. H. *The Apostolic Preaching and Its Developments*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.

Stein, Robert. *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.