

BI 111-02 Understanding the New Testament

Trinity College of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2007

MWF 10:00 a.m.–10:50 a.m.

Lecturer: Paul J. Brown
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Office: McLennan 345
Office Hrs: posted on door
Classroom: ALD 113

Catalog Description:

A survey of the setting, history and literature of the New Testament. Emphasis is given to major New Testament themes, including the person and work of Jesus Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the theology of Paul, and the Christian society.

Course Objectives:

The aim of this course is for students to acquire survey-level knowledge of the New Testament with an eye toward the application of that knowledge in personal and ministry situations and to grow in a love for the God who gave us the Scriptures. At the completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of the New Testament,
- Identify the books and authors of the New Testament,
- Represent a basic knowledge of the content of the New Testament,
- Comprehend key theological themes from the New Testament,
- Apply New Testament truths to contemporary situations,
- Grow in a love of God, the Scriptures that he gave us, and the church of which the Scriptures speak.

Course Methods:

The course is designed to help the student achieve the above objectives by:

- Reading the New Testament
- Reading the text
- Discussing the New Testament readings and the text readings
- Writing a short historical study
- Presenting a group oral report
- Completing two reflection projects
- Taking four unit tests.

The classes will consist primarily of lecture and discussion based upon the scripture and text read for that class. Numerous classes will also include student presentations.

Required Texts:

The Bible (recommended translations: ESV, NIV, NASB)

Elwell, Walter and Robert Yarbrough, *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Course Requirements and Grading:

The entire course is worth 1,000 points. The components below indicate the activities in the course and the associated points. The points convert into a letter grade as follows: A 1,000-940; A- 930-900; B+ 890-870; B 860-840; B- 830-800; C+ 790-770; C 760-740; C- 730-700; D+ 690-670; D 660-640; D- 630-600; F Below 600.

Class Participation (50 points)

Students are expected to attend class and verbally participate. I reward those who try hard, faithfully attend class, and contribute to the community of learning during the class period. Each unexcused attendance subtracts ten (10) points from the total up to 50 points. If the instructor is notified about an absence due to a legitimate reason (severe illness, death, hospitalization, or university-related event), an absence is considered excused. If the instructor is not notified, an unexcused absence will be charged even if the reason is legitimate.

Spiritual Survey Reflection Project (50 points)

A short answer assignment will be distributed in the first class that will help the student to reflect upon the gospel, personal Christian experience, and the role of studying the New Testament in the Christian life.

Written Historical Study (100 points)

A 750-word study of a first century city from the list below will be written by the student. The study should include: a geographical description, comments on its history up to the 1st century, and a reference to its significance to the context of the NT (including a reference to the passage(s) in the NT that refer to it). Specific guidelines will be distributed separately.

Group Oral Presentation (100 points)

Small groups of students will present a summary of a New Testament book. Each presentation will require the group to come to some inductive conclusions about the content of the book and offer some suggestions for its application. The due date varies with this project; a signup will determine the specific day. Specific guidelines will be distributed separately.

Church Reflection Project (100 points)

The student will take the opportunity to visit a church from another tradition. The goal of this project is for the student to grow in an understanding and appreciation of other expressions of Christendom. Questions will guide the reflection process and it will culminate in a two page written report. Specific suggestions and guidelines will be distributed separately.

NT Reading (100 points)

A reading report is due at the last class.

Text Reading (100 points)

A reading report is due at the last class.

Section Tests (400 points)

Four section tests will be administered throughout the semester corresponding to the four major sections in the text. They are non-cumulative.

Tentative Course Schedule:

- Aug. 22nd: Introduction
- Aug. 24th: Lecture/discussion: “Why Study the New Testament?”
Reading Due: *Encountering* Ch. 1
- Aug. 27th: Lecture/discussion: “The Middle East in the Days of Jesus”
Reading Due: Matthew 1–7; *Encountering* Ch. 2
Due: Spiritual Survey Reflection Project
- Aug. 29th: Lecture/discussion: “The Gospel and the Four Gospels”
Reading Due: Matthew 8–16; *Encountering* Ch. 3
- Aug. 31st: Lecture/discussion: “Matthew”
Reading Due: Matthew 17–28; *Encountering* Ch. 4
- Sept. 3rd: Labor Day: No Class
- Sept. 5th: Lecture/discussion: “Mark”
Reading Due: Mark 1–16; *Encountering* Ch. 5
- Sept. 7th: Lecture/discussion: “Luke”
Reading Due: Luke 1–12; *Encountering* Ch. 6
- Sept. 10th: Lecture/discussion: “John”
Reading Due: Luke 13–24; *Encountering* Ch. 8
- Sept. 12th: Lecture/discussion: “Man from Galilee”
Reading Due: John 1–12; *Encountering* Ch. 7
- Sept. 14th: Lecture/discussion: “Lord Teach Us”
Reading Due: John 13–21; *Encountering* Ch. 9
- Sept. 17th: Lecture/discussion: “Modern Approaches to the New Testament”
Reading Due: *Encountering* Ch. 10
- Sept. 19th: Lecture/discussion: “Modern Study of the Gospels”
Reading Due: *Encountering* Ch. 11
- Sept. 21st: Lecture/discussion: “Modern Search for Jesus”
Reading Due: *Encountering* Ch. 12
- Sept. 24th: Review and Catch-up Day.
- Sept. 26th: **Unit Test # 1**
- Sept. 28th: Lecture/discussion: “The World and Identity of the Earliest Church”
Reading Due: *Encountering* Ch. 13

- Oct. 1st: Lecture/discussion: “Acts 1–7”
 Reading Due: Acts 1–7; *Encountering* Ch. 14
- Oct. 3rd: Lecture/discussion: “Acts 8–12”
 Reading Due: Acts 8–12; *Encountering* Ch. 15
- Oct. 5th: Lecture/discussion: “Acts 13–28”
 Reading Due: Acts 13–28; *Encountering* Ch. 16
- Oct. 8th: Review and Catch-up Day
 Due: Written Historical Study
- Oct. 10th: **Unit Test # 2**
- Oct. 12th: Fall Break: No Class
- Oct. 15th: Lecture/discussion: “All Things to All People”
 Reading Due: *Encountering* Ch. 17
- Oct. 17th: Lecture/discussion: “Romans”
 Reading Due: Romans 1–8; *Encountering* Ch. 18
- Oct. 19th: Lecture/discussion: “Romans”
 Reading Due: Romans 9–16
- Oct. 22nd: Lecture/discussion: “Corinthians and Galatians”
 Reading Due: 1 Corinthians; *Encountering* Ch. 19
- Oct. 24th: Lecture/discussion: “Corinthians and Galatians”
 Reading Due: 2 Corinthians
- Oct. 26th: Lecture/discussion: “Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon”
 Reading Due: Galatians; *Encountering* Ch. 20
- Oct. 29th: Lecture/discussion: “Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon”
 Reading Due: Ephesians and Colossians
- Oct. 31st: Lecture/discussion: “Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon”
 Reading Due: Philippians and Philemon
- Nov. 2nd: Lecture/discussion: “1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus”
 Reading Due: *Encountering* Ch. 21
- Nov. 5th: Lecture/discussion: “1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus”
 Reading Due: 1 and 2 Thessalonians
- Nov. 7th: Lecture/discussion: “1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus”
 Reading Due: 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus

- Nov. 9th: Review and Catch-up Day
- Nov. 12th: **Unit Test # 3**
- Nov. 14th: Lecture/discussion: “Hebrews and James”
Reading Due: Hebrews; *Encountering* Ch. 22
- Nov. 16th: Lecture/discussion: “Hebrews and James”
Reading Due: James
- Nov 19th: Lecture/discussion: “1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude”
Reading Due: *Encountering* Ch. 23
- Nov. 21st: Thanksgiving Recess: No Class
- Nov. 23rd: Thanksgiving Recess: No Class
- Nov. 26th: Thanksgiving Recess: No Class
- Nov. 28th: Lecture/discussion: “1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude”
Reading Due: 1 and 2 Peter
Due: Church Reflection Project
- Nov. 30th: Lecture/discussion: “1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude”
Reading Due: 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude
- Dec. 3rd: Lecture/discussion: “Revelation”
Reading Due: Revelation 1–11; *Encountering* Ch. 24
- Dec. 5th: Lecture/discussion: “Revelation”
Reading Due: Revelation 12–22; *Encountering* Epilogue
- Dec. 7th: Review and Catch-up Day
- Dec. 10th: **Unit Test #4** (10:30–12:30)