

# UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT (BI 111A)

Trinity International University

Dr. Sylvie Raquel

Spring 2008 - MWF 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

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M- 2:15-3:05 pm

T- 11:00 am-1 pm

## **Mission Statement of the Department of Biblical Studies:**

The goal of the Department of Biblical Studies is to help students grasp the message of the Bible, interpret the Scriptures accurately, develop a Christian world view, and integrate faith and learning. Faculty members are committed to studying the Bible in its historical and cultural context and applying it to present day ethical issues. Students will study various theological options and points of view of the larger Christian community and be encouraged to arrive at their own conclusions, based on careful study and scholarship. Faculty members will endeavor to model Christian character and lifestyle in their dealings with the students both in and outside the classroom.

## **Course Description:**

A survey of the setting, history, and canonical literature of the early Christian church. Emphasis is given to major themes of the New Testament, including the person and work of Jesus Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the theology of Paul, and the Christian in society. (3 hours)

## **Course Objectives:**

Students will:

1. Be familiarized with the entire text of the New Testament. *Assessed by the daily readings.*
2. Interact with the Bible reading. *Assessed by the journals.*
3. Acquire an **introductory** knowledge of the authorship, date, purpose, general content, and major themes of the books and letters contained in the New Testament. *Assessed by the exams.*
4. Compare the characteristics of the various literary genres in the New Testament and apply them to the reading of the text. *Journals. Quizzes. Exams. Class discussions.*
5. Discuss some present-day implications which derive from the history, theology, and milieu of the New Testament. *Class discussions. Students's presentations.*
6. Identify basic resources for ongoing study of the New Testament. *Syllabus.*

## **Course Texts:**

1. The Bible (recommended English versions: NIV, NASB, NLT)

2. Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.

3. Hays, Richard B. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Readings: 40%.

Readings form the core of this course, and are considered essential to the successful completion of this course.

A. Textbook: 10%

The Bible reading is reflected in the journal component of the course requirements. This portion of the reading reflects only the assignment on the Elwell and Yarbrough textbook. The professor will keep a daily log of all readings. A quiz may be given at any class session on the assigned readings for that day.

B. Journal: 35%.

The Bible reading is reflected in the journal component of the course requirements. Each entry (one per day of class) **must include** about one single-spaced page and respond to the following questions: 1. In this reading, I learned ...; 2. I was challenged by ...; 3. God convicted me of ...; 4. I received new insights about ...; 5. The reading raised the following questions:.... Grades will be based on neatness and how complete the journal is. Students will enter their daily journal into the Moodle system by Thursday 11:59 pm. The professor will conduct a weekly evaluation of the work. **No late journals will be accepted.**

2. Four sectional exams and a non-cumulative final exam: 55%.

3. Extra-credit:

Students who have completed all of their regular assignments will have an opportunity to do ONE extra-credit assignment Each participant must be involved in the class presentation. The individual or the group must submit an electronic copy to the professor and distribute an outline to each class member. If students cannot fulfill their commitment, they must contact the professor one week prior to the assigned date.

### **Attendance:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \* Students who have perfect attendance will be added 2% to their final grade.

*Absences:*

\* Students are allowed **5** absences total, whether **excused OR unexcused**. Athletic students who are playing during the semester cannot miss any classes beyond their regular game times.

\* The first 4 tardies count as one (1) absence. Each additional tardy will equate to one (1) absence.

\* Beyond the 5 absences, the student's final grade will be lowered by **5%** for each missed class.

\* Students who: 1. sleep or study other subjects in class, 2. leave after a quiz or presentation, 3. come more than 20 mn late, or 4. regularly disrupt the class will be

counted as absent.

\* A student will receive an "F" for any unexcused missed exam or quiz.

*Excused absences:*

\* Excused absences will be taken in consideration only in the case of a missed exam or missed quiz.

\* Excused absences consist of absences caused by an emergency (hospitalization, death of an immediate family member, etc.) or by involvement in a university-related activity (sports, field trip, etc.). Written documentation must be presented to obtain an excused absence.

\* Unusual situations that require to miss class must be cleared with the professor as soon as possible.

*All electronic devices must be turned off prior to class.* The use of personal computers will not be allowed in class; the professor will provide the necessary outlines for taking notes.

**Checking your e-mail:**

Students are expected to check their Group Wise account **every day** and to keep up with the Moodle announcements. If students need to contact the professor, they must use the Group Wise account (otherwise the e-mail will be automatically erased) and write "about BI 111" as the e-mail subject.

**Plagiarism/Cheating:**

Plagiarism is defined as using another person's work or words as if they were one's own without identifying the source. Paraphrasing the written work of another author is a form of plagiarism and should be scrupulously avoided. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. This includes written papers, exams, or oral presentations.

Cheating is defined as any form of fraud or deception that results in a better grade or even a better impression of a student's performance than he/she actually earns or deserves. Aiding or treating a fellow student with either favoritism or unfairness by a student leader in the class is also considered cheating. One or both parties may be held responsible. Cheating will not be tolerated in any form.

Incidents of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with severely by the instructor. The penalty will include, at least, failure of the assignments(s) involved, but could include failure of the course. All incidents of plagiarism and cheating will be reported in writing to the Academic Dean who has the authority to undertake further disciplinary measures in accordance with TIU policy on community standards violations.

**Grading:**

90 ≤ A- < 94 ≤ A < 98 ≤ A+

70 ≤ C- < 74 ≤ C < 78 ≤ C+

80 ≤ B- < 84 ≤ B < 88 ≤ B+

F < 60 ≤ D- < 64 ≤ D < 68 ≤ D+

**Attempted Class Schedule:**

DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS	
01/09 01/11	Introduction to the course The Text of the New Testament	<u>Bible:</u>	<u>Elwell:</u> Chpt. 1
01/14 01/16 01/18	Historical Background Historical Background Hellenistic and Palestinian Judaism	Mk. 1-8 Mk. 9-16 Mt. 1-7	39-48 48-54 54-59
01/21 01/23 01/25	<b>No class</b> Literature, Institutions, Sects The Synoptic Problems. Why 4 Gospels?	Mt. 8-14 Mt. 15-21	60-68 Chpt. 3
01/28 01/30 02/01	<b>EXAM 1</b> The Ministry of Jesus: Mark The Ministry of Jesus: Matthew	Mt. 22-28 Lk. 1-8	Chpt. 5 Chpt. 4
02/04 02/06 02/08	The Ministry of Jesus: Luke The Ministry of Jesus: John Jesus' Actions	Lk. 9-16 Lk. 17-24 Jn. 1-5	Chpt. 6 Chpt. 7 Chpt. 8
02/11 02/13 02/15	Jesus' Actions and Message Jesus Message and Teachings Modern Study of the Gospels	Jn. 6-10 Jn. 11-15 Jn. 16-21	Chpt. 9 Chpt. 10 Chpt. 11
02/18 02/20 02/22	<b>EXAM 2 - EC</b> The Modern Search for Jesus TNTW: Greco-Roman Culture	Acts 1-7	Chpt. 12 Chpt. 13
02/25 02/27 02/29	The Early Church: Acts 1-7 The Early Church: Acts 8-15 <b>Spring Break</b>	Acts 8-14 Acts 15-21	Chpt. 14 Chpt. 15
03/10 03/12 03/14	The Early Church: Acts 16-28 Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: Introduction Paul: 1 and 2 Thess.	Acts 22-28 1+2 Thess	Chpt. 16 Chpt. 17 328-334
03/17 03/19 03/21	<b>EXAM 3 - EC</b> Paul: Galatians <b>Easter Break</b>	Gal.	296-305
03/26 03/28	Paul: 1 Corinthians Paul: 2 Corinthians	1 Cor. 2 Cor.	287-296

03/31 04/02 04/04	Paul: Romans <b>Day of Prayer</b> Paul: Romans	Rom. 1-8  Rom. 9-16	Chpt. 18
04/07 04/09 04/11	Paul: The Prison Epistles Paul: The Prison Epistles <b>EXAM 4 - EC</b>	Eph., Col Phil., Phm	Chapter 20
04/14 04/16 04/18	The Pastoral Epistles The General Epistles: Hebrews Hebrews	1, 2 Tim.; Titus Heb.1-6 Heb. 7-13	334-344 347-353
04/21 04/23 04/25	The General Epistles: James The General Epistles: 1-3 John The General Epistles: 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude	James 1, 2, 3 Jn 1 & 2 Pet.; Jude	353-360 366-373 362- 366
04/28 04/30 05/02	The Book of Revelation The Book of Revelation wrap-up	Rev. 1-5 Rev. 6-14 Rev. 15-22	Chpt. 24  Epilogue
05/07	<b>Final Exams</b>	10:30a-12:30p	

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Primary Sources

- Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Rev. ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1995.
- Charles, R. H., trans. *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English*, Volume 2: Pseudepigrapha. London: Epworth, 1913.
- Charlesworth, James H., ed. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, Volume 2: Apocalyptic Literature & Testaments. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1983
- Danby, Herbert, trans. *The Mishnah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933.
- Hennecke, Edgar, and Wilhelm Schneemelcher, eds. *The New Testament Apocrypha*. English trans. ed. by R. McL. Wilson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1963.
- 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.
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### New Testament Introductions and Dictionaries

- Brown Raymond. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Buttrick, George A., gen. ed. *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 5 vols. Nashville: Abington Press, 1962.
- Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
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- Mills, Watson E., gen. ed. *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1990.

### Gospel Studies

- Aland, Kurt, ed. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels, English Edition*. New York: American Bible Society, 1982.
- Malina, Bruce, and Richard Rohrbaugh. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*, 1992.
- Stein, Robert. *The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987.

### Pauline Studies

- Beker, J. Christiaan. *Paul's Apocalyptic Gospel*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982.
- Bruce, F. F. *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1984.
- Jewett, Robert. *A Chronology of Paul's Life*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.
- Sander, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.