

# Course Descriptions

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## New Testament Survey

The NT Survey course provides a general introduction to the New Testament writings, from the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation. Theological and missional contributions, distinctives, and interrelationships will be considered, as well as the authorship, date, historical context, occasion, structure, and purpose of each writing. Special attention will be given to methods of interpretation and relevance for contemporary ministry situations.

### Learning Outcomes/Course Goals

Completion of this course should result in:

- The ability to explain theological and missional contributions of the individual NT writings
- The growing ability to identify and utilize internal structures, literary features, and historical contexts in the interpretation of the NT writings
- Opportunities to reflect on the significance of NT texts for biblical theology, personal discipleship, and ministry situations.

### Course Format

Weekly online video instruction coordinated with textbook reading and online forum reflections/discussions. Workload: approximately five to seven hours per week.

## Required Reading

- A more critical English translation (vs. paraphrase) of the Bible – NRSV, ESV, NIV, NASB, NKJV, NLT, or the internet-based NET. (Some use “verbal/formal equivalence” translation guidelines, while others use “dynamic/functional equivalence” translation guidelines. The NKJV differs in providing footnoted reference to the “critical” NT Greek texts (UBS4 or NA27) used in the other translations while translating from the Textus Receptus.)
- Carson, D.A. and Douglas Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.
- Gorman, Michael J. *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and His Letters*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the New Testament*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 2010.

## Highly Recommended Resources

- Patzia, Aruthur G., and Anthonie J. Petrotta. *Pocket Dictionary of Biblical Studies*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

## Recommended Reading/Resources

- deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Green, Joel B., Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshall. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1992.
- Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity Press, 1993.
- Hooker, Morna D. *Beginnings: Keys that Open the Gospels*. London: SCM Press Ltd., 1997.
- Martin, Ralph P., and Peter H. Davids. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

## Assignments

(“Satisfactory” evaluation required for completion of the course)

1. Weekly online posts and participation in online forum related to video instruction, class notes, and textbook reading
2. Final essay (3–5 pages) that demonstrates the integration of course content with a contextual personal or ministry issue of biblical interpretation
3. Participation in one individual video-conference call during the course to check in with the course mentor.

## Syllabus Overview

### 1. NEW TESTAMENT BACKGROUNDS

An examination of theological developments during the inter-testamental era as well as information concerning the Romans, Jewish beliefs, and failed messiahs.

### 2. THE GOSPELS OF MATTHEW AND MARK

With ninety percent of Mark contained in Matthew, it is important to examine these two gospels together to note what is similar as well as what is different. In addition, the synoptic problem will be addressed.

### 3. THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Though the most enigmatic of the gospel accounts, John is rich in imagery and symbolism which will be the focus of this session on the fourth gospel.

### 4. THE GOSPEL OF LUKE AND ACTS

The two-part volume on the life of Jesus and the early church is a rich resource, giving us the parables, an emphasis on the salvation of the Gentiles, and the foundation of the church.

### 5. ACTS AND AN INTRODUCTION TO PAUL

This lecture will delve into Paul's life as recorded in Acts as well as a deeper understanding of Paul and the Greco-Roman world that surrounded him.

### 6. I & II THESSALONIANS, GALATIANS, I & II CORINTHIANS

While briefly touching on Paul's earliest letters (I & II Thessalonians), we spend more time on the broad sufficiency of Christ in Galatians and the themes of God's power being worked out in weakness and suffering in the Corinthian literature.

### 7. ROMANS, PHILIPPIANS, AND PHILEMON

A fresh exploration of some of Paul's most influential writings.

### 8. EPHESIANS, COLOSSIANS, I & II TIMOTHY, TITUS

A look at Paul both at his most general and theologically broad (especially in Ephesians), as well as at his most particular and situationally specific (in the Pastoral epistles).

### 9. JAMES, I & II PETER, HEBREWS

Introducing the Catholic epistles, and spending some time exploring the call to obedience in light of Christ's supremacy in Hebrews.

### 10. JUDE, I – III JOHN, AND REVELATION

Touching on Jude, while looking primarily at the Johannine literature, including Revelation—the NT document whose genre is far and away the most foreign to all of us.