



BIB 113: Biblical Introduction II – New Testament Introduction

Student Syllabus

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the political, social, and religious background and setting of the New Testament; the Gospels as witness to Jesus Christ; and the development of Christianity in the first century.

Course Introduction

This course introduces students to the history, doctrine, and background features of those books of the Bible that were written in connection with the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Our primary goal in this course is to help students become better readers of the New Testament. Every reader of the Bible is an interpreter of the Bible – so we want to help students become balanced and insightful interpreters by describing central doctrines and some of the historical, geographic, and cultural factors which can contribute to our understanding of the New Testament.

We would like you to wrestle personally with the fact that Jesus Christ is presented in the Bible as “The Son of God” who rescues sinners and redeems this lost humanity. As time permits, we will encourage class discussion of these key tenets of the historic Christian faith in the hope that you, too, will become an active participant in the plans and purposes of God’s Kingdom.

This course will:

- Introduce students to the stories, and God’s purposes expressed in them, as found in the New Testament of the Bible with its orientation around the incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- Examine the key contents and distinct genres of the four gospels, the Acts (of the early church), the Pauline and other epistles, and the unique features of the Revelation of John.
- Show significant events, developments in theology, and experiences that unfold in connection with the life of Jesus Christ and the Christian experience of the early church as a result of it.
- Explore the key historical and cultural aspects of the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean environments that cradled the people and events described in the New Testament.

Course Sequence

This course requires no background Bible knowledge. It stands in close relationship to the Old Testament course, BIB 112, but at Geneva College, BIB 112 and BIB 113 can be taken in either order. Both, however, are prerequisites for BIB 300, which is normally taken during one’s junior or senior year.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an acquaintance with the life, ministry, and key teachings of Jesus Christ and the events uniquely identified with him in the New Testament.
2. Discuss the genres of New Testament literature, including gospels, narratives, epistles, and Jewish Apocalyptic.
3. Describe God's purposes expressed in the New Testament accounts.
4. Explain how the New Testament is both a fulfillment of Old Testament expectations and a guide for daily life by virtue of the restoration of fallen humanity made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Course Texts

Elwell, W. A., & Yarbrough, R. W. (2013). *Encountering the New Testament: A historical and theological survey* (3rd ed.). Baker Academic.
ISBN-13: 978-0801039645
ISBN-10: 0801039649

Recommended (You may use any Bible you prefer):

- *NIV Study Bible* from Zondervan

Books may be purchased via the Geneva College bookstore and must be acquired and in-hand by the course start date. Directions on the bookstore website include the option of having the books delivered to your home for a nominal charge.

All of the materials needed for this course will be made available online, within the course shell, or will be conveyed to students through the *Encountering the New Testament* textbook or the Bible.

The online version of this course, like BIB 112 and their classroom-based counterparts on Geneva College's campus, makes a 2-page outline note available for each lecture. You can see these listed under the "Learning Resources" label in the online Moodle classroom.

Textbook Disclaimer

The textbooks for this course were chosen because their primary content directly relates to the objectives of this course. At times, there may be items or issues that are not presented from a proper Christian worldview. As such, the textbooks do not represent an endorsement by Geneva College or the relevant academic department at Geneva College.

Learning and Physical Disabilities Policy

Geneva College values diversity and inclusion and recognizes disabilities as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive, ultimately leading to the success of our students in and beyond college. Therefore, Geneva College complies with the ADA as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act by affording reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations should contact Geneva's Student Success Center (SSC) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the SSC before or during the first week of classes. (Some accommodations may take time to put into place, so it is advised to request this appointment as early as possible.) Legally, no retroactive accommodations can be provided. Accommodations for disabilities are available only as recommended by the SSC. Students whose accommodations are approved will be provided confidential letters which students should review and discuss with their instructors in relation to course requirements. Students who have questions about their right to benefits or have grievances under these statutes should contact the Director of the SSC. For more details, visit the [Student Success Center website](#) or call 724-847-5005.

Archiving of Online Courses

In order to provide the best service and to eliminate bandwidth bottlenecks, online courses will be removed from Moodle six weeks after the course end date. Once a course is removed from Moodle, students will no longer have access to their coursework for the archived course. In preparation for the archiving of online courses, students are advised to save copies of their papers and other important coursework offline on a personal computer or other file storage location. Geneva College is not responsible for student files once a course has been archived offline.

The Grading System

The grading scale is A, B, C, D, and F. Geneva includes pluses (+) and minuses (-) in the determination of the grade point average (GPA). Grade points are assigned for each semester hour of credit earned according to the following system:

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Explanation
A	93.00% - 100.00%	4.0	Excellent
A-	90.00% - 92.99%	3.7	
B+	87.00% - 89.99%	3.3	
B	83.00% - 86.99%	3.0	Good
B-	80.00% - 82.99%	2.7	
C+	77.00% - 79.99%	2.3	

C	73.00% - 76.99%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	70.00% - 72.99%	1.7	
D+	67.00% - 69.99%	1.3	
D	63.00% - 66.99%	1.0	Less than Satisfactory
D-	60.00% - 62.99%	0.7	
F	< 60.00%	0.0	No Credit Given

Policy on Academic Honesty

Geneva College has adopted a campus wide policy on academic honesty; the main portions of which are summarized here. Students should become aware of the fuller policy found in Appendix A of the student handbook.

When an instructor has reason to believe that dishonest behavior has occurred, the parties involved should be confronted as soon as possible by the instructor and notification made to the instructor's proper supervisor (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Sanctions may be levied on the student, which could range from an informal warning to expulsion, based on the seriousness of the student's offense (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Students may appeal any disciplinary action by following the procedure laid out in the College's Policy on Academic Honesty (see Appendix A of the student handbook).

Students are encouraged to visit www.plagiarism.org in order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism as well as a number of other academic standards. This website also provides directives as to how to avoid committing this act and how to properly cite academic sources.

Turnitin Policy

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Students must agree to the End User License Agreement (EULA) for Turnitin. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on Turnitin.com.

Participation Policy

In the online environment, **participation is marked by the completion of an academic event in each session (week) of the course.** Academic events include, but are not limited to, submission of a class assignment, participation in class discussion forum, or completion of a quiz/exam.

If no academic event is completed within the first session (Week 1) of a course, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course. Beyond the first session, if no academic event is completed for a class session, the student will be considered as having not participated in that week of class, which in some cases may result in zeros on the missed assignments and a half-letter grade deduction from the student's final course grade.

If a student does not complete an academic event for two consecutive sessions, the student will either be administratively withdrawn from the course or will receive a final course grade of F, depending on how much of the course has transpired at the time of the second week of nonparticipation. For more details, please review Geneva's Student Handbook ([Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#)).

Course Evaluation

Criteria	Points Breakdown	Points
Discussion Forums (8)	20 points each	160 points
Quizzes (8)	40 points each	320 points
Total		480 points

Assignment Descriptions

Discussion Forums

Each week, class participation will be monitored by posting and responding to classmates in the discussion forum. The initial discussion post should draw from the readings and lectures assigned in the respective session week.

Typically, class participation is composed of two parts:

- a. Part 1 – Requires you to go to your discussion forum and post a 200-300 word response to a question or prompt that is written in your syllabus by 11:55 pm (EST) Wednesday of your scheduled session week.

- b. Part 2 – Post a 75-100 word response to at least one of your fellow classmates’ postings. Your response should contribute something drawn from the session’s resources, which either affirms or challenges the original post or offers a concept or fact which extends or deepens your classmate’s point.

Part 2 of these online activities (response to at least one classmate) must be completed by 11:55 pm (EST) Saturday of each session.

Your posting and response(s) will be graded by your instructor.

Quizzes

During this course, there will be eight quizzes that examine the student’s knowledge and understanding of the respective week’s lectures and assigned reading. These quizzes will include multiple choice and true/false questions.

- Session 1 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 1 (40 points)
- Session 2 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 2 (40 points)
- Session 3 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 3 (40 points)
- Session 4 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 4 (40 points)
- Session 5 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 5 (40 points)
- Session 6 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 6 (40 points)
- Session 7 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 7 (40 points)
- Session 8 – Students will take an online quiz on the material covered in Session 8 (40 points)

Students will be allowed to consult their text and notes when taking online quizzes. However, quizzes will be timed, and students will need to have a working knowledge of the material before taking the quiz. There will simply not be enough time to “look up” every answer in your text and materials.

If a student does not take a quiz by Saturday at 11:55 pm (EST) of the designated session week, they will not have an opportunity to make it up.