

## Story of the New Testament BIBL 2302-91

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**Office Hours:** Contact Professor  
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**OC's Motto:** *Higher Learning, Higher Calling*

**OC's mission statement:** Oklahoma Christian University is a higher learning community that transforms lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.

### **Christian Worldview & Teaching Philosophy:**

Christian education is practiced under the conviction that all truth is God's truth. In a course on the story of the New Testament, students will be challenged to critique their own assumptions and the assumptions of others that are utilized in navigating through the origin and context of the New Testament books. A Christian education on the story of the New Testament will transform students from being casual, uncritical interpreters of the New Testament to more astute, nuanced, and well-informed interpreters of these books. The goal of the course is to improve the student's basic knowledge of who wrote each book, when and why as well as their major contribution to the description of Jesus Christ.

### **Course Description:**

The course introduces students to the general background information (author, date and occasion) of the New Testament books as well as the major ideas and themes contained in them. The course also highlights some of the distinctive theological contributions provided by each book as well as underlines the unifying Christian story that the New Testament either presupposes or articulates.

**Course Prerequisites:** None

### **Course Relevance:**

The New Testament is the authoritative texts for defining the nature of Christian faith. By reviewing the major themes of the NT, students will acquire the basic story of God and message of Christianity.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to describe the basic content of the story of Christian faith that was held by New Testament authors. (NT Story Essay)
2. Students will be able to identify (wherein such knowledge exists) the author, date and occasion for each New Testament book. (Quizzes & Exams)
3. Students will be able to identify what part or implication of the story of the Christian faith that is developed in each New Testament book. (Quizzes, Exams and Discussion Boards)
4. Students will be able to describe a story of the Christian faith that is historically connected to the story in the New Testament and which they think should guide Christian faith and practice today.

### **Required Texts:**

1. Bible (any modern translation)
2. Walter Elwell and Robert Yarbrough, *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Books, 2013. Amazon will sell the Kindle Version

**Requirements:**

- |                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Discussion Board Participation | 20% |
| 2. Ten Quizzes                    | 20% |
| 3. Two Semester Exams             | 20% |
| 4. NT Story Essay                 | 20% |
| 4. Final Exam                     | 20% |

**Grading Scale:**

A = 100-90      B = 89-80      C = 79-70      D = 69-60      F = 59 and below

**Participation Policy:**

Students are required to listen to all recorded lectures.

Personal learning occurs when we ask questions about words and concepts that are new or unclear to us. Questions can be asked as contributions to the Discussion Board Posts and will be treated as your participation in your own personal learning process. If discourteous or offensive posts are made either to me or another student and I have to warn you to be respectful, the grade you will receive for the discussion board participation will be lowered.

**Quizzes:**

There will be ten online quizzes which will cover the assigned readings in *Encountering the New Testament*. The quizzes will be multiple-choice, fill-in the blank, true and false and will usually cover “Key Terms, People and Places”.

**Exams:**

The two exams will cover the readings and podcast lectures. They will primarily be multiple choice and matching. The final exam will be comprehensive. Will exams will be online. Each exam will be offered at the end of each week of assignments.

The opportunity to make up exams will not be granted automatically; an illness verified in writing by a health care professional or official representation of OC in some capacity may be acceptable reasons for missing an exam, depending on the circumstances. In such cases, exams must be made up before they are handed back to the class. These exams may include additional essay questions that were not on the regular exam. Students who know in advance that they will not be present for an exam must make every effort to advise me prior to the exam via phone or e-mail-although such notification in and of itself does not guarantee the opportunity to make up the exam.

**New Testament Story Essay:**

Students will write an essay that will tell the basic features of the story of the New Testament. The essay must show how the majority of New Testament books contribute distinctive elements to the story. The essay must be a minimum of 3 full pages, double-spaced, and typed in a 12 point standard font and should use standard margins. The essay must not exceed 5 full pages. The essay should not quote scripture but must give exact references (book, chapter and verses) where distinctive elements of the NT story are mentioned in the NT books. The essay should be written as something which the student could give to a person unfamiliar with the NT which would explain briefly to that person the basic story told by the NT authors and the implications those authors thought were generated by that story. In addition to grammatical accuracy, the essay will be graded for its clarity, comprehensiveness, and conciseness.

All essays must be submitted to Turnitin Assignment in Blackboard to be graded.

**Exam Make Up Policy:**

Students should not presume that they will automatically be allowed to make up missed exams. **Missed exams can be made up only if adequate justification is furnished by the student**, such as an illness (verified in writing by a health care professional), an OC athletic contest, or other official school function. In such cases, exams must be made up before they are handed back to the class, unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances. Students who know they will be absent on the day of the exam must advise the instructor prior to the exam via phone, fax, or email.

**Late Work Policy:**

Assignments will be considered late if it is not turned in to me on the day it is due. Assignments that are late will be deducted 5% of the grade for each day that it is late (excluding Saturdays). Work that is more than 7 days late will not be accepted for any points. Students whose work is late due to an unforeseen medical emergency or tragedy must contact me as soon as possible to discuss when the work will be turned in.

## UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA/504) Statement:**

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Katy Roybal before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, your instructor will work with you, Katy, and the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in the course.

### **Policy on Honesty:**

When a student presents an assignment or an examination that is not the student's work they are at variance with the purposes of Oklahoma Christian. Seeking a false grade is completely out of harmony with the scriptural principles that the university seeks to uphold and are dishonest.

The person who submits an assignment as his or hers when another has done the work lies about the work being his or hers and steals from himself or herself both the opportunity to develop and the money paid to have that opportunity.

The student who looks on another's paper for information on an examination or who smuggles into the examination room a source of information to use during the examination again lies about the test paper being his or her work and forms the habit of seeking dishonest short-cuts to attain his or her ends. The act of cheating is wrong, but, like other sins, it develops an attitude of disrespect for the use of suitable means to attain proper ends.

The penalty for dishonesty in any form will be as follows:

1. On the first offense, the student will receive a "0" for the examination or assignment and the offense will be reported both to the Academic Vice President and the Student Development Vice President.
2. On the second offense in the same class, the student will receive an "F" in the course. The offense will be reported to the Academic Vice President and to the Student Development Vice President.
3. Students receiving an "F" in two courses for cheating will be suspended from the university.

### **E-mail Policy:**

- Please feel free to e-mail a teacher when you have concerns or questions that you were not able to get addressed in class. But please note that the teacher might not be able to read your e-mail within a 24-hour period. Teachers will try to respond to e-mails promptly, but if you need a quick response, calling them may be the most expedient communication unless you are told otherwise. If you e-mail a teacher, please use the subject line. Make your e-mails concise and specific.
- No assigned reports are to be e-mailed to an instructor unless otherwise directed. We are not permitted to print your work on the faculty printer, so the instructor will not be able to have a hard copy of your work unless you hand it or mail it to them.
- Do not spam your instructor or any of your classmates. Don't know what "spam" is? See [www.matisse.net/files/glossary.html](http://www.matisse.net/files/glossary.html)

**Inclement Weather Policy:**

Since this is an entirely online course, inclement weather is not taken into account. If the student experiences a weather related catastrophe where they are during the course, then the professor will take that unique situation under consideration case by case to allow the student time to complete assignments that could not be completed because of the weather incident made it impossible or very difficult for the student to work online.

**Sources of Help:**

Tutoring	Student Success 405.425.5923 <a href="http://www.oc.edu/academics/student-success/">www.oc.edu/academics/student-success/</a>
Research Help	Library 405.425.5312 Ask a Librarian ( <a href="http://libanswers.oc.edu/">libanswers.oc.edu/</a> ) <a href="http://library.oc.edu">library.oc.edu</a>
Information Technology	Support Central 405.425.5555 <a href="http://support.oc.edu/home">support.oc.edu/home</a>

**Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy (Title IX)**

Oklahoma Christian University is a Christian community that has committed itself, unequivocally, to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected and a campus environment that is free of unlawful harassment, which includes sexual assault or misconduct. OC's Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy (see the OC Student Handbook) is compliant with Title IX, which states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Discriminatory and sexual harassment is unchristian and uncivil behavior. It is a breach of community, which expresses disrespect, exploits and undermines relationships based on trusts, and interferes with learning and productive work.

Students are encouraged to immediately seek available assistance and report incidents of harassment to either the Title IX Coordinator or one of the Title IX Deputy Coordinators listed below:

<b>Title IX Coordinator</b>	Ms. Tamie Willis	405.425.5320	<a href="mailto:tamie.willis@oc.edu">tamie.willis@oc.edu</a>
<b>Title IX Deputy Coordinator – Student Services</b>	Ms. Summer Lashley	405.425.5908	<a href="mailto:summer.lashley@oc.edu">summer.lashley@oc.edu</a>
<b>Title IX Deputy Coordinator – Housing</b>	Mr. John Ortiz	405.425.5932	<a href="mailto:john.ortiz@oc.edu">john.ortiz@oc.edu</a>
<b>Title IX Deputy Coordinator – Athletics</b>	Ms. Stephanie Findley	405.425.5355	<a href="mailto:stephanie.findley@oc.edu">stephanie.findley@oc.edu</a>

Students have access to confidential services through the Counseling Center and the Mercy Clinic.

**OC Counseling Center**

405.425.5250

**Mercy Clinic**

405.425.6100

2810 E. Memorial Rd., Suite 140

**Copyright Policy:**

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