

BIBL 5613-91 Introduction to New Testament Theology

Instructor: John Harrison
Office Hours: MW 3:30-5:00

work: 405-425-5377
home: 405-475-0405
email: john.harrison@oc.edu

Virtual Office Hours: M-F 9:00-10:00; Tuesdays 1:00-3:00

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 graduate course introducing students to the New Testament and its theologies, students will be challenged to critique their own understanding and the understanding of others about the critical issues associated with the content and theologies of the New Testament. A graduate level introduction to the New Testament and its theologies will transform students from being casual, uncritical interpreters of the New Testament to a more astute, nuanced, and well-informed reader who will have undergone critical reflection about their assumptions and new knowledge of the origin, content and theologies of New Testament books.

Course Description [Goal Statement #1]: This course introduces students to the history and practice of New Testament Theology, its methodological strengths and weakness, and its relationship to other theological disciplines. Students will learn how 1st century A.D. Greco-Roman and Jewish cultures shaped and gave expression to the theologies discernible in the New Testament and be lead to critically evaluate how contemporary culture attempts to interact constructively with the theology of the New Testament.

Course Relevance [Goal Statement #2]: The successful student will be more knowledgeable about the critical issues involved with books of the New Testament. With the knowledge they will acquire in this course, students will be prepared to explain more accurately what the books of the New Testament are, where they likely come from, what their major content is, and what impact this knowledge can have on understanding New Testament Theology.

Course Learning Objectives:

The student will be able to:

1. *identify* the major methodologies employed in the study of the New Testament, especially those that deal with understanding some aspects of the Second Temple Jewish and Greco-Roman cultural context in which the books were written.
2. *define* New Testament Theology and explain why the discipline was created.
3. *summarize* major moments in the history of New Testament Theology, distinguish it from other theological disciplines,
4. *compare and contrast* several major questions/issues New Testament Theology attempts to address.
5. *show* how their knowledge of the genre and major content of several New Testament books can be utilized to identify cultural influences upon its authors and their theologies.
6. *explain* at least one major theological teaching of a New Testament book and critically reflect on how its theology might be applied to interact constructively within a contemporary cultural context.

Required Texts:

1. *Bible*. Any version is acceptable.
2. deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*, Downers Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
3. Matera, Frank J. *New Testament Theology: Exploring Diversity and Unity*, Louisville, KY.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

Learning Activities & Assessments:

1. Weekly participation (10%) – assessed by downloading podcasts and completion of week's assignments
2. Podcast/Reading Quizzes (20%) – assessed by the completion of quizzes by their due date **[Objectives 1, 2 3, & 4]**
3. Online Interactive Discussion on New Testament Theology (10%) – assessed by the contribution made by students in the interactive discussion by its due date **[Objectives 3, 4 & 5]**
4. Essay on New Testament Theology (5%) – assessed according to the rubric that outlines the requirements of the essay and by completion by its due date **[Objective 5]**
5. 10 minute video presentation of a major theology in a NT book (5%) – assessed according to the rubric that outlines the requirements of the presentation and by completion by its due date **[Objective 6]**
6. Paper on the genre and major context of New Testament books (40%) – assessed according to the rubric that outlines the requirements of the paper and by completion by its due date **[Objective 5]**
7. Reflection paper on the implication of a book's NT Theology for today (10%) – assessed according to the rubric that outlines the requirements of the paper and by completion by its due date **[Objective 6]**

Grading Scale:

A = 100-93 B = 92-85 C = 84-75 D = 75-65 F = 64 or below

Grades for assignments will usually be submitted within a week of submission. Students can check the status of the progress of their grades in GradeCenter in Blackboard.

Participation:

Students must participate in all weekly assigned activities and complete assignments by the weekly deadlines (United States' Central Time Zone). Students are required to read all assigned readings for each unit, watch all podcasts, take all quizzes, make substantive contributions (as defined by the discussion post rubric) in the online discussion, submit their 10 minute video presentation, and complete all writing assignments. Should the student desire, they can watch the instructor's podcast on "Course Participation Grade", where these requirements are discussed.

Instructor's Availability and Response Time:

I will monitor weekly students' participation in quizzes and the online interactive discussion on New Testament Theology. I will not be checking the Interactive Discussions every day. If a student needs an urgent question answered, they should email me and I will respond within 24 hours. The email's subject line should specify the course name. If a more urgent response is required from me outside of my "Virtual Office Hours", please phone me either at my office number or my home number (provided at the top of the syllabus) and I will respond within 48 hours.

Communicating with your Instructor: Students can contact him in several ways. They can email me at john.harrison@oc.edu. I will respond within 24 hours. If a student has a more urgent

question or issue, they can call me either at my office or home number (provided in the syllabus). Students should leave a message and I will respond as soon as possible.

Quizzes:

There will be seven podcast/reading quizzes in the course. Students can take the quiz multiple times to raise their score, but each quiz must be completed by the end of the day Sunday (i.e. midnight CST) of the unit it covers.

Online Interactive Discussion:

During the course, students will participate in four online, interactive discussions via Discussion Board in Blackboard. For each discussion board, students will find questions set by the instructor which must be answered and then they make at least two substantive post to at least two other students. The instructor's questions must be answered by the end of the day Thursday (i.e. midnight CST) of the week it is assigned and responses to other students must be completed by the end of the day Sunday (i.e. midnight CST). Discussion Board participation will be graded according to the Discussion Board Posting Rubric (a copy of the Rubric is in Blackboard).

Essay on New Testament Theology:

Essays must be uploaded as either a Word Document or a PDF. Essay should not be less than two pages, doubled spaced and in a standard 12 point font. Margins should not exceed 1".

Students will describe what they understand New Testament Theology to be and why it is or isn't important for the formation of Christian faith today. For this essays, student may utilize material out of the assigned reading or any other academic source they choose. But no matter what source the student chooses to use, they must properly reference that source according to Turabin guidelines.

Genre and Content of NT Books Paper:

Each student will compose a minimum 6 page paper that describes the genre and major theological context of three books of the New Testament. The paper should be typed in a readable 12 point font, doubled space and with no margins over 1". The paper must adhere to the style of Turabian. **This paper must be uploaded to Turnitin.com and is due by Sunday midnight at the end of Week Seven.** 5% of the total grade will be subtracted for every day a paper is late. *In accordance with the Policy on Academic Honesty (see below), the following should be included on the title page: "I attest that this assignment is my own. I have neither offered nor been offered help by another." This statement must be signed and dated to receive a grade for the paper.*

For this paper, students will select three New Testament and then describe each of their genres (e.g. Bioi, Letter, Apocalypse, etc.) and one major theological teaching contained in each of them. As students describe a New Testament book's theological teaching, they should demonstrate their knowledge of what cultural influences are helping to shape the way that teaching is expressed by the author. For example, if a student chose to write about the theology contained in 1st Timothy, they might choose to discuss how its author's expectation of the church as a "household" engages with how households in the Greco-Roman culture were expected to be managed. They would address questions such as, How was a Roman household expected to be ordered and Is Paul's ordering of the church similar or different to Roman culture's expectations of household order? The paper will graded according to the student's ability to link what is taught in the New Testament book with what is commonly found in the culture that is related to that teaching.

It is expected that students will use academic sources (i.e. dictionaries, encyclopedias, biblical commentaries, monographs, peer-reviewed journal articles, etc.) to help them describe the theological teaching in New Testament books. All references to sources must follow the Turabian guidelines.

Video Presentation on a NT Theology:

Each student will record a video of them explaining a major theological teaching from a New Testament book and how that teaching was informed by its cultural context. The student must also briefly state what implications they see that teaching might have for Christian faith and/or practice today. The video presentation will be evaluated for the student's explanation of how varying cultural contexts today might shape the way Christians acknowledge or practice that teaching.

The video should be between 8-10 minutes in length. Students are allowed to use whatever devices they think will assist them in presenting their material (i.e. powerpoint notes, video, animation, artifacts, etc.). **Videos are to be uploaded into Blackboard by the end of the day Sunday (midnight CST) at the end of week five.**

Reflection Paper on the Significance of a NT Theology:

Students will submit a two-page reflection paper based on what they presented in their video. The paper is focused only on the implication the student sees a New Testament theological teaching might have on the student's own cultural context. The paper will be evaluated on how well the student can answer questions about the contemporary cultural impact of the teaching. Are there any obstacles for Christians, who live where the student lives, might have in accepting or practicing that teaching? What would be distinctive about the way Christians, who live where the student lives, apply this teaching to their lives?

The paper should be typed using a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman, Arial, etc.), doubled spaced and with 1"-margins. The essay will be uploaded using Turnitin.com in Blackboard. **The paper is due by the end of the day (midnight CST) on the last day of the course.**

Technology Requirement:

Students will be required to have access to a computer that will allow them construct their essays and access to high-speed internet so that they can upload their essays to the Blackboard course, take the online quizzes and participate in the online interactive discussion. Students are expected to have some capability to create a video and upload it to Youtube or Google Drive and provide the link to the instructor and students in Blackboard.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA/504) Statement:

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Katy Roybal (ext. 1876) before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, your instructor will work with you, Katy, and with 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.

E-Etiquette:

In all online interactive discussions, students are expected to treat others with courtesy and respect. Inflammatory or incendiary posts are not permitted. Students should engage with others in such a way that it represents cordialness and support in the pursuit to gain understanding and knowledge.

Late Work Policy:

I do accept late work up to seven days. I take off 5% for each day that it is late up to seven days.

Students should not expect the opportunity to makeup work. If a student believes there were unusual circumstances that reasonably explain why their work was not submitted on time, they should consult the instructor to discuss the possibility to makeup that work.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a form of cheating, and will be dealt with as explained in the policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism occurs whenever a person offers someone else's writing, research or ideas as their own. Some common cases of plagiarism would be:

Lifting a paper off the internet, or from a fellow student, even if you alter it a bit

Lifting sentences or whole paragraphs from other's work without clearly putting the material in quotation form and giving full credit in proper citation form

Using another's research results without giving them credit

Putting someone else's ideas in your own words without giving them credit.

Avoid these and similar kinds of plagiarism. Like all cheating, it is sinful and it robs the students of the educational gain they should have received.

Policy on Academic Honesty:

When a student presents an assignment or an examination that is not the student's work, he or she is 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 the means used to attain this end 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 student who assists another in the act of cheating fails to provide real help, models immoral behavior, and aids in the committing of theft. Any student caught aiding one in cheating (whether consciously or unconsciously) will also be subject to the penalty for dishonesty.

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. If the student receives an "F" in two courses for cheating, he or she will be suspended from the university.

Inclement Weather Policy:

Since this course is totally online, inclement weather is not taken into account for student's participation. However, if in the unusual circumstance that a student is severely affected by weather (e.g. physical injury, severe damage or destruction of the student's residence, loss of power for days, etc.), consideration will be given to allow the student more time to complete their work.

Sources of Help:

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

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:

Title IX Coordinator	Ms. Tamie Willis	405.425.5320	tamie.willis@oc.edu
Title IX Deputy Coordinator – Student Services	Ms. Summer Lashley	405.425.5908	summer.lashley@oc.edu
Title IX Deputy Coordinator – Housing	Mr. John Ortiz	405.425.5932	john.ortiz@oc.edu
Title IX Deputy Coordinator – Athletics	Ms. Stephanie Findley	405.425.5355	stephanie.findley@oc.edu

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:

Copyright 2021. Oklahoma Christian University (the University) as to all class materials and lectures whether distributed in class, on Blackboard or by any other means. All rights are reserved. The University prohibits anyone from selling notes or being paid for taking notes without the express written permission of the University. Violation of copyright laws could subject a person to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liabilities as well as disciplinary action under University policies. The University holds the exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, and publicly display the above works and to make derivative works based on those works. The work may be copied, viewed, and/or downloaded for the educational and research purposes only by a current student of the University. Class lectures and other activities may not be recorded, copied or distributed without the written permission of the professor and dean.”

Schedule

Week 1	<p>Unit One:</p> <p>Podcasts: Introduction to Primary Sources</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Methodologies in the study of the NT</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What is NT Theology?</p> <p>Reading Assignment: deSilva, 29-35; Matera, xix-xxxi</p> <p>Quiz 1</p> <p>Online Interactive Discussion 1: Why Do NT Theology?</p>
Week 2	<p>Unit Two:</p> <p>Podcasts: Cultural World of the NT</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Social World of the NT</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Symbolic World of the NT</p> <p>Reading Assignment: deSilva, 37-143 (106 pages)</p> <p>Quiz 2</p> <p>Essay on New Testament Theology</p>
Week 3	<p>Unit Three:</p> <p>Podcasts: The Theology of the Gospel of Mark</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Theology of the Gospel of Matthew</p> <p>Reading Assignments: deSilva, 194-296; Matera, 5-50 (147 pages)</p> <p>Quiz 3</p> <p>Online Interactive Discussion 2: Mark's Jesus as "Son of God"; Matthew's Jesus as "Son of David"</p>
Week 4	<p>Unit Four:</p> <p>Podcasts: The Theology of the Gospel of Luke</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Theology of the Gospel of John and Johannine Letters</p> <p>Reading Assignments: deSilva, 298-447; Matera, 51-97, 259-317 (253 pages)</p> <p>Quiz 4</p> <p>Online Interactive Discussion 3: Luke's Jesus as the "Savior" of the World; John's Jesus and his oneness with the Father</p>
Week 5	<p>Unit Five:</p> <p>Podcasts: Introduction to Pauline Theology</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Theology of Galatians</p> <p>Reading Assignments: deSilva, 475-525; Matera, 99-103, 151-167 (70 pages)</p> <p>Quiz 5</p> <p>Video Presentation of a NT's book's theology</p>

- Week 6 Unit Six:
 Podcasts: The Theology of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians
 The Theology of 1st and 2nd Corinthians
 Reading Assignments: deSilva, 527-596; Matera, 105-150 (114 pages)
 Quiz 6
Online Interactive Discussion 4: Paul's Eschatology in 1st and 2nd Thessalonians; Paul's Theology of the Cross in First Corinthians
- Week 7 Unit Seven:
 Podcasts: The Theology of Romans
 The Theology of Philippians and Philemon
 Reading Assignments: deSilva 598-683; Matera, 167-216 (134 pages)
 Quiz 7
Paper on genre and major content of three NT books
- Week 8 Unit Eight:
 Podcasts: Applying a NT Theology to Contemporary Questions
Reflection paper on the implication of a NT Theology on contemporary issues