



COURSE SYLLABUS

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SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

Format: 8 weeks.

Course ID: BINT 1533

Course Title: NEW TESTAMENT AND ITS INTERPRETATION

College: College of Unrestricted Education - Department of Ministry & Theology

Prerequisites: None

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to the New Testament in the context of its first century environments. The course examines the teachings and interpretations of the New Testament as well as the role of the Scriptures in the Church.

Course Overview

In this course, students are introduced to the texts of the New Testament with special attention given to the historical, literary, and cultural contexts in which the literature was written and continues to be read. New Testament Interpretation is part of the Foundational Core curriculum shared by all undergraduate programs at Southeastern University, regardless of location or delivery method. The course enables students to articulate a biblically-based statement of Christian identity and demonstrate a basic knowledge of the biblical basis of Christian doctrine.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is 6.88 hours per week.

Course Materials

Burge, G. and Green, G. (2020). *The New Testament in Antiquity*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through [SEU's bookstore](#).

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Course Topics

The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:

- Introductions and Backgrounds
- Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels
- The Acts of the Apostles and the Life of Paul
- Galatians, Thessalonians, and Romans
- Corinthian Correspondence
- Letters from Jail and Letters to Pastors
- The General Epistles: James, Hebrews, 1 and 2 Peter, and Jude
- Johannine Literature: John's Gospel, John's Letters and the Apocalypse

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the importance of Second Temple Judaism for interpreting the New Testament.
2. Analyze the political, social, and religious background of the New Testament.
3. Explain the teaching and formation of New Testament texts.
4. Demonstrate skills for interpreting New Testament texts.
5. Apply the teachings of the New Testament to Christian life and vocation.

Late Work

None Accepted

Extra Credit

None Accepted

SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.


SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.


Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS


Aim

 When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

Learn

 When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

Apply

 When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

MODULE 1:**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX****Aim****The Historical Setting of the New Testament**

- Describe the effects of the Babylonian exile on Jewish self-understanding and theology.

The World of Jesus in His Jewish Homeland

- Describe the different Jewish groups at the time of Jesus.
- Describe the relationship between Jews and Samaritans.
- Describe the major feasts and festivals surrounding the Jerusalem Temple.

The World of Jesus in His Jewish Homeland

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**Learn**

- **Read Chapters 2, 3, & 5 in** - The New Testament in Antiquity
- **Read** – The Gospel of Matthew (any translation)
- **Additional Resources provided in the course**

**Apply**

- Module 1 Discussion
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Essay on Cultural Contexts: Ancient and Modern
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Module 1 Reading Application & Response Form
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Pre-test
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

MODULE 2:**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX****Aim****The Teachings of Jesus**

- Identify major features of Jesus' teaching style.
- Identify Christology and various titles for Jesus.

The Gospel according to Matthew

- Discuss the symmetry of Matthew's gospel regarding narrative and discourse.
- Identify the five major sections of Jesus' teaching.
- Discuss the historical-critical issues of Matthew.

The Gospel according to Mark

- Identify the three confessions of Jesus' identity that structure Mark's gospel.
- Describe Jesus' suffering in Jerusalem and Mark's use of irony.
- Discuss the historical-critical issues of Mark.

The Gospel according to Luke

- Identify points of symmetry between Luke and Acts.
- Describe Luke's methodology as a historian.
- Discuss the major themes of the gospel of Luke.
- Discuss the historical-critical issues of Luke.

**Learn**

- **Read Chapters 7-10 in - The New Testament in Antiquity**
- **Read – The Gospel of Mark (any translation)**
- **Additional Resources provided in the course**

**Apply**

- Module 2 Discussion
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Essay on Jesus' Teaching Style
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Module 2 Reading Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

MODULE 3:**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**

Aim

The Mediterranean World of the Apostle Paul

- Identify the major regions of the Mediterranean world.
- Identify the major languages in the Mediterranean world.
- Describe the religious and philosophical trends and groups in the Mediterranean world.

The Acts of the Apostles

- Describe the role of the Holy Spirit in Acts.
- Describe the calling of Saul to become an apostle to the Gentiles.
- Discuss the proceedings of Acts 15.

Paul of Tarsus: Life and Teachings

- Discuss Paul's religious and social background.
- Describe Paul's three missionary journeys, major events, and companions.
- Identify the New Perspective of Paul.



Learn

- **Read Chapters 4, 12, & 13 in - The New Testament in Antiquity**
- **Read – Acts of the Apostles (any translation)**
- **Additional Resources provided in the course**



Apply

- Module 3 Discussion
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- PowerPoint presentation on the Mediterranean World of the Apostle Paul
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Module 3 Reading Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

MODULE 4:**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX****Aim****The Letter to the Galatians**

- Discuss the relationship between Galatians and the Jerusalem Council.
- Identify the themes of Galatians, chapter by chapter.
- Discuss the relationship between Peter and Paul in Galatians.

1 and 2 Thessalonians

- Discuss the theme of eschatology in 1 and 2 Thessalonians.
- Discuss the historical-critical issues of 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

The Letter to the Romans

- Discuss the literary unity of Romans and Romans 16.
- Discuss the human dilemma of universal sin and guilt.
- Discuss the divine solution of justification.
- Discuss the historical-critical issues of Romans.

**Learn**

- **Read Chapters 14, 15, & 18 in** - The New Testament in Antiquity
- **Read** – Galatians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Romans (any translation)
- **Additional Resources provided in the course**

**Apply**

- Module 4 Discussion
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Chart Paul's Missionary Journeys
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Module 4 Reading Application & Response Form
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Midterm Exam
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

MODULE 5:**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX****Aim****1 Corinthians**

- Describe the structure of 1 Corinthians.
- Identify and discuss the date of 1 Corinthians.
- Discuss the relationship between men and women in the church

2 Corinthians

- Describe the literary structure of 2 Corinthians and discuss its unity or the lack thereof.
- Discuss the role of rhetoric in people's evaluation of Paul's leadership.
- Discuss the relationship between weakness, vulnerability, and Christian leadership.

**Learn**

- **Read Chapters 16-17 in - The New Testament in Antiquity**
- **Read – 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians (any translation)**
- **Additional Resources provided in the course**

**Apply**

- Module 5 Discussion
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Essay on 1 Corinthians
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Module 5 Reading Application & Response Form
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

MODULE 6:

XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



Aim

The Ephesians and Colossians

- Define the Colossians' ideological and sociological tensions and Paul's solutions.
- Discuss the cosmic Christology of Colossians.
- Discuss Paul's integration of Christ's cosmic order into the ordinary relationships of husbands and wives, parents and children, slaves and masters.

Philippians and Philemon

- Describe the dismay of the owners of the slave girl whose demon was cast out.
- Identify the Christ-hymn of Phil 2:5–11.
- Discuss the relationship between Philemon, Onesimus, and Paul.

The Pastoral Letters

- Identify the three confessions of Jesus' identity that structure Mark's gospel.
- Describe Jesus' suffering in Jerusalem and Mark's use of irony.
- Discuss the historical-critical issues of Mark.



Learn

- **Read Chapters 19-21 in** - The New Testament in Antiquity
- **Read** – Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus (any translation)
- **Additional Resources provided in the course**



Apply

- Module 6 Discussion
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Essay on Gender Roles
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Module 1 Reading Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

MODULE 7:
XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



Aim

The Letter of James

- Define “diaspora” and identify James’ audience.
- Discuss similar themes found in ancient Jewish and Greco-Roman moralists vis-à-vis James.
- Discuss the themes of testing, trial, and perfection.

The Letter to the Hebrews

- Discuss the historical-critical issues of Hebrews.
- Discuss the manner in which Hebrews presents its Christology.
- Discuss the relationship between Israel and the church in Hebrews.

1 and 2 Peter and Jude

- Discuss the historical-critical issues of the Petrine Letters and Jude.
- Discuss 2 Peter’s statement that we can become partakers of the divine nature.
- Describe Jude’s use of extracanonical and pseudepigraphic literature. Provide dates for the writings of these letters.



Learn

- **Read Chapters 22-24 in** - The New Testament in Antiquity
- **Read** – James, Hebrews, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude (any translation)
- **Additional Resources provided in the course**



Apply

- Module 7 Discussion
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- PowerPoint Presentation on Old Testament References
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Module 7 Reading Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

MODULE 8:
XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



Aim

The Letter of James

- Define “diaspora” and identify James’ audience.
- Discuss similar themes found in ancient Jewish and Greco-Roman moralists vis-à-vis James.
- Discuss the themes of testing, trial, and perfection.

The Letter to the Hebrews

- Discuss the historical-critical issues of Hebrews.
- Discuss the manner in which Hebrews presents its Christology.
- Discuss the relationship between Israel and the church in Hebrews.

1 and 2 Peter and Jude

- Discuss the historical-critical issues of the Petrine Letters and Jude.
- Discuss 2 Peter’s statement that we can become partakers of the divine nature.
- Describe Jude’s use of extracanonical and pseudepigraphic literature. Provide dates for the writings of these letters.



Learn

- **Read Chapters 11, 25, & 26 in - The New Testament in Antiquity**
- **Read – The Gospel of John, Johannine Letters, and Revelation (any translation)**
- **Additional Resources provided in the course**



Apply

- Module 8 Discussion
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Essay on Millennial Views
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Module 8 Reading Application & Response Form
 - Due: Tuesday

- Points: 100
- Final Exam
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Post-test
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Discussion Forums

Description

Each week students are required to engage in a Discussion Forum. Questions are provided to prompt the discussion.

Total Possible Points

800

Grade Weight

5%

Weekly Assignments

Description

Weekly assignments have been designed to assist students in their learning of material and in improving their understanding and interpretations of the primary texts. Assignments include short essays, PowerPoint presentations, and charts. Detailed instructions are provided in the online platform.

Total Possible Points

800

Grade Weight

25%

Post-test Assessment

Description

The post-test assessment is used to measure the success of this course in teaching students the intended learning outcomes. Students receive credit for taking the assessment and not on their performance on the assessment.

Total Possible Points

100

Grade Weight

5%

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Reading Application & Response Forms and Reading Quizzes

Description

In response to the weekly reading assignments, students are to complete a reading application and response form or a reading quiz. The assignment varies from week to week. The reading application and response forms provide the students with an opportunity to reflect on the reading assignments for the week and the ways in which they may apply to the Christian life.

The quizzes are 20 multiple choice questions. The questions are selected from information in the textbook. Students are encouraged to watch and take notes on the videos associated with the textbook, read and take notes on the assigned chapters from the textbook, and then attempt the quiz. The quizzes are open book, though they are timed (max. 30 minutes). Quizzes may be a total of two times.

Total Possible Points

800

Grade Weight

25%

Exams

Description

The exams (midterm and final) are 50 multiple-choice questions. The questions are based on the information in the textbook. The exams are closed book and only one attempt is allowed.

Total Possible Points

200

Grade Weight

40%