

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: RS105 New Testament (3 CR.)

TERM: Fall 2008

COURSE LOCATION: Academic Hall 116

COURSE TIME: TuTh 9:30-10:50 am

FACULTY NAME: Kenneth M. Diable, Ph.D.

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OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the New Testament Writings with attention to contemporary methods of Biblical criticism

COURSE PREREQUISITES: No Prerequisites

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Policy on Academic Honesty and Integrity in the College Catalog, students caught **cheating or plagiarizing** will receive a zero on the test or assignment. Instructors will further determine appropriate action in response to the violation of academic integrity.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability which many require special consideration, you should notify the professor. This should be accomplished no later than the second class meeting. If you should need accommodations for successful participation in class activities, you should offer information in writing to the Dean of Student Affairs which includes suggestions for assistance in participating in and completing class assignments. It is not necessary to disclose the nature of your disability.

OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

Students will understand a general overview of the New Testament, its historical context, and methodologies for interpreting ancient Middle Eastern Texts in general.

Students will be able to identify the various genre of the New Testament and how these genre might be helpful in the interpretation of texts.

Students will learn to critique in a general way the various methodologies for New Testament interpretation.

Students will develop a rudimentary system of New Testament interpretation based not only upon professional scholarship but also present day experiential contexts.

Students will develop an understanding of the direction New Testament scholarship is moving with regard to understandings of Jesus and Paul.

GRADING SYSTEM

3.50 to 4.0+ equals A	superior work showing initiative and willingness to dig deeply into the material
3.25 to 3.49 equals B+	excellent work showing initiative
3.00 to 3.24 equals B	very good work
2.50 to 2.99 equals C+	good work
2.00 to 2.49 equals C	just getting by the seat of one's pants
1.01 to 1.99 equals D	showing no initiative and no willingness to work
1.00 or less equals F	this needs no explanation

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will read the assigned pages in the textbook on the designated day for discussion.

STUDENTS WILL HAVE ENTERED INTO THE DAILY DISCUSSION IN CLASS.

The student will attend class regularly—25% of the student's grade. THE GRADING SCALE IS AS FOLLOWS FOR ATTENDANCE: 0-2 ABSENCES=4.0; 3 ABSENCES=3.0; 4 ABSENCES=2.0; MORE THAN FOUR ABSENCES WITHOUT A LEGITIMATE EXCUSE=0.

Students will turn in written materials on time; papers will be due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. No late papers will be accepted.

STUDENTS WILL NOT USE ANY WEB SOURCES FOR WRITTEN WORK OR FOR THE FINAL PAPER.

All footnotes on papers and all bibliographic style will follow: University of Chicago Press. *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The Access Bible: A Resource for Beginning Bible Students. New Revised Standard Version with *Apocrypha*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, New York, et al., 1999.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

- 8/26-9/4 Introductory. Read: "Interpretation, History of." *Anchor Dictionary of the Bible*. Vol. 3; "Jesus." *Anchor Dictionary of the Bible*. Vol. 3.
Assignment: write a 2-3 page stream of consciousness paper on the following questions: **What are your understandings of who Jesus was and what Jesus did? (25% of Grade)**
PAPER IS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS—Thursday 9/4
*Please type or word process the paper—**SINGLE** space with 10 or 12 point script, preferably Times New Roman (12) or Courier (10).
*Use 1" margins on all four sides.
*Number each page. Make sure your paper is stapled.
*Make sure your name is on every page and that you have signed the last page.
- 9/9-9/25 The Letters of Paul—I Thessalonians, Galatians, Philippians, Philemon, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Romans
- 9/30-10/2 The deuterio-pauline epistles—II Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians
- 10/7 Read: "Gospel," *Encyclopedia of Religion*. Vol. 6. Ed. Mircea Eliade; "Gospel Genre," "Gospels, Apocryphal," "Gospels, Little Apocalypse in the." *Anchor Dictionary of the Bible*. Vol. 2; "Harmony of Gospels." *Anchor Dictionary of the Bible*. Vol. 3.
- 10/9 Mark
Write a 3-4 page essay on Gospels, their meaning and interpretation.
+++Use the same structure for your paper as you did for the paper due on 9/4.
- 10/14 **NO CLASS—MID-TERM BREAK**
- 10/16 Mark
- 10/21-10/23 Luke and Acts

10/23-10/30	Matthew
11/4-11/6	John
11/11-11/18	Pastoral epistles—I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, I John (not really a letter) , II John, III John
11/20-11/25 11/27	catholic (universal) epistles-- I Peter(a homily) , II Peter, James (a diatribe) , Jude NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK
12/2	Hebrews FINAL HANDED OUT—EXEGESIS OF A TEXT (4-6 pages) Instructions will be one the exam (25% of Grade)
12/4 12/9	What is Eschatology and Apocalyptic—Look up basic definitions in Bible Dictionaries Revelation
12/12	Last day of class FINAL EXEGESIS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS We will talk about the final exegesis and tie up loose ends

AUXILIARY TEXTS

Alter, Robert and Frank Kermode, ed. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*. Cambridge: The Belnap Press of Harvard University Press, [1987] 1990.

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York, London, et al.: Doubleday, 1997.

Feine, Paul and Johannes Behm. *Introduction to the New Testament*. 14th rev. ed. Reedited by Werner Georg Kümmel. Translated by A. J. Mattill, Jr. Nashville and New York: Abingdon Press, 1966.

Filson, Floyd V. *A New Testament History: The Story of the Emerging Church*. Philadelphia: The West Minster Press, 1964.

Freed, Edwin D. *The New Testament: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Company, [1986] 1991.

_____. *The Apostle Paul, Christian Jew: Faithfulness and Law*. Lantham, New York and London: University Press of America, 1994.

Holladay, Carl R. *A Critical Introduction to the New Testament: Interpreting the Message and Meaning of Jesus Christ*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

Perkins, Pheme. *Reading the New Testament: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. New York and Mahwah: Paulist Press, [1978] 1988.

Ratzinger, Joseph (Pope Benedict XVI). *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*. Translated by Adrian J. Walker. New York, London et al.: Doubleday, 2007.

_____. *The Origins of the Church: The Apostles and Their Co-Workers*. Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 2007.

Robinson, John A. T. *Redating the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1976.

Sloyan, Gerard S. *Why Jesus Died*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, [1995] 2004.

Stendahl, Krister. *Final Account: Paul's Letter to the Romans*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, [1993] 1995.

Theissen, Gerd and Annette Metz. *The Historical Jesus: A Comprehensive Guide*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.

Wills, Garry. *What Paul Meant*. New York: Viking, 2006.

_____. *What Jesus Meant*. New York: The Penguin Group, 2006.

_____. *What the Gospels Meant*. New York: Viking Penguin, 2008.