New Testament Foundations, SCR 5141

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DATES: 9-5-13 to 12-15-13 **DAY:** Wednesday **TIME:** 2:00- 4:50 PM

Course Description:

This course is a rigorous literary, cultural, and historical examination of the 27 canonical documents which comprise The New Testament. Primary emphasis will be on the persons, factions and parties, historical context, key events, geography, and theological themes presented in these primary source documents. This course will cover both the form and content of the Synoptic Gospels and Luke/Acts; the Pauline Epistles; the General Epistles; and the works of the Johannine tradition. In addition to exploring Textual Criticism issues, topics will include authorship, the literary form of each document; date of authorship; historical context [including the First Jewish War (A.D. 66-70) and the traumatic destruction of the Second Temple]; and the various megathemes and unique theological viewpoints of each New Testament author.

Course Outcomes:

1.) Introduction: Why bother with a serious academic study of the New Testament? What is this thing—this collection of documents—called *The Holy Bible*? How does the New Testament fit in to the 66 books of *The Holy Bible*?

2.) Can we trust *The Holy Bible* [the New Testament]? Who chose the books that now appear in The New Testament? Were these books selected for political reasons or as a means to oppress women, etc.?[1]

3.) How do we interpret the New Testament? Is my interpretation as good and valid as yours [or, "That's just *your* interpretation!"]? Is there a hermeneutical standard or a consensus in the scholarly community on how to interpret *The Holy Bible* [the New Testament]—or any other ancient manuscript for that matter?

4.) What is the basic story or narrative of the New Testament? Can we construct a credible chronology of events [Biblical History]? What are "the Twelve Stages of the Book of Ages?" And how does the New Testament fit in with this over all biblical narrative [Luke 24:27; 43-44]?

5.) Why *The King James Bible* (1611)? What is the history of the translation of the Bible into English? Name a few reliable modern translations [NKJV, RSV, NIV, NRSV, etc.] What are their strengths and weaknesses?

6.) What are the important geographic features and principles necessary to understand The New Testament? i.e., "up to Jerusalem," The Fertile Crescent, the Sea of Galilee, Galilee, Samaria and Judea, etc. How did the Early Church—which began in Jerusalem (c.33 A.D.), move throughout the Roman Empire?

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[1] As claimed by Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code: A Novel* (New York: Doubleday, 2003).

7.) What is Higher and what is Lower Criticism? What is *The 26th and 27th Edition Nestle-Aland Text of the Greek New Testament*?[2]

8.) What are the 70 most important chapters/events in *The Holy Bible*?

9.) Why should I bother to read the "endlessly boring" genealogies in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3 (and other places)?

10.) What is the *Sitz im Leben* [lit., "sit in life"], i.e., "situation in life," or life context of the Old Testament [the Hebrew Scriptures[3]] and the New Testament? How can social science criticism help to bridge the hermeneutical gap [between A.D. 33 and 2013?].[4]

11.) What is the Apocrypha or the Deuterocanonical Scriptures? And why are they important? Why are these books *not* in most Protestant Bibles? Why is it important for New Testament students to be familiar with not just the Old Testament, but also the Apocrypha or the Deuterocanonical Scriptures?

12.) What is a bible commentary? What is a bible dictionary? What is a concordance? What is a bible atlas? What is an Interlinear Bible?[5] What is a "word study?"[6] What is Logos Bible software [see logo.com for details]? Understand why knowledge of these research tools is essential for the student of the New Testament.

13.) What is the Synoptic Problem?

14.) What does *The Holy Bible* [The New Testament]—an oral book—sound like?

15.) Be able to discuss the "Jesus movies" and other Biblical epics. Are they good, reliable, and accurate representations of the Biblical narrative?

Course Requirments:

1.) Attend class and participate in the discussions.

2.) Do the assigned readings [i.e., the New Testament, the Luke Timothy Johnson and, Norman Geisler texts] in advance of each class.

3.) Complete the mid-term test and final exam.

4.) Complete and sign your New Testament Reading/Listening Log.

4.) Write a 15-20 page final research and exegetical paper on a specific New Testament theme or report on the theology of a major New Testament writer. In addition to examining the history of various interpretations, discuss the original context--supported by solid exegesis of the material--and demonstrate the application of this text to the ministerial context of today.

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[2] Kurt Aland, ed., *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* (Stuttgart: German Bible Society, 1984).

[3] *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation According to the Traditional Masoretic Text* [MT] (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1985).

[4] Bruce J. Malina and Richard L. Rohrbaugh, *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003).

[5] Frederick W. Danker, *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1960).

[6] J.A. Bengel's *Gnomon* or Marvin R. Vincent's *Word Studies in the New Testament* (McLean, VA: MacDonald Publishing Company, 1886, and numerous reprints.).

5.) Prepare an "Expert Folder" based on a close reading of the Norman Geisler and William Nix textbook. This notebook should be generated from class lectures, discussions, and close readings by the student during the Semester. This "Expert Folder" should contain one page per chapter with an analysis and summary double-spaced typed in 12 point Times New Roman.

6.) Hand in all assignments on time and on deadline. Incompletes are given only when there are compelling medical or family reasons. Students who fail to turn in assignments will be awarded an appropriate grade.

Required Texts:

Luke Timothy Johnson. *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*, Rev. ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1999, 2002. ISBN-10: 080063439X[7]

Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix. *A General Introduction to the Bible, Revised and Expanded*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1986 edition. ISBN-10: 0802429165.

Recommended Readings:

Paul L. Maier, trans. and ed. *Josephus: The Essential Works*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1988, 1994.[8]

Readings on Library Reserve: General New Testament

Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Brown, Raymond E. *An Introduction to the New Testament (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library)*. Yale University Press, 1997.

Carson, D.A., Moo, D.J. and Morris, L. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Craddock, Fred B. and M. Eugene Boring. *New Interpreter's Bible New Testament Survey*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

DeSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods, & Ministry Formation.* Downers Grove, Illinois, 2004. ISBN 0-8308-2746-3.

Drane, John Drane. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8006-3432-2.

Drane, John. *Introducing the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989, 1999, 2010. . ISBN 0-8006-3272-9.

Holladay, Carl R. *A Critical Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.

Koester, Helmut. *Introduction to the New Testament*, 2 vols. Philadelphia, Fortress, 1982.

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[7] Or, Luke Timothy Johnson. *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation*: *Third Edition*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780800663612 . **NOTE:** Both editions are also available in the Kindle e-book format and on Logos Bible Software.

[8] Flavius Josephus (A.D.37-c.A.D.100) was a Jewish Quisling during *The First Jewish War* (A.D. 66-70). Under the protection of the Flavian family back in Rome he wrote *The Antiquities of the Jews* and *The Jewish War* in an attempt to justify his own behavior and to educate Romans on the virtues of the Jewish religion. These books give us a unique picture of Palestine at the time of Jesus Christ, Paul and John of Patmos. Maier's book is a useful abridgment with helps and charts for postmodern readers.

Marxsen,Willi. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1972.

Mason, Steven[9] and Tom Robinson, editors. *Early Christian Reader*.[10] Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2004.

Norman Perrin and D.C. Duling. *The New Testament: An Introduction.* Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace, 1994.

Powell**,** Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Raymond E. Brown, S.S., *An Introduction to the New Testament.* New York: Doubleday, The Anchor Bible Reference Library, 1997.

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

Theissen, Gerd. *The New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.

Study Bibles and Various Translations

Aland, Kurt, editor. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels: Completely Revised on the Basis of the Greek Text of the Nestle-Aland, 26th Edition, and Greek New Testament, English Edition*. Stuttgart, Germany: United Bible Societies, 3rd Edition, 1982.[11]

Scourby, Alexander. *The Holy Bible: King James Version*. [Audio Tape or CD, or see www.Audio-Bible.com to listen FREE!] [12]

Attridge, Harold W., ed. and The Society of Biblical Literature. *The Harper Collins Study Bible, New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006.

Brown, Robert K. and Philip W. Comfort. *The New Greek-English Interlinear New Testemant*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1993.

C.I. Scofield, ed. *The New Scofield Reference Bible, Authorized King James Version.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1967.[13]

Coogan, Michael D., Marc Z. Brettler, Carol A. Newsom and Pheme Perkins. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version [NRSV], College Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

David Norton, ed. *The New Cambridge Paragraph Bible, with the Apocrypha Holy Bible, King James Version*. (Cambridge University Press, 2005).[14]

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[9] Noted Flavius Josephus scholar.

[10] Important Early Christian texts from the first and second centuries translated into contemporary English and arranged in chronological order including the NRSV New Testament books.

[11] The UBS *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* presents the Gospels in is a parallel pericopes. This is an indispensable research tool for the Bible scholar.

[12] The KJV [66 books (30 OT/ 27 NT), 1,189 chapters, 31,101 verses, 791,328 words] read out loud takes about 80 hours to complete.

[13] *The New Scofield Reference Bible* (1967) is useful because while the editors retained the basic KJV text, archaic words have been replaced [and noted] in the body of the text with clearer modern words.

English Standard Version Study Bible [ESV].[15] Wheaton, Il: Crossway, 2008.

Frank C. Thompson, ed. *The Thompson Chain-Reference Bible Fifth Improved Edition (King James Version)*. Indianapolis: B.B. Kirkbride Bible Company, 1988.

Harrelson, Walter, editor. *New Revised Standard Version New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha*. Nashville: Abingdon Press; Revised edition, 2003.

Hindson, Edward E. ed. *Zondervan King James Version [KJV]*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2002.

Kaiser, Walter C. and Duane Garrett, editors. *NIV Archaeological Study Bible: An Illustrated Walk Through Biblical History and Culture.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

New International Study Bible [NIV], Large Print. Grand Rapids: Zondervan; 2011.

Schwandt, John, editor. *The English-Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament: English Standard Version*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway; 2006.

The Holy Bible [King James Bible]: Super Giant Print Reference Bible. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996. ISBN 1-55819-639-0.

The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha: An Ecumenical Study Bible, New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

The Revised Common Lectionary Cycle: Years A, B, C, and Holy Days According to the Use of the Episcopal Church (New York: Church Publishing, 2007.

Thomas Nelson, various editors. *The Chronological Study Bible: New King James Version.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2008.[16]

Thompson, Frank C. ed. *The Thompson Chain-Reference Bible Fifth Improved Edition (King James Version)*. Indianapolis: B.B. Kirkbride Bible Company, 1988.

Useful Books on Writing:

William I. Strunk, Jr., and E.B. White. *Elements of Style.* New York, Macmillan Publishing Company.

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[14] The standard editions of the 1611 King James Bible (or Authorized Version) currently available give, with little variation, the text as established by the Oxford Standard edition of 1769. They give the reader, therefore, a seventeenth-century text in mid-eighteenth century clothes – clothes that are neither original nor modern. In this new edition of the King James Version the text has been collated with the translators' original work in order to give the reader as closely as possible the exact text that the translators decided on. It has also been given consistent modern spelling and presentation in order to make it easier to read and study than standard editions.

[15] The *ESV Study Bible* was created to help people understand the Bible in a deeper way--to understand the timeless truth of God's Word as a powerful, compelling, life-changing reality. To accomplish this, the *ESV Study Bible* combines the best and most recent evangelical Christian scholarship with the highly regarded ESV Bible text. The result is the most comprehensive study Bible ever published--with 2,752 pages of extensive, accessible Bible resources.

[16] The book divides Biblical history into nine distinct epochs and arranges *The Holy Bible's* contents based on chronology rather than the traditional canonical order.

Kate L. Turabian. *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Washington: American Psychological Association, 2001.

ATTENDANCE: Our goal is 100 percent attendance. Solid attendance means coming to class on time and being prepared to participate in the class discussion. Excessive unexcused absence will lead to failure in this class. Be here and hear!!

EVALUATION:

1. Class Participation[17] …… 10%
2. NT Reading/Listening Log[18] ……... 10%
2. Expert Folder …… 10%
3. Mid-Term …… 20%
4. Final Paper …… 30%
5. Final Exam ……..……. 20%

Class Schedule and Assigned Textbook Readings:

From the main textbook: Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Writings of the New Testament*.

WEEK ONE AND TWO: PART ONE, PAGES 21-91.
The Symbolic World of the New Testament
1. The Greco-Roman World
2. Judaism in Palestine
3. Diaspora Judaism

WEEK THREE: PART TWO, PAGES 93-153.
The Christian Experience
4. The Claims of the First Christians
5. The Resurrection Faith
6. Jesus in the Memory of the Church

WEEK FOUR - FIVE: PART THREE, PAGES 155-257.
The Synoptic Tradition
7. The Gospel of Mark

WEEK SIX: PAGES 155-257.
8. The Gospel of Matthew

WEEK SEVEN: PAGES 155-257.
9. Luke-Acts

WEEK EIGHT: MIDTERM EXAM

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[17] *The Holy Bible* - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, NIV, NAS, ESV, etc. Digital copies for classroom study are not permitted. You need to bring a hard copy of *The Holy Bible* with you to class each day.

[18] The student will be required to read/listen the entire New Testament over the course of the Semester. Use Alexander Scourby. *The Holy Bible: King James Version*. [Audio Tape or CD, or see www.Audio-Bible.com to listen FREE!].

WEEK NINE: PART FOUR, PAGES 259-452.

Pauline Traditions

10. Paul's Ministry and Letters
11. 1 and 2 Thessalonians
12. The Corinthian Correspondence
13. The Letter to the Galatians
14. The Letter to the Romans
15. The Letter to the Philippians
16. The Letter to Philemon
17. The Letter to the Colossians
18. The Letter to the Ephesians
19. Pastoral Letters: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus

WEEK TEN: PART FIVE, PAGES 455-518.

Other Canonical Witnesses

20. The Letter to the Hebrews
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter and Jude
23. The Letter of James

WEEKS ELEVEN TO FIFTEEN : PART SIX, PAGES 521-592.

The Johannine Traditions

24. The Gospel of John
25. 1, 2, and 3 John
26. The Book of Revelation

WEEKS SIXTEEN: FINAL EXAM

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From Norman Geisler & William Nix. *A General Introduction to the Bible, Revised and Expanded* (1986).

WEEKS ONE to FOUR:	*Inspiration*, Chapters 1-11
WEEKS FIVE to SEVEN:	*Canonization*, Chapters 12-17
WEEKS EIGHT to ELEVEN:	*Transmission*, Chapters 18-26
WEEKS TWELVE to FIFTEEN:	*Translation*, Chapters 27-32

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a student passes off someone else's work as their own. This can range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student's paper, to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites, to handing in a paper downloaded from the Internet. This includes buying or submitting a paper written by a third party. All are considered forms of "plagiarism" and a violation of the Seminary's academic integrity policy. Instances of plagiarism may be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for disciplinary action. Possible disciplinary actions include probation, suspension or withdrawal.

The first instance of plagiarism in this course, the student must repeat the assignment. If the student plagiarizes again, the student will receive an "F" for the course.

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME BY THE INSTRUCTOR!

She who Reads Leads!