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NT 400 New Testament Survey

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I. General Description:

This course is a rapid survey of the New Testament with primary emphasis on its persons, historical context, events, geography and themes.

II. Objectives:

- to familiarize each student with the content of the NT
- to promote a reverent and relevant knowledge of the New Testament for preaching and teaching in Christian ministry
- to prepare each student for other seminary classes which demand a general knowledge of the content of New Testament
- to foster a love for God’s Word as is found in the New Testament

III. Procedures & Policies:

Upon the successful completion of this course, each student will be waived from taking the NT Content exam. Your best effort is expected over the course of the semester to learn the contours of the New Testament, therefore the following policies & procedures will be will require compliance.

A. Attendance & Participation: In order to effectively learn the contours of the New Testament, regular attendance is of the utmost necessity and expected. Your attendance & participation in the course will be worth 10% of the student’s final grade. In the case of an absence from a class session, the instructor should be notified prior to the scheduled class session. Additional reading will also be assigned by the instructor to make up for the missed class lecture. An acknowledgment of the completion of this reading in writing is needed to receive full credit for the missed class.

B. Assigned Readings: During this course, each student will read the entire New Testament and the texts recorded in the required reading section (E). These readings are intricately involved in the structure of the class as a whole. Each student is expected to complete all of the assigned reading each week. The instructor’s lectures will discuss, highlight and primarily supplement your weekly reading. In addition to your weekly reading, each student is expected to maintain a “reading journal” for each of the assigned NT readings. Journals will be collected and graded at the beginning of each of
the exam periods. Completion of the assigned reading and the reading journal will be worth 20% of your final grade. This journal should consist of the following:

For each New Testament Gospel/Book/Letter:

* An outline of its major content/themes
** Reflections on the tone, characters, events and themes of the letter (Aha moments)

In addition to the reading/journaling of the New Testament, each student is responsible for reading the four primary texts cited in section III, E of this syllabus. Each student is also responsible for completing a response paper for each of these texts. This paper should be two pages (maximum) long and single-spaced. One-third of the paper should contain a summary of the text’s contents while the remaining two-thirds should contain critical reflection upon the content of the book. The completion date for each of these papers is outlined later in this syllabus (IV). Completion of these readings and their subsequent papers is worth 20% of the final grade.

C. Examinations: There will be three examinations over the course of the semester. The first test will cover both the lecture and reading material pertaining to the Gospels (Oct. 11). The second examination will cover both the lecture and reading material pertaining to the Book of Acts and the Pauline Epistles (Nov. 15). The last exam will be a cumulative exam, incorporating the lecture and reading material pertaining to Hebrews, the Catholic Epistles, the Johannine Epistles, Revelation and the previous two exams (Monday, Dec. 13). These three exams are worth 50% of your final grade.

D. Grading: The following elements will constitute your final grade.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT Reading / Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Text reading and papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>50%</td>
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E. Texts:

- Any Recent Text of the Bible. No KJV or Paraphrases

Other fine NT Surveys:
IV. Schedule of Assignments and Testing:

Sept. 13  Syllabus Distribution / Class Introduction / Lecture on the Historical Developments surrounding the New Testament  
**Reading Assignment**: G. of Mark  
**Summary/Reflection Paper** due at the beginning of the Feb. 22 class for *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*  
(Read in one sitting)

Make-up Date  Lecture on the Introduction to the Gospels / Mark’s Gospel  
**Reading Assignment**: G. of Matthew

Sept. 20  Lecture on Matthew’s Gospel  
**Reading Assignment**: G. of Luke

**Reading Assignment**: G. of John

Oct. 4  Lecture on John’s Gospel  
**Reading Assignment**: Acts 1:1-12:25  
**Summary/Reflection Paper** due at the beginning of the next class for *Fortress Introduction to the Gospels*

Oct. 11  1st Hour: EXAM #1 over the Gospels / 2nd Hour: Lecture on the Jerusalem Church and Paul’s Beginnings  
**Reading Assignment**: Acts 13:1-17:34; Galatians; 1&2 Thessalonians

Oct. 18  Lecture on Acts: Galatians / 1&2 Thessalonians  
**Reading Assignment**: Acts 18:1-23; 1&2 Corinthians

Oct. 25  Lecture on Acts: Corinthian Correspondence  
**Reading Assignment**: Acts 18:24 - 19:41; Phil., Col., Eph., Philemon  
**Summary/Reflection Paper** due at the beginning of the next class for *The Letters of Paul*

Nov. 1  Lecture on Acts: Philippians / Colossians / Ephesians / Philemon  
**Reading Assignment**: Acts 20:1 - 28:31; Romans; 1&2 Timothy and Titus
Nov. 8  Lecture on Acts : Romans / 1&2 Timothy / Titus  
**Reading Assignment** : Hebrews  
**Summary/Reflection Paper** due at the beginning of the next class for *The Problem with Paul*

Nov. 15  1st Hour : EXAM #2 over Pauline Epistles / 2nd Hour : Hebrews  
**Reading Assignment** : James, 1&2 Peter, Jude

November 22-26  READING WEEK -- No Classes

Nov. 29  Lecture on the Catholic Epistles  
**Reading Assignment** : 1,2 &3 John, Revelation

Dec. 6  Lecture on Johannine Epistles and Revelation

Dec. 13  **FINAL EXAM**  Monday, December 13 from 1-3PM