

Syllabus
Course of Study of Ohio
COS 311—New Testament I
January 22-23, February 19-20, 2010

Instructor: Dr. David F. Watson, United Theological Seminary
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Course Description

This course presents a panoramic view of the content, main characteristics, and message of the books of the New Testament in light of their historical, political, socioeconomic, cultural, and religious environment, as well as their importance as literary expressions of the faith and history of the early church. The practice of exegesis is again emphasized, with special focus on Luke, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Galatians.

Objectives

1. Review of the nature, scope, and purpose of the New Testament
2. Review of the origin and formation of the New Testament canon
3. Description of the historical and social background out of which the New Testament emerged
4. Development and practice of an exegetical methodology that is appropriate and helpful to the study of the New Testament
5. Articulation of an introductory explanation of the origin, formation, development and expansion of the Christian faith during the first century
6. Examination of some of the ways in which the early church interpreted the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and how this interpretation informed how its members lived out their faith in various social circumstances
7. Reflection on the meaning and significance of the message of the New Testament for the faith and mission of the church in its contemporary context

Texts

Required:

- 1) Gordon D. Fee – *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2002; ISBN 0664223168)
- 2) Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr. – *Gospel Parallels: A Synopsis of the First Three Gospels, with Alternative Readings from the Manuscripts and Noncanonical Parallels* (Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1949; ASIN B000BIZSRG)

3) Paul J. Achtemeier, Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson – *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology* (Eerdmans, 2001; ISBN 0-8028-3717-4)

4) An NRSV Bible, preferably *The HarperCollins Study Bible*, *The Oxford Annotated Bible*, or *The New Interpreter's Bible*.

Recommended :

1) Luke Timothy Johnson – *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation* (Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2002; ISBN 080063439X)

2) Bruce J. Malina – *Windows on the World of Jesus: Time Travel to Ancient Judea* (Westminster John Knox, 1993; ISBN 0-664-25457-8)

3) Warren Carter - *The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide* (Abingdon Press, 2006; ISBN 0687343941)

Schedule

First Session—Jan. 22-23

Before coming to class, please read:

- Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians
- Achtemeier, Green, and Thompson, 1-13, 271-375
- Fee, 5-38

Topics for Jan. 22:

- The exegetical task
- Some cultural characteristics of the ancient Mediterranean world
- Reading Paul's Letters
- 1 Corinthians

Topics for Jan.23:

- Romans
- Galatians

Second Session—Feb. 19-20

Before coming to class, please read:

- Luke, Acts
- Achtemeier, Green, and Thompson, 15-51, 62-73, 149-174, 245-269
- Fee, 133-54

Topics for Feb. 19:

- Review of important concepts
- The oral and written gospel
- Aspects of the formation of the New Testament canon
- Luke

Topics for Feb. 20:

- Luke, continued
- The Acts of the Apostles
- Exegesis and preaching

Assignments

Assignment #1 (3-4 pages, due at the beginning of class, Jan. 22)

- Provide a detailed outline of Galatians
- Read Gal. 2:11-14 carefully. What is the nature of the dispute between Paul and Peter? What does Paul believe Peter to have done wrong?
- Please provide specific examples from the text that support your conclusions.

Assignment #2 (3-4 pages, due at the beginning of class, Feb.19)

- Provide a detailed outline of Luke 6:17-49.
- Using *Gospel Parallels*, §19, p. 25, compare Matt 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-23. What are the major differences between the passage in Matthew and the passage in Luke?

Assignment #3 (3-4 pages, due by midnight via email, March 6)

- Provide a detailed outline of Acts 15:1-21.
- What is the nature of the disagreement about which James must issue a ruling?
- How does James resolve the dispute?
- Please provide specific examples from the text that support your conclusions.

Notes on assignments:

1. For an example of outline format, see <http://writingcenter.mcc.edu/Outlining.pdf>.
2. All written assignments should be submitted in twelve-point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.
3. Grammar counts. Your paper is a reflection of your communication skills. In this course you are learning not simply how to read the Bible critically, but to communicate your ideas to others in a clear and coherent manner.
4. Support your arguments with specific references to the text on which you are writing and to other texts that support your argument.

5. Avoid contractions. For example, words like “can’t,” “shouldn’t,” “won’t,” and “wasn’t” should be avoided in your essay.
6. Italicize or underline words that are transliterated into English from other languages. For example, you might write, “*Theos* is the Greek word for ‘God,’ and we translate the word *huios* as ‘son.’”
7. Use gender-inclusive language. Consider the following examples:

Incorrect: Man is in need of God’s redemption.

Correct: Humankind is in need of God’s redemption.

Incorrect: When asked what he believes about the Bible, a Christian might offer any number of answers.

Correct: When asked what he or she believes about the Bible, a Christian might offer any number of answers.
8. Produce original work. Properly acknowledging your sources is important, but if the bulk of your paper consists of quoted material, this is still not original work. What I want is *your* understanding of the ideas discussed in the reading and in lectures.
9. Proofread! Typos and grammatical errors make a paper look as if the writer has put very little effort into it.

A Note on Plagiarism

There are two kinds of plagiarism, both equally serious. First, there is plagiarism that occurs when a student uses someone else’s work word-for-word without placing the cited material in quotation marks. Even if you cite sources in a bibliography at the end of your paper, if you have used someone else’s words and have not placed those words in quotation marks (and cited the source appropriately in a footnote or parentheses), you have plagiarized.

Second, there is plagiarism that occurs when you use someone else’s *ideas* without acknowledging that you have done so. For example, if you find some really interesting information on the internet, change the wording a bit, and put that information into your paper without properly acknowledging (in a footnote or parentheses) that you have used this source, you have plagiarized.

In both cases, the work that you have turned in is not your own, original work, but someone else’s work that you have copied. Please note well that *plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class*.

Grading

The grades for the course will be weighted as follows:

Assignment #1	25%
Assignment #2	25%
Assignment #3	25%
Class participation	25%



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COS 311

New Testament I
 Dr. David F. Watson
 Winter 2009

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Required Textbooks					
_____	<i>New Testament Exegesis</i>	Fee	24.95	20%	19.96
_____	<i>Gospel Parallels</i>	Throckmorton	34.99	20%	27.99
_____	<i>Introducing the New Testament</i>	Achtemeier, et al	40.00	20%	32.00
Preferred NRSV Bibles					
_____	<i>The New Interpreters' Study Bible</i>		48.00	20%	38.40
_____	<i>The New Oxford Annotated Bible</i>		45.00	20%	36.00
_____	<i>The HarperCollins Study Bible</i>		44.95	20%	35.96
Recommended					
_____	<i>The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation</i>	Johnson	49.00	0%	49.00
_____	<i>Windows on the World of Jesus</i>	Malina	29.95	20%	23.96
_____	<i>The Roman Empire and the New Testament</i>	Carter	17.00	20%	13.60

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