

**Course of Study School in Ohio
At MTSO August 9 - 20, 2010
Summer Intensive, 2010**

**COS 311 -- New Testament I
John Lepp, Instructor**

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This course presents a panoramic view of the content and message of books in the New Testament in light of their historic, cultural and religious environment as well as literary expressions of the faith and history of the early church. The practice of exegesis is emphasized with special focus upon Luke, Acts, Romans, I Corinthians and Galatians.

The course objectives are as follows:

1. To center our attention on the very beginnings of the Christian faith, the Church, and the New Testament. How did our ancestors in the faith come to interpret Jesus' life and acts as redemptive and as a force which took their old religion in a new direction? How were these things revealed, accepted, and witnessed to? What made Christians different from Jews?
2. Review the origin and formation of the New Testament canon.
3. Develop and practice of an exegetical methodology that is appropriate and helpful to the study of the New Testament and useful in preaching today.
4. To understand baptism and the Lord's Supper in their original settings as well as in our ministry today.
5. To gain an understanding of early Church leadership as seen in Peter and Paul and in the writings and teaching of Paul and to reflect upon how John Wesley promoted and extended Paul's teachings of grace, justification, and Christian maturity to us. All this in 20 hours.

Recommended textbooks:

1. Luke Timothy Johnson - *The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation* (Augsburg Fortress Publishers, ISBN 080063439X)
2. Gordon D. Fee - *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2002; ISBN 0664223168)
3. 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)
4. Carl R. Holladay - *A Critical Introduction to the New Testament: Interpreting the Message and meaning of Jesus Christ* (Abingdon Press, 2005; ISBN 0687085691)

Each book is excellent and listed here in case your literary interests run deep or as suggestions for folks who might like to gift you upon occasion. **You do not have to buy them all - only one.** I suggest you buy Luke Johnson's *The Writings of The New Testament*. If not Johnson's book then Holladay's book would be my second choice.

Reading assignments:

1. Read Luke, Acts, Romans, Corinthians and Galatians in your Bible before our first meeting. Read them as often as you can between now and class time.
2. Read your textbook. Read the first chapters about the historic and symbolic or traditional worlds of the New Testament and the early Christian experience.
3. Read what your textbook says in each of its chapters on Luke, Acts, Romans, Corinthians and Galatians *and use what you read in what you write*. We are dealing with two authors: Luke and Paul. I plan to do Luke in our first week (Luke and Acts); Paul (Romans, I Corinthians, and Galatians) during the second. Additional reading assignments will be made in class. Feel free to use your other commentaries and reference books in class preparation. Corresponding volumes of *The New Interpreter's Bible (NIB)* are always excellent and highly recommended for your writing.

Written assignment -- Instructions:

- ✘ Two pages per question desired; three pages maximum. Double spaced is fine; you may single space if you want or need to. If the Spirit is really upon you and you feel led to write on and on and on, I will read anything you write.
- ✘ I expect many quotations from your texts or commentaries cited on each page of your written answers. You may keep your citations simple, I don't need footnotes. If, say, you are quoting from page 53 of Luke T Johnson's *The Writings of the New Testament*, or from page 246 of volume 7 of the NIB, all the citation you need for me is (WNT p 53) or (NIB vii p 246) at the end of the quotation, and then list all the books you cited at the end of your work. Number your answers (e.g., 1. or 2a.) so I know what you are answering.
- ✘ Please have your work to me two weeks before we meet.
- ✘ Put your name on each page. Keep a backup copy.
- ✘ Send it to me by e-mail or by regular mail using the addresses shown at the top of this syllabus.
- ✘ When you e-mail me, please put "COS" in the e-mail subject line so I won't dump your hard work as a suspected viral attack on my computer.
- ✘ If you run behind in getting work to me, please do not send it by express or overnite mail. Just get it to me as soon as you can by regular mail or e-mail.
- ✘ Call or e-mail me anytime you have questions or concerns.

Questions from the texts and for your written response:

On Luke:

1. Who is Theophilus in Luke and in Acts?
2. Luke chapters 9:51 - 19:44 are almost pure Luke and not found in any other gospel. It is Luke's main contribution to literature and Christian theology. So:
 - a. What is the movement of the plot and the characters in this section?
 - b. How does it start?

c. Where is Jesus going in his journey?

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d. What three main groups of people does he address (or confront)?

e. What does he say to each group? What does he expect each group to do as he addresses them in chapters 9-19?

f. Where is the Kingdom of God according to this section?

g. How does this section end? What progress has been made from Luke 8:1-3 until the triumphal entry in 19:28-14?

3. Exegete Luke 17:20-37

a. What is meant by "the kingdom of God is within you"?

b. What is the difference/similarity between "the days of the son of Man" and "the days of Noah" and "the days of Lot"? Explain.

c. What in the world is Luke saying in verse 37? What does verse 37 mean?

d. What does Jesus say when they ask him about *when* the kingdom of God will come?

e. What does Jesus say when they ask him about *where* the kingdom of God will come?

I don't need long answers to these questions but I welcome thoughtful correct answers. Have fun getting to the core of Luke's message

On Acts:

4a. What are "acts"?

b. List and give chapter and verse citing at least half a dozen examples of *acts* of the apostles.

c. There are at least half a dozen speeches in Acts. Luke was not an eye/ear witness to any of them. How does Luke use speeches/sermons to make his point? What is his point?

d. Put the Book of Acts into one line.

Written work on Luke and Acts is due before our first week or weekend. You may send all your written work before the first session -- I would appreciate that.

Due before the second session/weekend/week:

On Romans:

5a. Give me six significant ways Paul's writing is different from Luke's.

b. Paul wrote a dozen letters, give or take. Where does Romans fit among all his letters? When/why was it written? Did Paul start the church(es) in Rome?

c. Compare/contrast Paul's teaching on *justification by faith* in Romans and Galatians.

d. The words *obedience* and *wrath* are not popular today. But they occur in Romans especially in chapters 5 and 6. Chapters 5-8 are possibly the most important of all Paul's writings. What should we obey? What wrath should we fear?

e. Put Romans into one line.

On I Corinthians:

- 6a. Paul had been preaching 15 years when he wrote Corinthians. What was the problem in the Corinthian church?
- b. How does Paul keep Christ central in solving the Corinthian problem?(think sacraments ☺)
- c. Paul only quotes Jesus twice: 7:10-12 and 9:14. Why these two?
- d. State the message of I Corinthians in one sentence.

On Galatians:

- 7a. No small book: Martin Luther used this book in bringing about the Reformation and Wesley admired its usefulness/effectiveness. Others say it tells all of Paul's message in one small book. So, make it small. Reduce each chapter to 2, 3, or 4 of its most significant verses. Then arrange them so they give "all of Paul" in a brief, accurate, complete, and intelligent manner. Have fun.

Finally:

Reading your textbooks, utilizing them in the preparation of your papers, reading the Biblical assignments, exegeting Scripture, preaching along the lines of class preparation, and keeping our class and each other in prayer are the best ways to get the most out of this class.

Please try to get your written work to me on time so I can read it before we meet.

I look forward to our time together.

Grace and peace!

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's district superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.



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COS 311

New Testament 1

John Lepp

Summer Intensive 2010

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Required Books					
Preferred					
<u> </u>	<i>The Writings of the New Testament: An Interpretation</i>	Johnson	49.00	0%	49.00
Second Choice					
<u> </u>	<i>Critical Introduction to the New Testament</i>	Holladay	54.00	20%	43.20
Other Options					
<u> </u>	<i>New Testament Exegesis</i>	Fee	24.95	20%	19.96
<u> </u>	<i>Gospel Parallels</i>	Throckmorton	34.99	20%	27.99

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