

NT 501: New Testament Survey I

Online Course Syllabus

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I. Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help students learn and effectively use the New Testament. Students need to “know” Scripture. They need to be able to use the Scriptures, locate verses and themes. They need to know major names and events, and be familiar with the context of important passages. This is foundational for ministry. Students also need to know the following items associated with each book studied within the scope of this course (Matthew through Acts): Overview, content, major themes, and highlights. Students will also become familiar with each book’s author, purpose, chronological and historical setting.

An element of Biblical theology will be addressed throughout the course. This element will include an introduction to The New Testament Canon: Kingdom of God: The Kingdom study will include the concepts of the Already by not yet, Parables of the Kingdom and the Mystery of the Kingdom. Students will learn to compare and contrast the Synoptic Gospels with the Gospel of John. Students will go with Paul on each of his journeys and learn the key elements of each of his journeys. All of this is important if we are to interpret the New Testament accurately and be able to use it in our ministry.

II. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this course relate to character, skills and knowledge:

Character:

- A life centered around the Word of God
- A passion to study God’s Word
- The conviction that all of life is to be guided by God’s Word
- A regard for God’s Word as authoritative and inerrant
- A zeal for the Lord comparable to that of the Apostle Paul

Skills:

- An ability to do in-depth, inductive Bible Study
- A knowledge of how to study the Bible
- An ability to analyze portions of Scripture to discern the progression of ideas
- An ease in finding themes and key chapters and verses

Knowledge (of each book covered):

- Major outlines and progression of thought

- Location of major themes and subject matter
- Location of key chapters and verses
- Authorship, date, and historical setting of the various biblical books
- Purpose
- Interpretation

III. Procedure

Bible Reading: For the survey portion of the course, we will utilize an inductive study method, that is, that the truth of Scripture is found from within Scripture itself and is not injected into it. Our main textbook will be the Bible. Students will learn how to search the Bible for its content, and the instructor will facilitate the learning process. This is the primary method for students to “own” what they have learned. My desire is that when the course is over the students will have a good grasp on the Gospels and Acts and feel comfortable in them.

Lectures: The instructor will provide essential background information on the text to be covered. A great deal of time will be spent examining the text and the themes of the text. Time will be given for clarifying positions derived during inductive study. In each module a quiz will be given on lecture contents.

Textbook Readings: Readings from a major introduction to the New Testament will supplement the Bible readings and lectures and help to place each of the biblical books in its historical context. Each module will provide the student an opportunity to summarize and evaluate the contents of each textbook reading.

Final Exam: The questions on the final exam will be drawn from the weekly quiz questions. They will cover essentially the same material, though the form of the questions may be modified slightly in some cases.

IV. Course Structure

Modules: You have up to fifteen weeks to complete this online course. The course is divided into thirteen modules, designed to be completed in order over the course of 13-14 weeks. Generally speaking, each week includes Bible reading, course textbook reading, and a lecture video. To see a detailed outline of the structure, click the "Modules" link on the left side of this page.

Mentor: As you proceed through this course, you will need to obtain the services of a course mentor who will meet with you on a monthly basis to interact with you regarding your studies and to proctor the course exams. (The quizzes may be taken without supervision.) Ideally, your course mentor will be a pastor, youth pastor, or other spiritual authority in your church who can guide and counsel you as you pursue biblical and theological training. In the course materials there is a mentor agreement form that your mentor will need to sign and return to New Geneva Seminary before you begin the course.

Conferences: Your course instructor will want to meet with you at least monthly using the conferencing capabilities of Canvas. Contact your instructor about setting up a conference within the first couple of weeks of the course.

Grading: Your final grade will be derived from four components of the course:

- A. Bible reading (20%);
- B. textbook reading assignments (25%);
- C. lecture quizzes (35%), and
- D. final exam (10%).
- E. course interaction (discussion forum, mentor meetings, and conferences) (10%)

IV. Textbooks

Required:

The Bible (in a major translation such as: ESV, NASB, NIV)

D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, Second Edition (Zondervan, 2005)

PowerPoint slides containing maps and charts (included in the course materials)

Recommended:

Herman Ridderbos, *The Coming of the Kingdom*

Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Theology*

G. E. Ladd, *The Kingdom of God*