

NT503: New Testament Survey III

Online Course Syllabus

New Geneva Theological Seminary

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I. Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help students become more familiar and use more effectively the New Testament, with specific emphasis upon the corpus of New Testament writings known as the General Epistles (Hebrews through Jude) and the Book of Revelation.

To be effective in ministering the Word of God, you need to “know” Scripture with your head and your heart. You should be able to use it effectively, locate verses and themes with ease, know major characters and events, and be familiar with the context of important passages that shape the historical/redemptive nature of the Scriptures. To that end, the following elements will be the focus of our study:

- An overview, the major themes, outlines, and highlights of each of the General Epistles;
- The author, purpose, chronological and historical setting of each book;
- Elements of biblical and systematic theology related to each book;
- Eschatological views related to the Book of Revelation, including the various views of the “Parousia.”

II. Specific Objectives

Character:

The student will....

- Develop an increased passion for the study of God’s Word;
- Grow in his or her conviction that God’s Word is our only rule for faith and practice;
- Develop a high regard for God’s Word as authoritative, inerrant, and infallible.

Skills:

The student will. . .

- Develop an ability to do in-depth, independent, inductive Bible Study;
- Develop an ability to analyze portions of Scripture in order to discern the progression of ideas;
- Become confident with determining themes and key chapters and verses.

Knowledge (of each book covered):

The student will . . .

- Know major outlines and progression of thought;
- Be able to locate major themes and subject matter;
- Be able to locate key chapters and verses;
- Understand how historical setting and purpose contribute to a proper interpretation of the portions of Scripture studied.

III. Online Course Structure

Modules: You have up to fifteen weeks to complete this online course. The course is divided into a series of modules designed to be completed in order over the course of 13-14 weeks, though you may complete the modules as quickly as you like within the fifteen-week time frame. 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 any Canvas screen.

Mentor: As you proceed through the course, you will need to obtain the services of a 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. There is also a mentor report that your mentor will need to complete after each meeting and return at the end of 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.

IV. Procedure

Bible Reading: The primary and most important textbook for this survey course is the Bible. You are expected to read through all of the General Epistles and the Book of Revelation, and you will be asked to report on the extent of your reading. A modular (weekly) schedule for your reading is included below. However, it is highly recommended that you break down your Bible reading into daily portions so you can more adequately reflect on what has been read.

Textbook Reading: The readings from the Carson/Moo text provide valuable background information important for understanding the historical context of each of the General Epistles and Revelation. For each reading you will be asked to submit a 500-word summary covering the contents of the reading. Roughly eighty percent of each reading summary (400 words) should summarize the contents of the reading, while twenty percent (100 words) should give your evaluation of what you have read. A modular (weekly) schedule for your reading is included below.

Lectures and Quizzes: The course lectures will provide essential background information and perspective related to the themes and structure of the texts covered. A weekly, ten-point quiz containing a balance true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in questions will cover each lecture's contents.

Grading: Your final grade for the course will be derived from five components weighted as follows:

- A. Bible reading (20%);
- B. Textbook reading assignments (25%);
- C. Lecture quizzes (35%);
- D. Final exam (10%); and
- E. Course interaction (discussion forum, mentor meetings, and conferences) (10%).

IV. Reading

Required Reading:

The Bible: Hebrews through Revelation (in a major Bible translation such as ESV, NASB, or NIV).

D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Second Edition. Zondervan, 2005. Assigned reading: pages 596-640.

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

Recommended Supplementary Reading:

Philip Edgcumbe Hughes. *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Eerdmans, 1988.

William Hendriksen. *More than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation*. Baker, 2015.