



NT503: NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY III
Online Course Syllabus
Mark A. House, Ph.D. • mhouse@newgeneva.org

I. PURPOSE

This course will survey the latter one-third of the New Testament—the General Epistles and the Books of Hebrews and Revelation. The General Epistles have historically been known as the “Catholic” Epistles, not because of any relationship with the Catholic Church, but because the word “catholic” originally referred to letters addressed to the church at large rather than to specific congregations as with Paul’s letters. As such, these letters (including Hebrews, often not categorized as one of the General Epistles) address issues that concern the church as a whole rather than questions or problems of specific congregations. The person familiar with Paul’s epistles will find different modes of expression in these letters. Nevertheless, they represent the same Savior, the same gospel, and the same moral concerns as those that came from the hand of Paul. Comparing the teachings of these letters with those of Paul will provide an opportunity to gain a more well-rounded understand of “the whole counsel of God.”

As a vital part of ministry preparation, this course serves to give you exposure to the content and flow of the New Testament General Epistles, Hebrews, and Revelation. As you thoughtfully and prayerfully read through each of these books in an English translation, the lectures and assigned readings will assist you in discerning the major figures, events, and themes of each book and how each writer’s message fits into the canon of Scripture and the larger flow of biblical history. Understanding the author, purpose, and historical setting of each book will also help you gain the necessary perspective for good understanding and accurate interpretation. Reflection on the major theological themes of each letter will enable you to gain a balanced and comprehensive understanding of New Testament teaching. Our study of the Book of Revelation will also provide an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of biblical eschatology.

II. EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

- To thoughtfully and reflectively read through each of the seven General Epistles and the Books of Hebrews and Revelation;
- To gain an overview of the historical context and background of each of these books;
- To grasp the flow and theme of each of the writer’s messages for their times and in the larger context of God’s redemptive program;
- To become personally engaged with the character and message of each letter and with the Lord who inspired these letters, with a view to their application in our lives;
- To explore ways in which these books can be used effectively for preaching and teaching the gospel in our current generation.

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. LECTURE TESTS (40%)

Objective midterm and End-term lecture tests will assess your familiarity with the lecture material. These tests may be taken “open Bible” and “open notes”—they may be completed using the Bible and the notes taken while listening to the course lectures (including the weekly lecture PowerPoint slides). No other helps are allowed when taking these exams.

V. READING ASSIGNMENTS (40%)

Since a very limited amount of material can be communicated through the weekly lectures, and since thoughtful and critical reading is such an essential skill for your personal and academic development, reading assignments form an essential part of the learning process for this course. This emphasis is reflected in the fact that the completion of the course reading assignments will constitute 40% of your grade.

The primary textbook for this inductive survey course is the Bible itself. Weekly readings from Hebrews through Revelation in a major English Bible translation (e.g., NKJV, NASV, NIV, ESV, NLT) have been assigned. It is highly recommended that you complete these weekly Bible readings by dividing them up into daily readings rather than attempting to burn through them in larger blocks. Daily reading will help ensure adequate time for reflection on the message of each book, especially when accompanied with prayer and an obedient heart. Daily reading also lightens the load, requiring only a few pages of Bible reading per day. Progress in the Bible reading assignments will be assessed through weekly “honor system” reports on the percentage of the Bible assignment completed.

These weekly Bible readings will be supplemented with readings from D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, Second Edition (Zondervan, 2005), which will serve to put the biblical readings in historical perspective as well as to provide an overview of the structure, themes, and contents of each biblical book studied.

Progress in the completion of the weekly Bible and textbook reading assignments will be assessed by reading quizzes covering each module’s reading assignment.

VI. STUDENT PRESENTATION (20%)

Each student will be responsible to make a twenty-minute online presentation on one of the biblical authors of the books being studied. The presentation should essentially build a bridge between the selected writer’s message and our contemporary situation. It should offer 1) an overview of the key themes of the writer’s message in its original historical setting, 2) an explanation of some relevant ways in which the prophet’s message addresses our current situation, and 3) an outline of a series of four or more messages you would preach or teach applying the prophet’s message to that congregation. This outline of sermons should contain 1) a provocative title for each message, 2) an outline of the major points of each message, 3) a one-sentence summary of each major point, and 4) a one-sentence summary of how hearers should respond to each message.

VII. GRADING

Letter grades will be assigned using the grading scale presented in the seminary catalog. Your grade for this course will be weighted as follows:

- 40%: Lecture tests
- 40%: Reading quizzes
- 20%: Student presentation

VIII. TEXTBOOKS

Required:

A major translation of the Bible (ESV, CSB, NASV, NIV, NKJV, NRSV, KJV).

D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, Second Edition (Zondervan, 2005), 781 pages. [This text will be used for all three New Testament survey courses.]

Recommended:

Michael J. Kruger, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized* (Crossway, 2016).

Course Outline

Wk	Lecture Topics	Bible Reading	Textbook Reading (Carson/Moo)
1	Course Introduction		
2	Hebrews, part 1	Hebrews 1-7	Ch. 19, Hebrews, pp. 596-605
3	Hebrews, part 2	Hebrews 8-13	Ch. 19, Hebrews, pp. 605-618
4	Hebrews, part 3	James	Ch. 20, James, pp. 619-635
5	James	1 Peter	Ch. 21, 1 Peter, pp. 636-653
6	1 Peter	2 Peter	Ch. 22, 2 Peter, pp. 654-668
7	2 Peter/Jude	1 John	Ch. 23, 1-3 John, pp. 669-687
Midterm Lecture Test			
8	1-3 John	2-3 John, Jude	Ch. 24, Jude, pp. 688-696
9	Revelation, part 1	Revelation 1-5	Ch. 25, Revelation, pp. 697-707
10	Revelation, part 2	Revelation 6-9	Ch. 25, Revelation, pp. 707-716
11	Revelation, part 3	Revelation 10-15	Ch. 25, Revelation, pp. 716-725
12	The New Testament Canon	Revelation 16-22	Ch. 26, NT Canon, pp. 726-743
13	Student Presentations		
Final Lecture Test			