

TBE 520 M3 -- NT Survey

Talbot School of Theology, Fall 2008

W 7:30-10:20 pm, Myers 102

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Office Hours: T, W 2-4 pm

Meetings are by appointment only. Please e-mail me to make an appointment. (If you cannot meet during my office hours, I will try to work out another time but cannot promise to be available.)

Catalogue Description

"A general overview of the New Testament books, including selected introductory and critical issues, relevant background, major themes and divisions and crucial problems. Required of M.Div. and M.A. students."

Objectives

The student will

- know and be able confidently to express a basic historical outline of the NT, including key dates
- know and be able confidently to express how each NT book fits into that outline
- know the broad historical and cultural backgrounds to the NT and appreciate the value of such knowledge for understanding the NT
- know and be able confidently to express the basic theme and teachings of each NT book
- know and be able confidently to identify specific key chapters in the NT
- have a basic understanding of historical-critical research of the NT
- have a basic understanding of historical Jesus research
- examine critical views of the NT from an evangelical perspective
- be able to produce a substantive outline of a NT book and appreciate the value of doing so
- begin to read the NT with a literary eye and appreciate the value of doing so
- be challenged and encouraged to grow in his or her Christian walk
- begin to appropriate into his or her own perspective on the world the presuppositions and entailments of a Christian worldview exposed in class

Course Requirements

- read the assigned NT book(s) and sections of the course text prior to coverage in lectures, as measured by three reading reports, one appended to each exam
- complete three non-cumulative examinations over lecture material
- generate four book analyses, one each of the following NT books: one gospel; Acts; Romans or Hebrews; James, 1 Peter, or 1 John.

The grading scale:

3 exams @ 70 pts ea	= 210 pts		
4 book charts (Gospel and Acts charts @ 30 pts ea. Romans or Hebrews chart @ 20 pts. James or 1 Peter or 1 John chart @ 15 pts)	= 95 pts		
3 Reading reports @ 15 pts ea	= 45 pts		
A 336-350	B 308-321	C 280-293	D 252-265
A- 329-335	B- 301-307	C- 273-279	D- 245-251
B+ 322-328	C+ 294-300	D+ 266-272	F 0-244

This scale may be normalized at the discretion of the professor.

Late Work: All work is due at the end of class on the dates indicated in the course calendar. Late work will be accepted but penalized according to the following schedule. Work turned in within 24 hours of the due date will lose 5 percentage points. Work turned in 24 hours to a week late will lose 15 percentage points. Work more than one week late will only be accepted after consultation with and approval by the professor.

Exceptions may be granted for severe and UNFORESEEABLE circumstances only.

Plagiarism: Talbot School of Theology sees any form of plagiarism as a serious problem with serious consequences. Please refer to the academic integrity statement and article on plagiarism in the Talbot Graduate Student Handbook.

Grading Standards for Written Work: Whereas Talbot School of Theology desires to maintain the highest standards with respect to the composition of all written work, any student paper exhibiting poor grammar, spelling errors, typographical errors, or other substandard academic expression shall have the overall grade for that paper reduced accordingly. Generally, a paper will be deemed substandard and ineligible to receive an “A” grade when it averages three or more compositional errors per page. Moreover, at the discretion of the professor, the substandard paper may be returned to the student for correction and resubmission with appropriate grade penalties. Graduate papers are expected to demonstrate a higher level of academic expression than undergraduate papers. Students deficient in writing skills may seek assistance at the Biola Writing Center.

Reports Delayed: A report delayed will ONLY be granted under the following conditions:

- 1) The student has arranged for and had a personal interview with the professor in which the professor has been satisfied that
- 2) the student has a valid medical or personal excuse for delaying the completion of the course requirements,
- 3) the student has shown good faith in attending classes and in completing required work prior to the interview with the professor,
- 3) the student has had the interview with the professor at the earliest possible date after the requirement of a report delayed was suspected as necessary by the student,
- 4) all other possibilities for completing the required coursework on time have been exhausted.

Students with Disabilities: Students desiring accommodations for this class on the basis of physical, learning, psychological, or emotional disability are to contact The Learning Center which houses both learning assistance and disability services. The Learning Center is located upstairs in the Biola Library and can be reached by calling 562.906.4542 or extension 4542 from on campus.

Texts

Required Texts

Brisco, Thomas. *Holman Bible Atlas*. Broadman & Holman, 1998.
DeSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. IVP, 2004.
A modern translation of the NT (NASB, NIV, NRSV, NLT, etc.)

Other Useful Books Related to the Subject (All would be good to have in your library.)

Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament*. Eerdmans, 2001.
Aharoni, Yohanan, Michael Avi-Yonah, Anson F. Rainey, and Ze'ev Safrai. *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. 3d rev. ed. Macmillan, 1993.
Bruce, F. F. *New Testament History*. Doubleday, 1972.
Carson, D.A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Zondervan, 1992.
Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Rev. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 3rd ed. IVP, 1970.
House, H. Wayne. *Chronological Charts of the New Testament*.
Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. Donald Hagner. Eerdmans, 1996.
McDonald, Lee Martin and Stanley E. Porter. *Early Christianity and Its Sacred Literature*. Hendrickson, 2000.
Tenney, Merrill C. *New Testament Survey*. Rev. Walter M. Dunnnett. Eerdmans, 1985.

These are some standard reference works that will also prove useful

Anchor Bible Dictionary (ABD). Ed. David Noel Freedman. 6 vols. NY: Doubleday, 1992.

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE). Ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Oxford Classical Dictionary (OCD). Ed. N. G. L. Hammond and H.H. Scullard. 3d ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996?.

Semester Projects

In general...

- 1) Always keep a copy of any paper turned in. Submit paper stapled and WITHOUT ANY TYPE OF BINDING OR PLASTIC COVER.
- 2) Observe the deadline. You will not receive special treatment if through your own negligence you cannot complete the project on time.
- 3) Please turn in hard copies. Electronic versions will generally not be accepted unless the student has made prior arrangements with the professor.

Book Analyses

You will analyze the argument and major themes of four NT books ([1] a Gospel; [2] Acts; [3] either Romans or Hebrews; and [4] either James, 1 Peter, or 1 John). There will be two methods of presentation utilized, a “shorter” method, to be used for the Gospel and Acts analyses, and a “longer” method, to be used for the Hebrews or Romans and the James or 1 Peter or 1 John analyses. Please see the detailed descriptions of how to produce these analyses on reserve in the library or at <http://people.biola.edu/faculty/alanh/Handouts/TBE517/OutliningAbook.doc>.

All projects are graded on both style and substance. They are expected to be complete, legible, and free from spelling and grammatical errors. Greatest consideration in grading will be given to proper use of methodology and depth of interaction with the material in accordance with the following scale.

A+ (100%) = Absolutely perfect

A (96-99.9%) = Technically perfect and depth of interaction exceptional

A- (94-95.9%) = Technically perfect or nearly perfect and depth of interaction impressive

B+ (92-93.9%) = Technically solid and depth of interaction strong

B (88-91.9%) = Technically solid and depth of interaction is good

B- (86-87.9%) = Technically or reflectively problematic but otherwise good

C+ (84-85.9%) = Technical and depth of interaction problems but acceptable work

C (80-83.9%) = Greater technical and depth of interaction problems

C- (78-79.9%) or “Redo” = unacceptable work: generally, problems are such that the student did not do what was asked of them

Please refer to the Course Calendar for due dates. Note that all Gospel analyses are due on the same date (regardless of the Gospel analyzed) but that Hebrews, Romans, James, 1 Peter, and 1 John are due on different dates. This allows you some flexibility in arranging your homework schedule over the course of the semester.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Lecture	Reading (DeSilva // Brisco)	Assign. due
1	Aug 27	Intro to Course, Intertestamental history		
2	Sep 3	Intertestamental history	37-72 // 164-206	
3	10	Palestinian Society, Roman-Hellenistic society	73-110 // 3-24	
4	17	Palestinian Society, Roman-Hellenistic society, Geography of Palestine, Life of Christ	111-144 // 207-235	
5	24	Critical Study of the Gospels, Mark	145-233 // --	Gospel
6	Oct 1	<i>Exam 1</i> , Matthew		
7	8	Luke, John	234-347, 391-448// --	
8	15	John; Acts 1-12	348-391 // 236-42	Acts
9	22	<i>Torrey Conference (No class)</i>		
10	29	Acts 13-15; Jam, Gal	475-526, 814-840 // 243-48	James
11	Nov 5	<i>Exam 2</i> , Acts 16-18; 1&2 Thess		
12	12	Acts 19-21; 1&2 Cor, Rom, Acts 21-28	527-640 // 249-55	Romans
13	19	Prison Epistles, Later Paul, Pastorals, Pauline theology	640-84, 690-775 // 256-57	
14	26	<i>Thanksgiving Recess (No Class)</i>		
15	Dec 3	Hebrews, 1Pet-Jude	776-813, 841-884 // --	Hebrews
16	10	Pseudepigraphy, Revelation	685-689, 885-932 // 258-76	1 Pet, 1 John
17	17	<i>Exam 3</i>		