NT 501 BA New Testament Survey
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston Campus (CUME)
Rev. Dr. David Teague
(Mondays, 6:00 – 10:00 pm)    Sept 6, Nov. 3 – Dec 15, 2014

Basic Information
Class website: NT501.weebly.com    Download stuff freely.
            Class materials are stored only on the above website.
Contact:  413-549-0623 (before 9 pm)   davidteague77@gmail.com
        433 Warren Wright Rd.;   Belchertown, MA   01007

Objective
Consistent with the mission of Gordon-Conwell, the objective of this course is to
    teach the message of the New Testament and to introduce some of its basic
scholarly issues in a way that is contextualized to the postmodern city.

Grading
There are two possible grading tracks for this course:

Track One: involves completing the regular assignments and reading a basic-
level textbook. If you choose Track One, you will not be able to receive an A
grade. Possible grades only go up to a B+, or 90 out of 100 points.

Track Two: involves (1) doing quality work on Track One assignments, (2)
reading two textbooks that are more advanced and (3) submitting an academic
paper. If you choose Track Two, there is no guarantee that you will receive an A
grade. Possible grades go up to 100 points, or an A+.

The reason for this two-track system is to: (1) to prevent grade inflation and (2) to
reward those students who want to do deeper studies in NT scholarly issues.

Grade Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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Course Goals
1. To grow in love for the NT as we experience its authority in our lives
2. To achieve a basic understanding of the message of the NT
3. To increase our ability to teach the NT to postmodern, urban people
4. (Track Two): To be aware of basic NT scholarly issues
   (These goals are in fulfillment of CUME’s M. Div. degree objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.)
Course Evaluation

We will measure how we achieve our goals by submitting:

- An Outline for the Unit One Assignment (20 points)
- A Sermon for Unit Two (30 points)
- An Essay for Unit Three (30 pts)
- A Reading Report - Bible and Textbook Reading (10 points)
- An Academic Paper - (Track Two students only) (10 points)

Some Basic Bibliographical Resources (not required):

- Dr. Roy Ciampa’s website contains many helpful links: www.viceregency.com

Policies

1. Help: I am concerned about your well-being and success. Do not be afraid to ask questions in or outside of class. If you feel that the work is too hard, please talk with me before giving up on your seminary education. I also may make recommendations to other staff members to help you succeed.

2. Extensions: According to CUME policy, extensions require an unforeseen, extenuating event. The policy says: “The intention of the extension policy is … to grant additional time to those students who face some unforeseen circumstance, such as illness or other extenuating events.” In addition, the policy states that work submitted without an extension loses a full grade a day. Finally, if you need an extension beyond the last day for written work, only the registrar can grant such a request.

3. Plagiarism: The CUME policy on plagiarism will be strictly enforced.

4. Disabilities: If you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, the CUME policy is for you to first notify the Academic Dean. The Dean will then notify the professor.

5. Storm Cancellations: Call CUME at 617-427-7293 for updates.

6. Evaluation Forms: Complete them online in CAMS under the “My Grades” screen. You will be able to see your final grade after completing the form.
The Requirements In Detail

A. Textbook Reading (5 pts)
*Because this is a 7 week course, purchase your textbook as soon as possible.*

**THE TEXTBOOK FOR TRACK ONE STUDENTS ONLY:**

**THE TEXTBOOKS FOR TRACK TWO STUDENTS ONLY:**

B. Bible Reading (5 pts)
You are expected to read or listen to the entire NT this term:
1. Meditate in the Word, think and pray about it and ask questions.
2. Consider using a study Bible to help your understanding.
3. Read 6-8 chapters a day to finish by the end of the term.

C. Unit One Assignment (20 pts, due November 10)
The theme of Unit One is ‘Christ has Come to Us.’ It describes how Christ is the fulfillment of God’s self-revelation to the world through a chosen people.

Your assignment is to design a creative program of teaching the biblical metanarrative to your church. You do not have to develop an actual program, you just have to submit a 1-2 page summary of what you would do.

For example, you might interview a series of biblical characters through the ages, or present a sequence of Gospel songs that explain the Story of God, or make an audio-visual presentation. The expectation is to be creative. You may not merely submit a series of sermon topics.

To do this assignment:
1. Decide the type of church for which the presentation is intended.
2. Select a metanarrative framework to base your presentation on.
3. Decide upon the creative method you will use.
4. Submit a written summary of your program ideas.

Your report should be submitted by email by midnight on November 10.
D. Unit Two Assignment  (30 pts, due December 1)

The theme of Unit Two is *Becoming a People for God.* It describes how, after Christ has come to us to bring us salvation, he also makes us into a People for God.

To do this assignment, first read the story of William J. Seymour and Charles Parham, found on pages 112-125 in Richard J. Foster’s *Streams of Living Water.* Copies of this excerpt will be handed out in class on November 24.

Your task: Charles Parham has just arrived at Azusa Street and is saying that different ethnic groups should worship separately. Write a sermon in which you imagine that you are William Seymour and you are explaining to the Christians at Azusa Street why God wants different ethnic groups to worship together. Include scriptural arguments from the New Testament and especially from Ephesians.

You will not be graded on your sermonic style, but in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Points</th>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>The number and quality of your arguments from the New Testament, especially those developed from Ephesians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The overall degree to which your arguments are convincing.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The sermon should be at least 1600 words. Email it to the professor on or before December 1. Late work will be penalized per CUME policy.

E. Unit Three Assignment  (30 pts, due December 8)

Unit Three’s theme is *Changing the World Together for God.* After Christ brings us salvation and makes us into a people, Christ then helps us to change the world system together for God. In illustration of this, we will explore how Paul challenged the “honor and shame” culture of the Roman world.

In the Roman world, the values of honor and shame deeply affected how people thought and acted. Sometimes, these values were inconsistent with biblical thinking. Read the article “Honor and Shame: Connecting Personhood to Group Values,” available on our class website, [NT501.weebly.com](http://NT501.weebly.com). Then, read Philippians. Then, write an essay with three parts, answering the following three questions:

1. How did the dynamics of honor and shame affect the Philippian church?
2. What did Paul do to challenge the negative aspects of these cultural values? (Remember to include what is said in class about Philippians 2.)
3. What are the positive and negative dynamics of honor and shame within your own church and what biblical teaching could address the negative aspects?

This assignment continues on the next page -
The following is how this assignment will be graded:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Points</th>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The quality of your analysis of how the dynamics of honor and shame affected the Philippian church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The quality of your analysis of how Paul challenged the negative (ungodly) aspects of the honor and shame dynamics in the Philippian church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The quality of your analysis of the honor and shame dynamics within your own church, both positive and negative.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The paper should be at least 1600 words. Email it to the professor on or before Dec 8. Please write with the guide in mind, “How to Write an Essay,” available at NT501.weebly.com. Late work will be penalized per CUME policy.

F. TRACK TWO ONLY - Academic Paper (10 pts, due December 15)
The following assignment is for Track Two students only.

Write an academic paper in which you investigate an important scholarly issue in NT studies, such as an interpretation issue or an authorship issue. You will be expected to use the CUME library and major scholarly references.

Your topic must be approved by the professor no later than Dec 8. Paper topics that are not pre-approved will not be graded.

The academic paper should be at least 2400 words. Email it to the professor on or before Dec 15. No overdue papers will be accepted for this assignment unless there are urgent extenuating circumstances.
**Lecture Schedule** (contact CUME for the Sept 6th orientation requirement)

The course uses a thematic approach to the NT. Please prepare for class by reading the relevant parts of your textbooks. Additional readings are below.

**UNIT 1: CHRIST HAS COME TO US ...**

**NOV 3**  
Metanarrative Theology | What is a Gospel? | Mark
---|---|---
Read “The Biblical Metanarrative” at [www.postmodernpreaching.net](http://www.postmodernpreaching.net)
Unit 1 Assignment Given

**NOV 10**  
---|---|---
Unit 1 Assignment Due

**UNIT 2: ... TO MAKE US INTO ONE PEOPLE ...**

**NOV 17**  
James | Galatians | Romans
---|---|---

**NOV 24**  
Ephesians | Colossians | Philemon
Manuscript Bible Study
Unit 2 Assignment Given

**UNIT 3: ... TO CHANGE THE WORLD SYSTEM TOGETHER FOR GOD**

**DEC 1**  
The Graeco-Roman World | Philippians | 1 & 2 Thess.
1 and 2 Corinthians
Unit 2 Assignment Due
Unit 3 Assignment Given

**DEC 8**  
1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Paul and the Role of Women
Hebrews | 1 and 2 Peter | Jude
Unit 3 Assignment Due
Track Two Academic Paper Topics Due

**DEC 15**  
1,2,3 John | Revelation
Read the Kraybill article on Revelation posted on [NT501.weebly.com](http://NT501.weebly.com)
Reading Reports Due
Track Two Academic Papers Due
Your Name:  (print) _________________________________________

I have read the following percentage of the New Testament: _____ %

I have read the following percentage of my class textbook: _____ %

Please give this to Dr. Teague during the class on DECEMBER 15. Thank you!