NT 501 New Testament Survey
Fall 2014
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary – Boston
Sept. 6 is Official Opening Day with Integrative Seminar
Saturdays: Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, Dec. 6
9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Instructor: Jennifer Creamer
Email: jcreamer@gordonconwell.edu
(831) 809-9890 (usually available by phone 6–8 pm weekdays)

Course Description

This course highlights the overall context of the New Testament through book-by-book content studies of each of the 27 books. Main themes, background, events, and persons in the New Testament will be emphasized. The mission of the church in the New Testament will also be discussed. The focus will be on the New Testament as a primary source document.

General Learning Goals

• To understand the big picture of the New Testament (cf. M.Div. degree goal 1: To understand the basic content and themes of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and cultural settings as well as the historical and theological dimensions of the Christian faith.)

• To observe the general themes and content of each of the New Testament books from the primary source itself (cf. M.Div. degree goal 1, see above)

• To understand the New Testament's relevance and application to our lives today (cf. M.Div. degree goal 2: To foster love for God and His word, and therefore to cultivate the practices of spiritual maturity and Christ-like character, and to understand the Christian’s ethical responsibility in church and society.)

• To understand the mission of the church in the New Testament and how it relates to the mission of the church today (cf. M.Div. degree goal 6: To develop a global vision for the Christian faith so as to foster an appreciation and commitment to the worldwide proclamation of the Gospel.)
**Required Books**

A good modern translation of the Bible, such as the *New Revised Standard Version*.


**Recommended (but not required) books**


Those using *BibleWorks 9* will find *The Moody Bible Atlas*, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (ISBE), and two other Bible dictionaries included in the basic program.
Course Requirements and Evaluation

Grading will be as follows:

Test #1  30%
Test #2   30%
Reading  30%
Summaries  10%

Tests: Oct 25; Nov. 15

Each test will cover the content of the New Testament books and lecture material covered in the previous class or classes.

New Testament Book Summaries Assignment: Due Dec. 6 (grace: Dec. 10)

You will write original summaries for each of the 27 books in the New Testament. After reading each New Testament book, you will write a brief summary of no more than one paragraph. You should consider the main idea in your summaries. Keep your book summaries together in a single, ongoing document. See pages 7 and 8 for detailed instructions.

New Testament Book Summary assignments will be due on the last class, Dec 6. Please submit hard copies. If you need grace (in case of illness or personal reasons): postmark no later than Dec. 10 and send to my home address:

Jennifer Creamer, 22 Oakhurst Ave, Ipswich MA 01938.

Papers postmarked after Dec. 10 will be subject to a grade penalty of 2 points per day of lateness (out of 10 total points possible).

Please include a self-stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like me to send your corrected work to you. Otherwise, your papers and tests will be returned to the CUME library for your pickup.

Reading: Due Dec. 6

You will read the entire New Testament in this course. The reading of each New Testament book should be done out loud and in one sitting, if possible. This will help you better understand the main themes and flow of each book. You may read out loud together with another person or group of people, if desired. Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Extra credit may be available for reading the New Testament a second time (this may be a silent reading). The reading report is due at the last class meeting, Dec. 6.
Do I need to take notes in class??

Yes, you will definitely need to take notes in class. Slides will generally cover outline points but not details. You will need to take your own lecture notes in order to fill in the details so you can prepare for the tests. Slides and handouts will be posted on Sakai.

Attendance policy

Attendance of all four class sessions is mandatory! CUME has strict attendance policies. Mark your calendars and plan to be there on time and for the full duration of each class (9 am–4:30 pm). If you are unable to attend a class due to emergency or serious illness, please contact the instructor in advance, if possible, to see if make-up work is possible. Students who miss more than 6 hours of lecture time may need to withdraw from the course.

Cell phones

Students must keep cell phones in silent mode and to refrain from texting during class lectures. Likewise, students should not surf the Internet or check email, etc. during class times.

Reminder on Violations of Academic Integrity

The seminary considers all breaches of personal and academic integrity to be serious offenses. As such, the seminary has zero tolerance for such behaviors. Cheating involves, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Duplication of course requirements involves the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructor (see Duplication of Course Requirements).

Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. All allegations of cheating and plagiarism are referred to the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee is a sub-committee of the Education Policy and Planning Committee with representatives from the faculty of all three academic divisions. The Registrar of the seminary chairs the Judicial Committee.
Course Schedule (subject to change)

Class 1 (Oct. 11)

A. Introduction to the course
   NT History overview
   Matthew, Mark, Luke

B. John

C. Assignments for next class:
   - Primary sources: complete readings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and
     John, if you have not already done so. Read Acts, Romans, 1 and 2
     Corinthians, Galatians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Begin your summary
     paper: write a brief summary for each book after reading. Instructions
     are at the end of the syllabus.
   - Secondary sources: Read Fee & Stuart, ch. 7 and Tenney, chs. 6–12
     (or Guthrie, chs. 1–4, 7).
   - Prepare for test #1

Class 2 (Oct. 25)

A. Acts
   Test #1 (11 a.m.)

B. Paul’s early letters: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 and 2
   Thessalonians

C. Assignments for next class:
   - Primary sources: read Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 1
     and 2 Timothy and Titus. Continue work on your summaries for each
     book.
   - Secondary sources: read Fee & Stuart, ch. 6, and Tenney, chs. 13–18
     (or Guthrie, chs. 8–18)
   - Prepare for test #2
Class 3 (Nov. 15)

A. Paul’s prison epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
   Test #2 (11 a.m.)

B. Pastoral epistles: 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus

C. Assignments for next class:
   - **Primary sources:** read Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude, Revelation. Complete summaries paper (Due Dec. 6).
   - **Secondary sources:** read Fee & Stuart, ch. 13, and Tenney, chs. 19–24 (or Guthrie, chs. 19–25).
   - Prepare for test #3

Class 4 (Dec. 6): Reading report and N.T. book summaries assignment DUE today!

A. General Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude

B. 1, 2, and 3 John, Revelation
   Review
Helps for writing your book summaries:

1. Your summary should answer the question, “what is the book of ______________ about?”

2. You should include the main idea of the book. You may add supporting details.

3. You may include information about main themes or events in the book as well as information you have filled in on your N.T. book overview chart.

4. You should be specific about what makes each book unique. For example, all four Gospels include material about the life and teaching of Jesus. But each presents a different focus. What makes each Gospel special?

5. Do original work based on your reading of the text (i.e., do not copy from other books!). When I read your summaries, the question in my mind is “How well does the student interact with the primary text of the Bible? Did they do their own work?” It may be also helpful to consider the key verse, material from Tenney, and class lecture.

6. Further research is not required—but if you choose to use additional sources, they MUST be properly cited—including material from Tenney. Be consistent with whichever style manual you conform to. You might consider using an author-page citation style when referencing sources for this assignment. For example, your in-text citation would look like this: (Tenney, 134). Include a bibliography at the end of your document with all secondary sources you have consulted. A sample bibliographic entry would look like this:


7. Please do not use Internet sources for this assignment.

8. Keep your paragraph brief for each book. In most cases, 4-6 sentences per book should be sufficient.

9. Type and underline the name of each book (see sample below). Double space. Times New Roman and font size 12 are recommended but not required.

10. Proofread your work.
Helps for writing your book summaries (cont.):

11. Sample summary:

Matthew: The Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah and King. Matthew frequently explains how events around Jesus’ life are the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Matthew also includes large blocks of Jesus’ teachings, including the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5–7). Matthew wrote his gospel before departing for the mission field, probably sometime between A.D. 50–70, in order to provide a written document containing his eyewitness accounts of Jesus.
Reading Report
Due Dec. 6

Did you complete the following reading? (30 points possible)

1. Primary Source material (25 points)

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<tr>
<th>N.T. Books</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Part</th>
<th>None</th>
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<td>Matthew</td>
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2. Secondary Source Material (5 points)

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3. Optional: Did you read the entire New Testament a second time for extra credit?

4. Optional: Did you complete any Integrative Seminar reading or recommended reading for extra credit? Include the book title and number of pages read for each.