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 Books**


A good Bible dictionary, such as Douglas, J. D. and Merrill Tenney. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.


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**

You will read the entire New Testament in this course. The reading of New Testament books should be done out loud if possible. Also, if possible, each book should be read in one sitting. This will help you better understand the main themes and flow of each book. Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. You will be asked to complete a reading report at the last class meeting. Extra credit may be available for reading the New Testament a second time (this may be a silent reading).

After reading each New Testament book, you will write a brief summary of no more than one paragraph. Keep your book summaries together in a single, ongoing document. All summaries will be due on the last class meeting (April 12).

This course also involves three tests. Each will cover the New Testament books and material covered in the previous class.

Grading will be as follows:

- **Test #1**: 20%
- **Test #2**: 20%
- **Test #3**: 20%
- **Summaries**: 10%
- **Reading**: 30%
**Students are requested to 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.**

**Attendance of all class sessions is expected.**

**Course Schedule (subject to change)**

Feb. 15 (Class 1)

A. Introduction to the course (explanation of syllabus)
   NT History overview
   Matthew, Mark, Luke

B. John

C. Assignments for next class (cont. on p. 3):
   - **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. Write a brief summary for each book.
   - **Secondary sources:** Read Fee & Stuart, ch. 7 and Tenney, 149–226
   - Prepare for test #1

Mar. 8 (Class 2):

A. Acts
   Test #1

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. Write a brief summary for each book.
   - **Secondary sources:** read Fee & Stuart, ch. 6, and Tenney, 231–343
   - Prepare for test #2

Mar. 29 (Class 3):

A. Paul’s Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
   Test #2

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. Write a brief summary for each book.
- **Secondary sources**: read Fee & Stuart, ch. 13, and Tenney, 344–423
- Prepare for test #3

Apr. 12 (Class 4):

A. Catholic Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude
   Test #3

B. 1, 2, and 3 John, Revelation
   Review
   Reading report, book summaries, and evaluations due

Tentative snow day: April 19

**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 Judicial Committee is chaired by the Registrar of the seminary.