Introduction to the New Testament

Gerry Wheaton, gerry.wheaton@gmail.com
Orlando, Florida
February 23-28

Aim of the course. The aim of this course is to prepare the student for future exegesis coursework through an investigation of the backgrounds, origins, circumstances, and character of the New Testament books. In order to advance into deeper engagement with the Word of God, students must establish a foundational understanding of the historical context of the New Testament and the earliest Church as well as a basic familiarity with the issues surrounding the scholarly study of the New Testament, today. At Gordon-Conwell, the course ‘Introduction New Testament’ traditionally seeks to supply this need and so lay the foundation for more detailed engagement with individual New Testament books.

Contents of the course.

1. Historical and cultural background of the ministry of Jesus and the early Church;
2. Introduction to the origins, nature, and character of the Gospels and Acts;
3. Introduction to the epistolary genre as well as the origins and circumstances of the NT epistles.

Evaluation.

1. 50% An essay exam will test the student’s mastery of the material presented in the course. The test will cover the material presented in class and assumes familiarity with the treatment of the same topics in Carson and Moo. The exam must be completed and
returned to the profesor electronically two weeks after the final class meeting (Fri, March 13).

2. 50% An essay investigating the various positions concerning the authorship of a disputed NT book (e.g., 1 Timothy, Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Peter). The student will conclude by \textit{arguing} for (not simply declaring) the best conclusion. The essay should be no less than eight pages and must be submitted on Fri, March 21.


\textbf{Topics covered.}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro to course; Jewish backgrounds</td>
<td>Jesus &amp; the Gospels</td>
<td>Jesus &amp; the Gospels; Acts</td>
<td>Pauline letters</td>
<td>Pauline letters</td>
<td>Catholic epistles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>