Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Hispanic Ministries Program

Instructors: Dr. Sean McDonough and Dr. Alvin Padilla
Teaching Assistant: Sam Rogers

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Course Description
NT 501 is a survey of the primary content, context, persons, and themes of the New Testament. This course introduces students to the following:
1) the history and culture of the first century that provide the backdrop to biblical events
2) the Old Testament foundations for the New Testament
3) some methods for interpreting the biblical text (genre criticism, source and redaction criticisms)
4) modern lenses for relating the New Testament to contemporary life and society

Gordon-Conwell Mission
This course satisfies the following institutional learning objectives:
- Demonstrate a strong understanding of both the content of the Bible and the overarching redemptive story from Genesis to Revelation.

Course Learning Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will:
- Recognize the main figures, events, and themes in the 27 New Testament documents, their relationship to the Old Testament, and their ongoing significance for our lives.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of background information and utilize resources that illuminate the geographical, historical, and cultural contexts of God’s revelation in the New Testament.
- Interpret the New Testament with sensitivity to background, genre, the Old Testament, and literary context.
- Examine into the early Church’s mission, theological convictions, and moral practices.
- Integrate the skills of careful textual analysis with disciplined and focused academic writing

Required Materials
- Any modern translation of the Bible (NASB, ESV, NRSV, NIV, HCSB, etc)

Notes on the Reading
- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth should be read at the beginning of the course.
- The relevant sections of An Introduction to the New Testament should be read before each class. For instance, if the lectures are over Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians; read each of those seconds.
- Conflict and Community in Corinth is to be read prior to the lecture on I & II Corinthians
- All books are available for Kindle or e-reader on Amazon.
Course Outline

- Lecture 2: The Canon, The Gospels and the “Historical Jesus,” Matthew
- Lecture 3: Matthew, continued, Mark
- Lecture 4: Mark, continued. Luke
- Lecture 5: John and the Johannine Epistles
- Lecture 6: Pauline Epistles, Romans
- Lecture 7: I Corinthians
- Lecture 8: II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians
- Lecture 9: I & II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Hebrews
- Lecture 10: James, I & II Peter, Jude, Revelation

Course Requirements

Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. Descriptions of the assignments are listed below.

I. Content Mastery

To meet the objectives of knowing and understanding the NT, students need to spend a great deal of time reading, listening to lectures, and interacting with the content. Content Mastery will be encouraged and measured through the following activities.

a. Readings

The core content and primary text for this course is the New Testament itself. Students are expected to have read it prior to beginning the first assignment. Two tests (a midterm and a final) will specifically cover the content of much of the New Testament. The assignment will include other reading and viewing requirements. Reading Introduction to the New Testament will help you understand each book of the Bible by attending to introductory issues (authorship, audience, place, and situation being addressed), purpose, structure, major themes, and some historical background information. Fee and Stuart’s How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth pays particular attention to reading and interpreting different genres. Conflict and Community in Corinth will analyze one book in-depth with particular attention paid to social and cultural norms of first century Corinth.

b. Lectures

Students are expected to listen to one full lecture (parts A and B) a week. The lectures are three hours each. Students are provided with a transcript of the lectures as well as outline to assist in learning the material and for reference. Students are also provided with a course notebook. The notebook is not required but may assist the student in learning. The workbook is completely optional and will not affect the student’s grade.

c. Tests

There are two exams: a midterm and a final. Exam study guides are available in the appendix of the course notebook available on Sakai. You will have one hour to complete each test. Both tests include identification, short answer, multiple choice, and summaries of the New Testament books. The midterm exam will be on October 14. The final exam will be on December 2. You will be able to take it any time during those days as long as the exam is completed before 11:59PM local time on that day. Contact the Teaching Assistant (srogers@gcts.edu) for questions regarding the tests.

II. Content Creation

Students will not only master the content of the New Testament, but will also build their own understanding of the larger meaning of the NT. The final, integrative essay will provide one way for students to synthesize the books of the New Testament.

a. Final Integrative Essay

Students will be required to submit a final essay that integrates the teaching in the New Testament. The essay is to be between 3,000 and 4,000 words (not under and not over). References to the textbook should be by first author and page number. For your own purposes, add a bibliography at the end of the paper so that, in the future, you
know which books you were referencing. No additional research is expected beyond the course lectures, textbooks, provided online resources, and the student’s own reading of the New Testament. Avoid long quotes from Scripture in the paper. For a full description of topics to be covered in the essay and the grading rubric, please view the Final Assignment Description document to be posted on Sakai. **Due December 17.**

b. **Reflection Essays**
Students will hand in 5 reflection essays during the course of the semester. These papers will serve to help the student process relevant information and build research skills. In general, each paper is to be **no shorter than one full page and no longer than six** pages though the page limit will vary from paper to paper. Instructions for each paper, including page requirements for each assignment, will be available in Sakai.

### Summary of Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Maximum Points Possible Per Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points Possible</th>
<th>% of Total Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Activities (5)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Integrative Essay</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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### Course Policies

I. **Proctored Exams**
All exams in this course will be proctored. Information regarding proctors will be given to the class during the semester. All exams will be given either completely online or in print format. If the print format is selected by the student, the test **must be scanned and emailed upon completion**. Any test mailed will not be accepted.

II. **Document Formatting and Submission**
Formatting preferences and citation style:
- Please use the latest version of Turabian as the style guide for the essays and integrative paper. Format the paper with 1” margins, 12 pt Times New Roman font, and use footnotes (rather than endnotes). Double spacing or 1.5 spacing will be accepted.
- Papers should be submitted electronically and labeled with first initial and last name followed by the course and semester. Example: **jsmithNT501FA13**. More instructions will be given during the semester.

II. **Late Work**
Writing assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade **per day**. If your assignment is one day late and is given a B-, the grade will be changed to a C+.

III. **Course Calendar**
A brief synopsis of assignments required and their due dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Background of NT Essay</td>
<td>September 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miracles in NT Essay</td>
<td>October 7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
<td><strong>October 14</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Place Study Essay</td>
<td>October 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek Orators and Paul’s Mission</td>
<td>November 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Identity in the NT</td>
<td>November 18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis Paper</td>
<td>December 17</td>
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