**NT501: New Testament Survey**  
*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
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

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 those sections.
- *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.

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 module. Two quizzes will specifically cover the content of much of the New Testament. The modules 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 divided into parts A and B which are around 90 minutes each. The full lectures (parts A and B) 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 May 27. The final exam will be on July 8. You will be able to take it any time during those days as long as the exam is completed before 11:59PM on that day.

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 Aug 8, 2013.

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. Each paper is to be no shorter than one full page and no longer than five pages. Instructions for each paper will be available in Sakai. The due dates are as follows:

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<td>Final Integrative Essay</td>
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Course Policies

Proctored Exams
All exams in this course will be proctored. The student will need to identify a suitable proctor and location and submit this information a week before the test is to be taken. Proctor forms are available on Sakai under modules. Exam proctor information is further explained in the Exam Proctor Information handout. 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.

Instructor Feedback
Please send your questions, concerns, or comments to the Teaching Assistant, Sam Rogers. He will attempt to answer questions or messages within two or three days, excluding weekends.

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.

File naming convention for assignments:
- Papers should be submitted electronically and labeled with first initial and last name followed by the course and semester. Example: jsmithNT500Sp13.

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+.

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

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Miracles in NT Essay</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Place Study Essay</td>
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<td>Greek Orators and Paul’s Mission</td>
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<td>Christian Identity in the NT</td>
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