Syllabus: NT501

NT501: New Testament Survey with Dr. Sean McDonough

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Snapshot of Course Requirements

NT501 requires timely completion of the following four course requirements:

1. Exams (90% of your grade—45% for the midterm and 45% for the final)
2. Required Reading (10% of your grade)
3. Interactivity (required for course grade to be submitted to registration office)
4. Course Checkout/Reading Report (after you have finished all course requirements above)

Textbooks


Notes on the Reading

- Carson, Moo, and Morris' *An Introduction to the New Testament* is NOT the same as *Introducing the New Testament* by Carson, Moo, and Andrew Naselli.
- Fee and Stuart's *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* should be read at the beginning of the course.
- The relevant sections of Carson, et. al., and Fee and Stuart's *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* should be read while studying the New Testament books in question. There is substantial overlap between these two volumes. This is quite intentional. Rehearsing the same basic material in slightly different ways is essential to the kind of learning necessary in a course like this.
- Witherington's book should be read during the lectures on I and II Corinthians. It is included to provide an accessible but challenging introduction to more in-depth study of a particular New Testament book.
- Your final reading report for the course is part of the Course Checkout Form.

Grading

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<th>Grading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Taking an Exam

There are two exams for this course. One hour will be allotted for each exam. Both exams are varied format and may contain identification, short answer, multiple choice, and summaries of New Testament books. The midterm exam should be taken after completing Lecture 5. The final exam should be taken after completing Lecture 10.

Click here to access a helpful review guide for both exams.

There are two ways you may take an exam for this course:

1. **Electronically** (preferred format): To take an exam electronically, click "Tests & Quizzes" on the left menu (under Project Tools).
   - Select the exam you plan to take. You must provide proctor information (including your proctor's email address) to the Semlink office prior to taking your exam. You cannot login to and/or take an exam without a proctor present.
   - Before taking your exam, your proctor will review important information with you and will then log you into the exam when you are ready to begin. Your proctor must remain present throughout the duration of the exam. You may use your own computer (e.g. a laptop) or a computer provided by your proctor.
   - Ensure you have a reliable internet connection.
   - This format allows you to type your essay responses directly into Sakai.

2. **Paper-based Exam**: To take your exam by paper, click "Tests & Quizzes" on the left menu (under Project Tools). Select the exam you plan to take (it will include "paper exam" in the title).
   - The exam will be available in PDF format. You will need to provide proctor information in order to access your exam (including your proctor's email address).
   - Your proctor will need to print your exam, and preferably have access to a scanner to submit your exam.
   - When you have completed your exam, your proctor may either 1) scan and upload your exam to Sakai, 2) email a scanned copy to the Semlink office; 3) mail to the address provided.
   - This format requires you to handwrite your responses on notebook or blank white paper.

If you plan to take an exam in one of the **GCTS libraries**, you do not need to request your exam through the Semlink office. You may take the exam any time provided the library is open and able to accommodate your request. Library computers can be used to take the exam, but are limited and not always available at all times of day. Use of your own laptop computer is highly recommend. Check with the library also for special summer and holiday hours, or other changes to their schedule that may affect your ability to take your exam. Boston/CUME, Charlotte, and Jacksonville students may need to contact the library to set up a time to take an exam.

Click here to request an exam for this course.

Interactivity

As a member of the Association of Theological Schools, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary recognizes the value of interactivity in distance learning and complies with the standards for accreditation set by ATS which include interactivity as a compulsory component of any distance learning program that wishes to continue granting credit for its courses. The purpose of Semlink interactivity is to enhance learning by providing an online environment for students to engage meaningfully and substantively with professors, teaching fellows, and other students in order to achieve an enriching and academically challenging distance learning experience.

There are two interactivity requirements for this course:

1. **An online discussion forum**: converse with other students and with instructors on the Semlink forum. You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. To ensure successful completion of this requirement, please complete your participation in the discussion forums at least one week prior to your course due date. This will allow sufficient time for you to resubmit any responses if necessary.

2. **Email-based conversation** with your Semlink teaching fellow. You are required to email a total of three (3) times, including your original response to the conversation starter. Please allow a minimum of one month to complete this conversation to allow time for the teaching fellow to respond. Allow five business days for a response to each of your submissions.

To begin your interactivity (and for more details about this requirement), see the Interactivity section under Modules. This section will explain in more detail what is expected for this requirement.

If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.
## Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| Lecture 01 | • Introduction: Why Academic Study of the New Testament?
|           | • What the New Testament is All About
|           | • General Historical Background: Second Jewish History and the Hellenistic World |
| Lecture 02 | • The Canon
|           | • The Gospels and the "Historical Jesus"
|           | • The Gospel of Matthew |
| Lecture 03 | • The Gospel of Matthew (continued)
|           | • The Gospel of Mark |
| Lecture 04 | • The Gospel of Mark (continued)
|           | • The Gospel of Luke |
| Lecture 05 | • The Gospel of John and the Johannine Epistles
|           | • The Acts of the Apostles |
| Lecture 06 | • The Pauline Epistles
|           | • Romans
|           | • I Corinthians |
| Lecture 07 | • I Corinthians (continued) |
| Lecture 08 | • II Corinthians
|           | • Galatians
|           | • Ephesians
|           | • Philippians |
| Lecture 09 | • I and II Thessalonians
|           | • The Pastoral Epistles: I and II Timothy, Titus
|           | • Hebrews |
| Lecture 10 | • James
|           | • I Peter
|           | • II Peter and Jude
|           | • Revelation |