



**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
VIRTUAL CAMPUS
SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

Wayland Mission Statement: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Course Title and Number: RLGN1302 VC04 New Testament History

Term: Fall 2017

Name of Instructor: Dr. Matt Sanders

Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address: 808-366-0121 (mobile call and text), matthew.sanders@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: No office hours. By appointment only. Unless it is an emergency, contact me via email then text and finally telephone if necessary. I live in Hawaii. Be mindful of the time difference should you need to call.

Class Meeting Time and Location: Virtual campus

Catalog Description: New Testament History is an introductory survey of the historical literature with special attention to the background and origins of Christian beliefs and practices, and to the life of Jesus Christ and the early Christian community.

Prerequisites: None

Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material: Lea, Thomas D. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2003. 2nd edition. ISBN: 0805426329 or 9780805426328

New International Version (NIV) Personal Size Study Bible. Zondervan Bible Staff. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-310-43732-1

Course Outcome Competencies:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, religious, and social context of the New Testament world.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in New Testament studies.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic content of the New Testament and its main teachings (theological content).

4. Demonstrate knowledge of the canonical process producing a more complete understanding of the New Testament.

Attendance Requirements: Because this is an online course, attendance means to participate in the course activities in a timely manner. Failure to participate in a timely manner could mean that you will be dropped from the course.

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

Reading reports (10 percent) Keeping up with the reading is very important. Before the end of the week that the reading is assigned, go to the “Content” section on Blackboard and access the appropriate reading report. In the report, indicate the percentage of the reading that you have completed.

Reading quizzes (25 percent) Each week you will complete a quiz for the week’s reading. The quiz will be timed, approximately 1 minute per question. You should complete the reading before taking the quiz. You are allowed to use your book and notes, but there is not enough time to look up every answer.

New Testament reading journal (10 percent) You will make an entry into an online reading journal for each book of the New Testament. The entry is not a summary of what you read. Instead, the entry should be reflective including your opinion, insights, questions, or other thoughts related to the reading. An “A” entry will be well-written with good content and at least 500 words.

Discussion board (15 percent) Each week discussion questions based on the reading assignments will be posted online. You will need to respond to each of these questions. Your responses will be evaluated based on relevancy, accuracy, and clarity.

Exams (40 percent) You will have two exams for this course. Each will cover about half of the course and each will be worth 20% of your grade. These are proctored exams. Instructions will be posted on Blackboard during the course. Study guides will also be posted.

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade

Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Grading

The following scale of points will determine your final grade:

A = 90 - 100	Exhibits excellent scholarship, takes initiative in exploring studies, motivates others in cooperative efforts, improves consistently.
B = 80 - 89	Exhibits accurate scholarship, benefits class with achievements, works effectively in groups, improves noticeably.
C = 70 - 79	Completes most assignments, contributes to discussions, exhibits some interest in studies, improves somewhat.
D = 60 - 69	Does not meet most assignments, exhibits indifference to studies, slows the progress of the class, improves unremarkably if at all.
F = 0 - 59	Misses class excessively, detracts from class progress, shows no improvement, fails to do assignments, plagiarizes.

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Course Outline

Reading is an important part of the learning process. It will provide you greater context for understanding Scripture, raise questions for further study, help you participate in online discussions, help you when reviewing for quizzes, and create a resource for future ministry. Reading assignments might include lecture notes on the topics listed in the text. You should also read the introductions to each New Testament book as assigned. The introductions are found in the NIV Study Bible. You may read and work ahead. The assignments are typically posted Sunday at midnight and due a week later by 11:59 p.m.

B&M – Dr. Lea’s book; NIV – NIV Study Bible

WEEK 1

READING: B&M 69-82, 7-29

Transmission and canonicity; Intertestamental period

WEEK 2

READING: B&M 31-46, 47-67; NIV Matthew

The world of the New Testament
Journal entry 1 on the Gospel according to Matthew (NIV)

WEEK 3

READING: B&M 113-130, 85-111; NIV Mark

The synoptic problem
Overview of the life of Jesus
Journal entry 2 on the Gospel according to Mark (NIV)

WEEK 4

READING: B&M 131-169, 171-189; NIV John

Overview of the Gospels
Preincarnation to early ministry of Jesus
Journal entry 3 on the Gospel according to John (NIV)

WEEK 5

READING: B&M 191-221, 223-243; NIV Luke

The Galilean ministry
The Judean ministry
Journal entry 4 on the NIV Gospel according to Luke

WEEK 6

READING: B&M 245-278, 281-300; NIV Acts 1-12

Crucifixion and Resurrection (This will be on the first exam.)
The birth and growth of the early church (This will be on the second exam.)
Journal entry 5 on the first 12 chapters of the Acts of the Apostles (NIV)
First exam to be taken by the end of the week

WEEK 7

READING: B&M 301-329, 363-376, 389-402; NIV Acts 13-28, Galatians, Romans

Part II. The birth and growth of the early church
Journal entry 6 on the chapters 13-28 of the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters (NIV) Journal
entry 7 on Galatians (NIV)
Journal entry 8 on Romans (NIV)

WEEK 8

READING: B&M 402-429; 377-388; NIV 1 & 2 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians

1 & 2 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians (NIV)
Journal entry 9 on 1 and 2 Corinthians (NIV)
Journal entry 10 on 1 and 2 Thessalonians (NIV)

WEEK 9

READING: B&M 431-462; 463-491; NIV Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus

Journal entry 11 on Prison Epistles -Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (NIV)
Journal entry 12 on Pastorals - 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus (NIV)

WEEK 10

READING: B&M 495-509, 511-524, 525-549; NIV Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter

Journal entry 13 on Hebrews (NIV)

Journal entry 14 on James (NIV)

Journal entry 15 on 1 and 2 Peter (NIV)

WEEK 11

READING: B&M 551-565, 567-575, 577-605; NIV 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation

Journal entry 16 on 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude (NIV)

Journal entry 17 on Revelation (NIV)

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Any student who submits work as part of the requirements for a course thereby asserts that the student personally has done that work and that it has not been submitted for credit in any other course without permission. Unless credit is explicitly given to sources, the student is asserting that the words and/or the thoughts are the student's own original work. Falling short of these standards is academic dishonesty. In submitting an exam, the student is also affirming that he or she has complied with the conditions of the exam.

Academic dishonesty will result in at minimum a report made to the university and the student receiving no credit for the assignment or exam.

Respect

Because the university classroom is designed for the free exchange of ideas, students are encouraged to be honest in expressing their views. Other students are likewise encouraged to share contrary views, but everyone should do so in a spirit of compassion and consideration.

Rights

Under FERPA, you have rights to see your education records upon request. Please see the WBU catalog for specific instructions.

This syllabus is a plan for the course and subject to change. As instructor, I reserve the right to alter the course material to more effectively achieve the course objectives and to alter the course requirements to more accurately assess student progress and performance.