

RLGN 1302 VC02—NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY

WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY-Virtual Campus

Fall 1 2020 TERM (17 August-10 October 2020)

THOMAS W. FISHER, Ph.D.,

PROFESSOR OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am-6:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Telephone: (505) 323-9282

e-mail address: fishert@wbu.edu

**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.

1. **COURSE DESCRIPTION: A survey of New Testament backgrounds, theological content, and application.**
2. **TEXTBOOKS:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Editor/ Author** | **Publisher** | **Edition** | **Year** | **ISBN #** |
| ***The NIV Study Bible*** | **J. D. Douglas and**  **Merrill C. Tenney** | **Zondervan** |  | **2011 2017** | **9780310438922 or**  **9780310534891** |
| ***Introducing the New Testament*** | **Mark Allan Powell** | **Baker** | **2nd** | **2018** | **9780801099601 or**  **9780801099694 or**  **9781493422401** |

1. COURSE OUTLINE: Part One: New Testament Backgrounds

Part Two: The Life and Teachings of Jesus, the Christ, as presented in the Gospels

Part Three: Acts

Part Four: The Pauline Corpus

Part Five: The General Epistles

Part Six: Revelation

1. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
2. **Weekly attendance, per current Wayland Baptist University Catalogue**
3. **Reading of ALL assigned passages in the New Testament and Powell**
4. **Participation in all discussion boards and reading journals**
5. **Three major exams**
6. **Reading quizzes over reading material**
7. **Watching ALL lecture videos**
8. GRADING CRITERIA: Students will be graded on their knowledge of the contents of the New Testament and the Powell text as demonstrated by performance on exams, quizzes, discussion boards, reading journals and class participation. ALL STUDENTS MUST WATCH ALL WEEKLY VIDEOS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE READING JOURNALS AND DISCUSSION BOARDS FOR THAT WEEK!!!
   * + 1. **MAJOR TESTS:**  Three major exams will be given, each final over the covered material. The average of these exams will comprise 50% of the final grade. Those who miss an exam without informing the instructor **PRIOR** to the class meeting will be docked one letter grade on their score for that exam. Make-up exams **MUST** be taken **BEFORE** the next class meeting. Failure to follow this policy **MAY** result in the forfeiture of the grade for that exam. **Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to take more than one exam as a make-up. The final exam is a proctored exam. Do not wait until the last minute to make arrangements for your proctor.**
       2. **READING QUIZZES:**  Five quizzes over the reading assignment for the class period will be an integral part of the course assessment procedure. They will be administered on-line. Students will be expected to have taken the quizzes prior to arrival to class on the weeks assigned. The highest four grades from the five quizzes given will be averaged and comprise 30% of the final grade.
       3. **BLACKBOARD JOURNAL BASED ON ASSIGNED READING:** Each student is expected to read through **BOTH** the New Testament (with its notes) and the Powell text during the term. The reading assignments as well as a review of the class notes for the period should be complete **PRIOR** to the class meeting for the day assigned. Students should read the New Testament in coordination with the Powell text. Students should journal each week, prior to arrival in class. The journal should address the assigned readings and the class notes for the week along the following lines: things learned from the assigned text, the New Testament, or class discussion or notes; questions arising from same; cultural influences perceived from NT; things that inspired or offended you in the week’s material; any other issues you think are important to you. **NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT WATCHED THE VIDEOS FOR THE WEEK!** This assignment will comprise 10% of the final grade.
       4. **DISCUSSION BOARD PARTICIPATION BASED ON VIDEO LECTURES AND TDISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** Each student will not only respond to each question directly, but also engage at least two class mates for their responses. Responses must be civil and respectful to all participants should be offered in grammatically correct English and be checked for spelling and punctuation. Remember, you demonstrate your education by your responses! **NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT WATCHED THE VIDEOS FOR THE WEEK!** This assignment will also comprise 10% of the final grade.
9. COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES: The purpose of this study is to help the student develop an overall understanding of the New Testament, appreciate its value for daily life, develop the ability to think critically and theologically about its content, and interpret its teachings accurately and personally by:
   * + 1. **Demonstrate knowledge of the historical, social, philosophical, and religious background of the New Testament. The student should be able to:**

**A.** Outline the history of the Hebrew people and the Roman Empire during the Intertestamental and New Testament periods;

**B.** Describe the social and moral climate of the Roman Empire;

**C.** Describe the major religious and philosophical systems current in the first Christian century;

**D.** Describe the features and sects of Judaism and Jewish life.

**2. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, purpose, and manner of the writing of the documents that comprise the New Testament. The student should be able to:**

**A.** Outline the structure and divisions of the New Testament;

**B.** Describe the way the New Testament documents came to be written and included in the canon;

**C.** Discuss the authorship, purpose, theme, and main characteristics of the New Testament documents.

**3. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the critical methods used in New Testament studies.**

**4. Demonstrate knowledge of the life and teachings of Jesus. The student will be able to:**

**A.** Relate the major events in the life of Jesus;

**B.** Discuss the ministry and teachings of Jesus.

**5. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature of the early Christian church. The student will be able to outline the major events in its establishment and development.**

**6. Demonstrate knowledge of the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul. The student will be able to:**

**A.** Relate the major events in Paul’s life and ministry;

**B.** Discuss the nature, purpose, and major doctrines of Paul’s letters.

**7. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature of the General Epistles and Revelation. The student will be able to describe their authorship, purpose, and general themes.**

1. **ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to log in every week, watch ALL videos for the week and give good effort on both discussion boards and journals. Attendance is determined by watching the videos. This is tracked EVERY week. Minimal effort will earn a minimal grade.**
2. **CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Students are expected to read all the assigned text materials and participate actively on discussion boards and journals. Students should expect to spend several hours each week working through assignments.**
3. **COURSE OUTLINE**

Week POWELL NEW TESTAMENT Assignments Due

**Week 1** INTRODUCTION-The Gospels RJ1, DB1, RQ1

**Week 2** Matthew-Mark Matthew-Mark RJ2, DB2, RQ2

**Week 3** Luke-John Luke-John Exam 1

**Week 4** Acts-2 Corinthians Acts-2 Corinthians RJ3, DB3, RQ3

**Week 5** Galatians-Colossians Galatians-Colossians RJ4, DB4, RQ4

**Week 6** 1Thessalonians-Philemon 1 Thessalonians-Philemon Exam 2

**Week 7 Hebrews—2 Pet; Jude Hebrews-2 Pet; Jude** RJ5, DB5, RQ5

**Week 8** **1 John-Revelation 1 John-Revelation** Final Exam

1. **EXAMINATION DATES: Week 3 (Course Introduction through John), Week6 (Acts through Philemon), Week 8 (Hebrews through Revelation).**

**All examinations are administered on line. Students are expected to have them COMPLETED by the last date of the listed week. Students will have 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the exams. No notes, books or other helps will be permitted. The Final Exam is a PROCTORED EXAM.** Do not wait until the last minute to arrange for your proctor!

1. **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.**
2. **Plagiarism Statement:** Writing is a collaborative art. Working out ideas for your paper or any other writing assignment with an instructor, writing tutor, classmate, family member, or friend is encouraged not only for this class, but also for other classes that involve writing. Discussion and collaborative brainstorming are good. However, passing off another's ***writing or ideas*** as your own is plagiarism. It is unethical, it constitutes Academic Dishonesty (cheating), and it is sufficient grounds both for failure of a course and suspension from the university.
3. **A FINAL WORD: This syllabus is a plan for the course. The instructor reserves the right to modify this plan as circumstances warrant.**