

BS 111, Course Syllabus
INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

John Leland Center for Theological Studies
Christian Leadership Network

Spring Semester 2012

Class Meetings: Thursdays, 6:00 pm to 8:50 pm, Bonsack Baptist Church. (See the Schedule)

Instructor: James A. Soderberg, B.S., M.Div.

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Course Description: This course is an application of the critical methodology to the text to discover the basic meaning and message of the New Testament. Attention is given to the secular and religious history of the period as well as to the life and teachings of Jesus, the letters of Paul, and the origins of the Christian Church. The course also provides a systematic overview of each book highlighting their content and major themes within the original context.

Course Goals and Objectives:

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

- Be conversant with and understand key terms and concepts in the New Testament
- Introduce the literary types and characteristics of the individual books of the New Testament
- Gain a basic understanding of the message of the New Testament as a whole as well as individual books
- Gain a basic understanding of the culture of the ancient Mediterranean region.
- Understand how the individual books are organized or structured
- Come to understand the origins of Christianity

Course Prerequisites: None.

Required Textbooks and Supplemental Materials:

- *Encountering the New Testament (ENT)*, 2nd Edition, Walter A. Elwell and Robert W. Yarbrough, Baker Academic, copyright 2005, Grand Rapids, MI
- A copy of the Bible. No particular version is required; however, one of the following is recommended: ESV, NIV, RSV, NRSV, NASB (a paraphrase is not recommended).
- Additional short reading assignments may be assigned from material provided by the instructor (no additional cost).

Course Requirements:

- **Class attendance**—Attendance requirements are those outlined in the *John Leland Center Student Handbook*. Students may not miss more than three days per semester unless there are mitigating circumstances. Regardless of the circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to make up any work missed. Class attendance and participation will be factored into the student's final grade.
- **Reading assignments** (see the Schedule)—Although lectures compose an important part of the course, a major objective is to involve students in discussion. Consequently, students are expected to have all

reading assignments for the week completed by the time they come to class. The class schedule specifies the weekly reading assignments and when they are due.

- **Bible-Reading Worksheets**—There are six worksheets throughout the semester that are based upon the reading assignments from the books of the New Testament. These worksheets are questions that come from the reading and require only a short answer. These must be completed and turned in as specified in the Class Schedule.
- **Tests**—There are five tests during the semester. Each test covers a major topic or section of the New Testament. These tests will focus on the textbook readings and lectures.

Policies:

- **Late Work**—All the assigned reading, submissions, and exams are due on their scheduled dates. Make-up exams for excused absence due to mitigating circumstances will be arranged with the instructor at the soonest opportunity and will not suffer a grade penalty. Make-up exams for unexcused absence will have the grade reduced by 5 points for each day late. The late submission of other assignments will result in a reduced grade of 5 points for each day they are late unless there are mitigating circumstances. Mitigating circumstances will be determined at the discretion of the instructor. All course requirements must be completed in order to pass and receive credit for this course.
- **Grading**—A numbered grading system is used for this course and will be applied to all papers and exams. At the end of the course, your total number of earned points will be converted to a letter grade according to the following scale:

A+	98-100	(4.3)	The student has demonstrated outstanding mastery of the material and its application
A	95-97	(4.0)	
A-	93-94	(3.7)	
B+	90-92	(3.3)	The student has demonstrated above average mastery of the material and its application.
B	87-89	(3.0)	
B-	85-86	(2.7)	
C+	82-84	(2.3)	The student has demonstrated the required mastery of the material and its application.
C	79-81	(2.0)	
C-	77-78	(1.7)	
D+	74-76	(1.3)	The student has demonstrated below average mastery of the material and its application.
D	71-73	(1.0)	
D-	69-70	(0.7)	
F	68-below	(0.0)	The student has failed to master the material and its application.

The proportional value of the requirements for the course are as follows:

Test #1	15%
Test #2	15%
Test #3	15%
Test #4	15%
Test #5	15%
Worksheets	15%
Class participation	10%

- **Academic honesty**—STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. The John Leland Center for Theological Studies affirms the worth of every individual. In order to be a Christian community, each

student is expected to maintain exemplary behavior with moral, ethical and academic integrity. Self-discipline and mutual respect are regarded as fair principles of conduct. Each student is responsible for his/her behavior. Any student's participation in the Leland Center may be subject to formal review if any of the above expectations are not met. A student may request a formal review and action by the Program Director of the Southwest Virginia Site. If upon formal review a student's conduct is found to be in violation of the above stated expectations, then the student may be subject to probation, suspension or dismissal. If the decision of the Program Director is regarded as unsatisfactory by the student, then the matter may be referred to the Dean of the Leland center. A further appeal may be made to the Appeals Committee, whose decision is final.

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CLASS SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

BS 111, Introduction to the New Testament, Spring 2012

Week	Date	Reading Assignment Due	Topics/Assign Due/Tests
1	Jan 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch 1 ● Bible: Matthew 1-14 	Introduction and Course Overview (assignments, requirements and reading). New Testament Overview Canon and Transmission
2	Feb 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 2, 13 ● Bible: Matthew 15-28 	New Testament Background: The Worlds of Judaism, Greece, and Rome Worksheet #1 (Matthew) due.
3	Feb 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 3, 8 ● Bible: Luke 1-3; 7; 10 	Test #1. NT Canon & Background The Gospels—Overview
4	Feb 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 4-5 ● Bible: Luke 12-13; 15-16; 18 	Matthew and Mark
5	Feb 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 6-7 ● Bible: Luke 23-24; John 1-6 	Luke and John Worksheet #2 (Luke) due.
6	Mar 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch 10 ● Bible: John 9-10 	Test #2, Gospels Historical New Testament Criticism—Introduction and Overview
7	Mar 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch 11 ● Bible: John 13-15; 19-21 	Form, Source, and Redaction Criticism The “Synoptic Problem” Worksheet #3 (John) due.

8	Mar 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch 12 ● Bible: Nag Hammadi texts (handout) 	“Quest” for the Historical Jesus, Modern Study and the Gnostic Tradition
9	Mar 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 14-17 ● Bible: Acts 1-2; 6-9; 13-14; 15:36-18:22 	Test #3. NT Criticism Acts The Apostle Paul
10	Mar 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 18-20A (p 312) ● Bible: Romans 1-8, 13; 1Corinthians 1; 10; 13; 15; 2Corinthians 5; 10-11; Galatians 1-3; 5-6; Ephesians 1-4 	Romans Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Worksheet #4 (Acts) due.
11	Apr 5	None	Reading Week
12	Apr 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 20B (p 312) -21 ● Bible: Philippians 1; 3-4; Colossians 1-4; Philemon; 1Thessalonians 1-5; 2Thessalonians 1-3; 1Timothy 1-3; Titus 3 	Philippians Colossians Philemon Thessalonians Timothy Titus Worksheet #5 (Rom, Cor, Gal, Eph, Phil, Col, Thess) due.
13	Apr 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 22A (pp 347-353) ● Bible: Hebrews 1-2; 5; 8-9; 11 	Test #4. Acts and Pauline Epistles Hebrews
14	Apr 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs 22B (p 353) -23 ● Bible: James 2; 4-5; 1Peter 1-2; 2Peter 3; 1John 1-3; Jude 	James Peter Epistle of John Jude Worksheet #6 (Heb, Jas, Peter, John) due.
15	May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch 24 ● Bible: Revelation 1-7; 12-14; 19-21 	Apocalyptic Literature Revelation
16	May 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>ENT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ch 25 (Optional) 	Test #5 General Epistles and Revelation