

**SAMPLE SYLLABUS**  
**for**  
**Encounter with the New Testament**

(designed for thirty-nine 50-minute class sessions)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION**

- Two unit tests
2. Final examination
  3. Three 3-4 page reaction-papers
  4. Participation

**GUIDELINES FOR REACTION-PAPERS**

1. Students will write **three** reaction-papers, choosing **one topic from each of the three lists** given in the Appendix to this syllabus. The papers should be the equivalent of 3-4 typewritten pages (750-1,000 words); handwritten papers must be legible. All papers must be double-spaced and have a one-inch margin on both the right and left sides as well as at the top and bottom.
1. These papers are **NOT RESEARCH PAPERS**. They are opportunities for students to give their own reactions to the assigned readings in the Bible and the textbook (EWNT), as well as to show a basic understanding of these materials.

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND STUDY GUIDE**

**Session 1:** Introductory Session.

**Session 2:** EWNT: Introduction and Ch. 1. **Study Guide:** Answer all questions at end of both the Introduction and Ch. 1.

**UNIT I: BEFORE THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**Session 3:** EWNT: Prologue to Part One; Ch. 2, pp. 25-37. **Study Guide:** answer questions 1-4 at end of Ch. 2.

**Session 4:** EWNT: Ch. 2, pp. 37-54. **Study Guide:** answer questions 5-17 at end of Ch. 2.

**Session 5:**

- (1.) EWNT: Ch. 3, pp. 57-62; **Study Guide:** answer questions 1-4 at end of Ch. 3.
- (2.) BIBLE: (a.) Matthew 13:44-45; (b.) Matthew 21:33-41; (c.) Luke 15:11-32; (d.) Luke 14: 16-24; Matthew 22:1014; (e.) Luke 10:29-37; Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21; (f.) Luke 18:1-8. EWNT: Ch. 3, pp. 62-69; **Study Guide:** answer questions 5-7 at the end of Ch. 3.

**Session 6:**

- (1.) BIBLE: (a.) Mark 12:28-34; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37); EWNT: Ch. 3, pp. 69-71.

(2.) **BIBLE:** (a.) Mark 1:21-45; Mark 3:19b-27; (b.) Mark 2:15-16; Luke 7:31-35; Luke 8:1-3; Luke 10:38-42; (3.) Mark 1:9-11; (c.) Mark 11:15-19; (d.) Mark 14:12-21; **EWNT:** Ch. 3, pp. 71-82; **Study Guide:** answer questions 8-11 at end of Ch. 3.

**Session 7:** **BIBLE:** (a.) Mark 16:1-8; (b.) Matthew 27:62-28:20; (c.) Luke 24:1-53; (d.) John 20:1-21:25; **EWNT:** Ch. 4. **Study Guide:** answer all questions at the end of Ch. 4.

**Session 8:**

(1.) **EWNT:** Epilogue to Part I. **Study Guide:** answer all study questions at end of the Epilogue to Part I.

(2.) **REACTION-PAPER #1 DUE: See Appendix for topics.**

**Session 9: REVIEW OF UNIT I**

**Session 10: Test on Unit I**

**UNIT II: THE GOSPELS AND ACTS**

**Session 11:**

(1.) **EWNT:** Prologue to Part Two; Ch. 5, pp. 111-112; **Study Guide:** answer all the study questions at the end of Prologue to Part Two.

(2.) **BIBLE:** Mark 1:1-8:26; **EWNT:** Ch. 5, pp. 112-116. **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1-3 at the end of Ch. 5.

**Session 12:** **BIBLE:** Mark 8:27-16:8; **EWNT:** Ch. 5, pp. 116-126. **Study Guide:** answer study questions 4-8 at the end of Ch. 5.

**Session 13:** **EWNT:** Ch. 6, pp. 128-129; **BIBLE:** Matthew 1:1-16:20; **EWNT:** Ch. 6, pp. 129-133. **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1-5 at the end of Ch. 6.

**Session 14:** **BIBLE:** Matthew 16:21-28:20; **EWNT:** Ch. 6, pp. 133-44. **Study Guide:** answer study questions 6-14 at the end of Ch. 6.

**Session 15:** **BIBLE:** **EWNT:** Ch. 7, pp. 147-52; **BIBLE:** Luke 1:1-9:50; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1-2 at the end of Ch. 7.

**Session 16:** **BIBLE:** Luke 9:51-24:53; **EWNT:** Ch. 7, pp. 152-57; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 3-7 at the end of Ch. 7.

**Session 17:** **BIBLE:** Acts 1:1-22:29; **EWNT:** Ch. 7, pp. 157-60; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1-14 at the end of Ch. 7.

**Session 18:** **BIBLE:** Acts 22:30-28:31; **EWNT:** Ch. 7, pp. 163-71; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 15-21 at the end of Ch. 7.

**Session 19:** **EWNT:** Ch. 8, pp. 174-75; **BIBLE:** John 1-12; **EWNT:** Ch. 8, pp. 175-81; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1-7 at the end of Ch. 8.

**Session 20:** **BIBLE:** John 13-21; **EWNT:** Ch. 8, pp. 182-92; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 8-16 at the end of Ch. 8.

**Session 21:**

- (1.) EWNT, Epilogue to Part Two.
- (2.) **Reaction-Paper #2 Due: See Appendix for topics.**

**Session 22: Review of Unit II**

**Session 23: TEST ON UNIT II**

**UNIT III: THE LETTERS**

**Session 24:**

- (1.) EWNT: Prologue to Part Three; **Study Guide:** answer all the study questions at the end of Prologue to Part Three.
- (2.) EWNT: Ch. 9, pp. 215-16; **BIBLE:** Philemon; EWNT: Ch. 9, pp. 216-19. **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1-3 at the end of Ch. 9
- (3.) EWNT: Ch. 9, pp. 219-220; **BIBLE:** 1 Thessalonians; EWNT, Ch. 9, pp. 220-22. **Study Guide:** answer study questions 4-5 at the end of Ch. 9.

**Session 25**

- (1.) EWNT: Ch. 9, pp. 222-23; **BIBLE:** Philippians ; EWNT: Ch. 9, pp. 223-25; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 6-8 at the end of Ch. 9
- (2.) EWNT: Ch. 9, pp. 225-26; **BIBLE:** Galatians; EWNT: Ch. 9, pp. 226-28. **Study Guide:** answer questions 9-15 at the end of Ch. 9

**Session 26:** EWNT: Ch. 10, pp. 231-32; **BIBLE:** 1 Corinthians; EWNT: Ch. 10, pp. 232-38. **Study Guide:** answer questions 1-8 at the end of Ch. 10.

**Session 27—**EWNT: Ch. 10, pp. 238-239; **BIBLE:** 2 Corinthians; EWNT, Ch. 10, pp. 239-41. **Study Guide:** answer questions 9-15 at the end of Ch. 10

**Session 28:** EWNT: Ch. 11, pp. 244-45; **BIBLE:** Romans 1-8; EWNT: Ch. 11, pp. 246-50; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1-7 at the end of Ch. 11.

**Sessions 29:** **BIBLE:** Romans 9-16; EWNT: Ch. 11, pp. 250-52; **Study Guide:** answer questions 8-10 at the end of Ch. 11.

**Session 30:** EWNT: Ch. 12. **Study Guide:** answer all questions at the end of Ch. 12.

**Session 31:**

- (1.) EWNT: Ch. 13, p. 269-70; **BIBLE:** 2 Thessalonians; EWNT: 270-71. **Study Guide:** answer study question 2 at the end of Ch. 13.
- (2.) EWNT: Ch. 13, pp. 271-72; **BIBLE:** Colossians; EWNT: Ch. 13, pp.273-74. **Study Guide:** answer study question 3 at the end of Ch. 13.

**Session 32:**

- (1.) EWNT: Ch. 13, pp. 274-75; **BIBLE:** Ephesians; EWNT: Ch. 13, pp. 275-79; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 4-5 at the end of Ch. 13.

(2.) **EWNT:** Ch. 13, pp. 279-81; **BIBLE:** 2 Timothy, 1 Timothy, and Titus; **EWNT:** Ch. 13, pp. 281-83; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1 and 6-9 at the end of Ch. 13.

**Session 33:**

(1.) **EWNT:** Epilogue to Part Three; **Study Guide:** answer all the study questions at the end of the Epilogue to Part Three.

(2.) **EWNT:** Prologue to Part Four; **Study Guide:** answer all the study questions at the end of the Prologue to Part Four.

**Session 34:** **EWNT:** Ch. 14, pp. 300-301; **BIBLE:** Hebrews; **EWNT:** pp. 301-306; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 1-5 at the end of Ch. 14.

**Session 35:**

(1.) **EWNT:** Ch. 14, p. 306; James; **EWNT:** Ch. 15, pp. 306-308. **Study Guide:** answer study questions 6-8 at the end of Ch. 14.

(2.) **EWNT:** Ch. 14, pp. 308-309; **BIBLE:** 1 Peter; **EWNT:** Ch. 14, pp. 309-12.

(3.) **EWNT:** Ch. 14, p. 312; **BIBLE:** Jude; **EWNT:** Ch. 14, pp. 312-13; **BIBLE:** 2 Peter; **EWNT:** Ch. 14, pp. 313-15; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 9-12 at the end of Ch. 14.

**Session 36:** **EWNT:** Ch. 14, pp. 315-17; **BIBLE:** 1 John; **EWNT:** Ch. 14, pp. 317-321; **BIBLE:** 2 and 3 John; **EWNT:** Ch. 14, pp. 321-22. **Study Guide:** answer study questions 13-17 at the end of Ch. 14.

**Session 37:** **EWNT:** Ch. 15, pp. 325-31; **BIBLE:** Revelation 1-9; **EWNT:** Ch. 15, pp. 331-32; **Study Guide:** answer questions 1-5 at the end of Ch. 15.

**Session 38:** **BIBLE:** Revelation 10-22. **EWNT:** Ch. 15, pp. 332-38; **Study Guide:** answer study questions 6-12 at the end of Ch. 15.

**Session 39**

**EWNT:** Epilogue. **REACTION-PAPER # 3 DUE: See Appendix for topics.**  
**Review for Final Examination**

**APPENDIX: TOPICS FOR REACTION-PAPERS**

**I. REACTION-PAPER #1: Choose one of the following topics. In either case, draw explicitly upon both EWNT and the biblical passages assigned in Unit I to make your points.**

(1.) How My View of Jesus the Historical Person Has Changed (or: Why it has Not Changed) Through the Reading and Discussion in this course).

(2.) The Social and Political Implications of the Teachings of the Historical Person Jesus (as discussed in EWNT) for the Twenty-First Century U.S.A.

**II. REACTION-PAPER #2: Choose one of the following topics.**

- (1.) Drawing on the section, “Mark and Liberation” (EWNT, pp. 124-25), as well as your own reading of Mark, explain why you do or do not think the Gospel of Mark is a good resource for promoting liberation from oppressive social structures in our time.
- (2.) Drawing on the section, “Free Will, Determinism, and the Power of God” (EWNT, pp. 125-26), as well as your own reading of Mark, explain why you do or do not think it is legitimate to interpret “Mark as saying not that Jesus’ death was predestined but that it became necessary under the circumstances of his rejection.” (p. 126)
- (3.) Drawing on the section, “Matthew’s Theology and Jewish-Christian Relations” (EWNT, pp. 140-42), as well as your own reading of Matthew, give your own reflections on the question, “Is the Gospel of Matthew Anti-Jewish?”
- (4.) Drawing on the section, “A Feminist Reading of Matthew” (EWNT, pp. 142-143), as well as your own reading of Matthew, give your own reflections on whether the anti-patriarchal elements in this gospel are strong enough to justify contemporary use of it in women’s struggle for equality.
- (5.) Drawing on the section, “Postcolonial Question” (EWNT, pp. 143-144), as well as your own reading of Matthew, give your own reflections on whether it is legitimate for contemporary readers to use Matthew as a resource for a critique of empires and imperialism.
- (6.) Explain and evaluate William Beardslee’s deconstructive reading of Luke-Acts with respect to the theme of poverty and riches (“Deconstructing Luke-Acts on Poverty and Riches,” EWNT, pp. 170-71.)
- (7.) Discuss the views of Clarice Martin (“A Matter of Race in Acts,” EWNT, p. 171) on the story of the Ethiopian eunuch and give your own reflections on the importance of her observations for Christianity and society in our time.
- (8.) Drawing on the section, “Applying Bultmann’s Existentialist Interpretation to the Gospel of John” (EWNT, pp. 188-89), as well as your own reading of John, explain Bultmann’s views and give your own evaluation of his reading of John.
- (9.) Drawing on the section, “Applying Jungian Psychology to the Gospel of John” (EWNT, pp. 189-90), as well as your own reading of John, explain and evaluate Jung’s interpretation of the theme of incarnation.
- (10.) Drawing on the section, “The Johannine Logos and Ecological Theology” (EWNT, pp. 190), as well as your own reading of John, assess John 1 as a resource for promoting ecological responsibility in our time.

### **III. REACTION-PAPER # 3: Choose one of the following:**

- (1.) Drawing on the section, “Paul as Ethicist (EWNT, pp.259-66) discuss the considerations the contemporary churches ought to take into account in assessing the significance of the letters of Paul for dealing with one of the following issues: a.) the ordination of women to the Christian ministry; b.) same-sex relationships; c. civil disobedience in the cause of justice. Then give your own reasoned opinion on this issue. Be sure to take the sub-section, “Paul’s Ethics Today: Competing Approaches” (p. 266) into account.

- (2.) Drawing upon the section, “An Existentialist Interpretation of Paul” (**EWNT**, 258-59), explain how some interpreters use an existentialist approach to interpret the letters of Paul. Then give your own reasoned opinion as to whether and in what sense this approach is a genuine help in making sense of Paul's understanding of the Christian faith in our day.
- (3.) Compare and contrast Paul as represented by the seven undisputed letters (**EWNT**, Chs. 9-12) to any **two** of the following: (a.) “The Gnostic Paul (**EWNT**, pp. 286-87); (b.) “The Paul of Legend” (**EWNT**, pp. 287-88); (c.) Paul as represented in the Pastoral Letters (1-2 Timothy and Titus, **EWNT**, pp. 279-83). Then evaluate each of the “Pauls” you have discussed in terms of their relevance in our own time.