

Sample Syllabus for An Introduction to the New Testament
(using Chilton & Good, *Studying the New Testament: A Fortress Introduction*)
Date, Time and Location of the Course

Your name
Your office location
Your office hours
Your email address (for queries)

Learning Objectives

- Become familiar with central issues and key concerns in both the New Testament and its interpretation
- Understand and deploy appropriate critical methods and analytical tools so as to evaluate the work of others, basing of this activity on awareness of one's own presuppositions
- Become comfortable with using Bible software in studying texts and to be aware of strengths and limitations of this tool and others
- Become aware of the ways the New Testament has influenced and even shaped ancient and modern issues in our contemporary world.

Learning Skills

- Write an effective argument using only primary sources
- Write an effective argument integrating research from secondary sources
- Develop oral presentation skills
- Engage in professional and respectful discussion and behavior
- Evaluate your own academic achievement

Course Requirements

- 1) Attendance & informed participation in all classes.
- 2) Completion of the written assignments and exercises by the due date in the syllabus.
- 3) Use and engagement with the readings.
- 4) Group Work? Written Assignments?

Readings

A. Required Reading (Available for Purchase):

- 1) *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*. This is also published as The New Oxford Annotated Bible (Oxford University Press) or the Harper Collins Study Bible (Harper-Collins Press) or the New Interpreters Study Bible (Abingdon).

Sample syllabus for use of Chilton & Good, *Studying the New Testament*

2) *Studying the New Testament*, Bruce Chilton and Deirdre Good (hereafter SNT). This is an introduction to the New Testament, including historical backgrounds and theological issues, with surveys of epistles and gospels.

Syllabus (assumes a 10 week course meeting 2x per week)

Week 1, Class 1: Introduction (Methods of Interpretation and Presuppositions); read SNT *Introduction* pp.1-7

Week 1, Class 2: Tools and Resources; read SNT *Dictionaries, translations, commentaries and websites* pp.9-13

Week 2, Class 1: Jesus and his social worlds: Galilee, Josephus on Jesus and John the Baptist (issues of purity); read SNT pp. 17-43.

Read Josephus on Jesus: <http://www.virtualreligion.net/iho/jesus.html#testimonium>

Week 2, Class 2: Jesus' proclamation of God's Realm: Parables, Lord's Prayer; Jesus' relation to the Temple; read SNT pp.44-53. Complete and submit the exercises at the end of the chapter.

Week 3, Class 1: Paul & his letters: Call and Epistles; read SNT pp.55-75

Week 3, Class 2: Galatians

Week 4, Class 1: Romans

Week 4, Class 2: I Corinthians

Week 5, Class 1: Editions of Paul & letters written in his name; read SNT pp.75-90.

Complete and submit the exercises at the end of the chapter.

Week 5, Class 2: Ephesians, Colossians, 1&2 Timothy and Titus

Week 6, Class 1: What is a Gospel? Read SNT pp.91-105

Week 6, Class 2: Mark; read SNT pp.106-114

Week 7, Class 1: Matthew

Week 7, Class 2: Luke and Luke Acts

Week 8, Class 1: Gospel of Thomas; read SNT, pp.114-117 and complete and submit online exercise 4 on p.127.

Week 8, Class 2: Gospel beginnings; households around Jesus; complete the exercises on pp.121-125.

Week 9, Class 1: Catholic Epistles; read SNT pp. 131-141.

Week 9, Class 2: Apocalyptic convictions; read SNT pp. 141-148

Week 10, Class 1: Revelation to John; read SNT p.148-156 and complete and submit online exercise #4 on p.160.

Week 10, Class 2: Concluding Thoughts