Sample Syllabus for An Introduction to the New Testament

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/aho/jesus.html#testimonium](http://www.virtualreligion.net/aho/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 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