

Sample Syllabus
INTRODUCING THE NEW TESTAMENT

TEXT:

Required Texts:

Drane, John. *Introducing the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 2001.

The Holy Bible (NIV Preferred, NAS and NRSV will also be used numerous times throughout the course)

Highly Recommended Texts:

Coogan, Michael D. et. al, eds. *New Oxford Annotated Bible: NRSV (with Apoc)*, 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

I. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the importance of the Intertestamental Period for interpreting the New Testament.
2. Analyze the political, social, and religious background of the New Testament.
3. Comprehend the nature of the synoptic problem.
4. Recall the development and expansion of Christianity in the book of Acts.
5. Know the background information and theme of each New Testament book.
6. Understand how the text and canon of the New Testament developed.
7. Apply the teachings of the New Testament to the church and the Christian life.

Behavioral Indicators

1. Discuss key factors of the Intertestamental Period that set the framework for the New Testament.
2. Explain the political, social, and religious background of the New Testament.
3. List the factors involved with the synoptic problem.
4. Explain how the early church developed and expanded in the book of Acts.
5. Identify the background and theme of each New Testament book.
6. Discuss the development of the text and canon of the New Testament.
7. Reflect on the teachings of the New Testament and its importance to the church and Christian life.

II. TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- A. The Second Temple Period
- B. The development of the text and canon of the New Testament
- C. The political, social, and religious background of the New Testament
- D. The synoptic problem
- E. The development of the New Testament Church and Paul's missionary endeavors
- F. The background and theme of each New Testament book

III. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

The primary method of instruction will be lecture. There will also be class and small group discussions. The reading of the *Introducing the New Testament* text and the entire New Testament portion of the Bible are required. The contents of each item will provide the professor materials from which quizzes and the final exam will be created. **Late work for this class will be penalized**

at the rate of one letter grade drop per late class period.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS:

- A. **Attend class.** Students are both expected and encouraged to attend classes regularly. The lack of attendance can affect a student's grade. For traditional fall and spring semesters, a student may miss a class without penalty equal to the number of times a class meets per week as follows:
- If the class meets once a week a student may miss one class.
 - If the class meets two times a week a student may miss two classes.
 - If the class meets three times a week a student may miss three classes.

If a student's absences exceed the number of times a class meets per week, a professor may:

- Subject the student to a penalty of not more than one letter grade based on attendance alone.
- Recommend to the Vice President for Academic Affairs that a student with excessive absences be withdrawn from the course.

Program directors must provide lists of students participating in authorized university activities or field trips to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Once approved, program directors must provide copies of the lists to the participating students for submission to the students' instructors. Faculty must take this information into account as they log attendance and not consider it an absence. **Special Note: When you turn in this form to me, circle your name and write the name of the class and the time the class meets beside your name.**

For this class, I will allow three cuts without penalizing your grade. The fourth cut (excluding cuts covered by authorized university activities) will result in a letter grade drop for the class. You are responsible to know how many cuts you have taken. Except for the statement below, the professor assumes there will be no exceptions. I will not file an appeal for you. **You may not cut class when a quiz or exam is scheduled.**

Prolonged and/or unusual absences not covered by this policy may be appealed to the Vice President of Academic Affairs by (either the professor or) the student. Appeals must be submitted in writing.

Be on time. Habitual tardiness is not acceptable. Three tardies will result in one cut. Students should stand quietly just inside the door if Bible reading or prayer is in progress before taking their seats.

- B. **Read Texts: Before class, read the textbooks and Bible** as assigned in the Course Outline. **Bring your Bible and textbooks to class daily.** The student is expected to read the entire textbook and all Bible reading as scheduled. Maintain accurate, dated class notes in a form useful for objective and/or essay test preparation. Weekly quiz and exam questions will cover textbook assignments, lecture notes, and the Bible reading.

You will need certain skills in order to be successful in life. The purpose of class assignments is to help you develop these skills. The following skills or Learning Outcomes are the ones most likely to be beneficial for your future success.

Critical Analysis is the ability to examine a viewpoint and assess or evaluate assumptions, problems, and implications of that viewpoint.

Critical Reasoning is the ability to research, construct, and articulate a well-reasoned and coherent viewpoint. This will also include the ability to avoid potential fallacies, define key terms and/or concepts related to the viewpoint, provide the logical conclusions and/or applications that result from the viewpoint, and anticipate potential counter-claims to the viewpoint.

- C. **Small Group Discussions:** The student will participate in one small group discussions on and assigned reading within the “Special Articles” section of Drane. The group will meet on an assigned Blackboard Discussion Group thread, which will state the questions you must answer in regards to the reading. The results of the discussions should be summarized and reported during a determined class session in a creative presentation. **Purpose:** To help develop reasoning skills and the ability to apply New Testament principles to other philosophical disciplines of studies.
- D. **NT Book Quiz:** The student should be able to list the books of the N.T. in canonical order and spell them correctly. Due **Sept 7**. **Purpose:** To ensure content standards for the course by promoting familiarity and easier use of Scripture.
- E. **Weekly Quizzes:** Successfully complete 12 weekly quizzes corresponding to chapters in your textbook and the New Testament text readings. Tentative dates on the course outline are subject to adjustments the professor may make. Exact quiz dates will be announced one week in advance. **Make-up quizzes will only be administered to students with unavoidable emergencies with prior written consent and must be taken within five days** of returning to class. Make-up quizzes may be either essay or objective. The make-up quiz policy does **not** extend to the final exam. There is no extra credit project in this class. In order to utilize class time as economically as possible, quiz results will not be reviewed in class. **Purpose:** The weekly quizzes in this class are intended to encourage assimilation of individual facts into the larger picture of God’s story of salvation history through the use of critical thinking and reason and thought engaging written communication.
- F. **Final Exams:** Successfully complete a comprehensive final that will also include the new material from unit four. **Purpose:** The final exam emphasizes standard material that promotes personal spiritual development, encourages the development of better lay teachers for the local church, and provides a foundation for further biblical studies.

Students are **required to be in class, on time, on the day the final exam is scheduled**. For this class that will be **Mon. Dec 12th at Time TBD**. Any graduating senior should inform the professor by email one month before graduation. Please review the statement below from the Office of the Academic Dean in regard to final exams. **This is university policy and every student is expected to plan accordingly. The following information is a direct statement from the Office of the Academic Dean.**

Every professor is obligated to administer a final exam or hold an appropriate class during the regularly scheduled exam period. Every student is obligated to take the final exam or attend that appropriate class during the regularly scheduled exam period. Please plan accordingly and carefully for final exams.

You must not plan vacations, ministry appointments, weddings, airline flights, or any other

similar activity or engagement that will conflict with the final exam schedule. Also, do not schedule any of these activities so close to your final exam that the commute to the activity conflicts with the final exam schedule.

Final exams will be administered in the room where the class normally meets. Students with **more** than 3 exams scheduled on one day can petition the instructor and department chair/college dean to take one of the exams another day.

V. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION STATEMENT:

Southeastern University requires all faculty, staff and students to use their Southeastern email address for official university communication. Students are required to check Southeastern email daily as they will be held accountable for all communications sent through this medium.

On campus, you can log in to check your email using Outlook. Off campus, you will need to go to <https://webmail.seuniversity.edu>.

The last day to officially withdraw from this course is Friday, Oct. 28, 2011. A Course Withdrawal form (available in the Office of the Registrar or on the University website under Academics/Registrar/Forms) must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM on Oct. 28, 2011.

NOTE: All Work for this class is to be submitted in paper form and not by email.

VI. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Southeastern University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with learning and or physical disabilities as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you think you may qualify for these accommodations, notify your instructor. You will be directed to contact the Coordinator of Academic Services at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

VII. COURSE EVALUATIONS STATEMENT:

In order to help us to assess the effectiveness of our courses and instructors, all registered students must complete a course evaluation at the end of the semester. You **must** complete a course evaluation form for this course before your grade can be posted.

VIII. CLASSROOM STANDARDS

- A. Please turn off your cell phone before class begins. Cell phones are not to be used or answered in class. If the cell phone rings then turn it off as soon as possible. Answering the cell phone in class will result in a one letter grade deduction for the next exam. Do not text-message in class.
- B. Laptops are not needed in class. Specific lectures have already been pre-posted on Blackboard, which students may print off and bring to class. Inductive studies from the Bible will occasionally be given on the board and should be copied down on notebook paper at that time. Students who bring their laptops to class and work on other projects, surf the web, or email will receive a one letter grade deduction from the next exam. Laptops may only be used for the subject being addressed in the course on that day (such as group presentations).
- C. Do not listen to music in class. If the professor notices that you have an earpiece in your ear,

regardless of whether audio is being listed to at the moment, this will result in a one letter grade deduction from the next exam.

- D. Students may not leave class early. Do not ask the teacher if you can do this. You have signed up for the class at the designated times. Do not leave the classroom until the class is dismissed. Doing so will result in a one letter deduction for the next exam.
- E. The above statements are for those few students who may not take their educational opportunity seriously. Most students understand this opportunity and the responsibility that goes with it. All students are encouraged to take full advantage of the education opportunity before them in preparation for vocational calling.

I. Course Outline: Sample Dates

INT= Introducing the New Testament

Week	Date	Reading Topics and Page Assignments
Week 1		Introduction: Backgrounds to the New Testament
	Aug. 24	Class Introductions
	Aug.26	Read Matt 1-6
Week 2		The Beginning of the Story and Jesus' Early Years
	Aug. 29	Read INT 10-31
		Read Matt 7-12
	Aug. 31	Read INT 31-42
		Read Matt 13-18
	Sept 2	Quiz # 1
Week 3		Jesus' Ministry and Death
	Sept. 5	Labor Day Holiday: No Class Session
	Sept. 7	Books of the NT Bible Test
		Read INT 46-65
		Read Matt 19-24
	Sept. 9	Read INT 66-75
		Read Matt 25-28
Week4		The Resurrection and The Kingdom of God
	Sept. 12	Quiz # 2 on the above
		Read INT 76-94
		Read Mark 1-6
	Sept. 14	Read INT 95-108
		Mark 7-12
	Sept. 16	Read INT 109-123
		Memorize Matt 5:3-12
Week 5		The Kingdom of God and The Gospels
	Sept. 19	Quiz # 3 on the above
		Read INT 124-146
	Sept. 21	Read INT 147-160
		Read Mark 13-16; John 1-4
	Sept. 23	Read INT 161-168
		Read John 5-10
		Memorize Mark 10:42-45
Week 6		The Gospels
	Sept. 26	Quiz # 4 on the above
		Read INT 168-186
		Read John 11-16
	Sept. 28	Read INT 187-207
		John 17-21
	Sept. 30	Read INT 208-223

		Memorize John 1:1-4,14
Week 7		Engaging the Wider World and Introducing Paul
	Oct. 3	Quiz # 5 on the above
		Read INT 224-242
		Luke 1-3
	Oct. 5	Read INT 243-251 (all)
		Read Luke 4-9:50
	Oct. 7	Read INT 252-268
		Read Luke 9:51-13
		Memorize Luke 6:31-36
Week 8		Paul the Persecutor and Convert
	Oct. 10	Quiz # 6 on the above
		Read INT 268-277
		Read Luke 15-19
	Oct. 12	Read INT 279-302
		Read Luke 20-24; Acts 1-9
	Oct. 14	Open Reading Day
		Read Acts 10-20
Week 9		Paul the and His Churches
	Oct. 17	Quiz # 7 on the above
		Read INT 303-318
		Read Acts 21-28
	Oct. 19	Read INT 318-328
		Galatians, 1-2 Thessalonians
	Oct. 21	Fall Long Weekend: No Class Session
		Memorize 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Week 10		Paul the Pastor, Paul Reaches Rome
	Oct. 24	Read INT 329-343
		Read 1 Corinthians
	Oct. 26	Read INT 344-348
		Read 2 Corinthians
	Oct. 28	Open Lecture
		Read Romans
		Extra Credit for Quiz 7: Memorize 1 Corinthians 13
Week 11		What does it Mean to be a Christian?
	Oct. 31	Quiz # 8 on the above
		Read INT 349-361
		Read Ephesians and Philippians
	Nov. 2	Read INT 362-374
		Read Philippians and Philemon
	Nov. 4	Read INT 366-382
		Read 1-2 Timothy; Titus
		Memorize Romans 6:15-18

Week 12		The Church and its Jewish Origins
	Nov. 7	Quiz # 9 on the above
		Read INT 383-391
		Read James and 1-2 Peter
	Nov.9	Read INT 392-403
		Read Hebrews
	Nov.11	Read INT 404-410
		Read Hebrews, cont
Week 13		The Church and its Jewish Origins; Heresy, Orthodoxy, and Organization
	Nov.14	Quiz # 10 on the above
		Read INT 411-423
		1-2-3 John and Jude
	Nov 16	Read INT 424-436
	Nov. 18	Reading Day
		Memorize 1 Peter 1:13-16
Week 14		Thanksgiving Holiday
	November 21-25	No Class Session
Week 15		Reading and Understanding the New Testament
	Nov 28	Read INT 437-453
	Nov 30	Open Lecture
		Read Revelation
	Dec 2	Open Lecture
		Read Revelation, cont.
Week 16		
	Dec 5	Open Lecture
		Read Revelation, Cont.
	Dec 7	Open Lecture
	Dec 9	Review for Final Exam
	Final Exam	December 12, Monday

II. EVALUATION:

1. Twelve Weekly Quizzes (5 % each) 60%
2. Comprehensive Final Exam 25 %
3. One Discussion Board Question 10 %
4. N. T. Books Quiz 5 %

Grading Scale - 90 - 100 – A 70 - 79 -- C
 80 - 89 -- B 60 - 69 – D 0 - 59 - F

Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Work for this class is to be submitted in paper form and not by email. Please submit a copy and keep a copy for your files. Missing assignments will not be the responsibility of the professor.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Disclaimer: There may be newer material added to the library holdings that do not yet appear here. Some of the book listed may not be in the library due to deterioration, loss, or are not part of the library holdings. Such materials may be obtained through the inter-library loan service of the library.

- Barrett, C. K. ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1961.
A collection of documents to illustrate the background of the NT and the history of the early Church. Very valuable. 266 pages.
- Benko, Stephen and John J. O. Rourke. *The Catacombs and the Colosseum*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1971.
Presents the Roman Empire as the setting of primitive Christianity and analyzes The social and political forces which affected the development of the early Church. 292 pages.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Books and the Parchments*. New York: Fleming Revell, 1950.
A readable account of the history of the text of Scripture, its canonicity and versions.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Defense of the Gospel in the New Testament*. Revised. Edition. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977.
Shows how the early Christians defended the gospel against paganism, other religions and forms of heresy, and points to ways this defense would be made today. Top evangelical scholar. 103 pages.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Message of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1972.
Presents the distinctive contribution of each book or group of books in the New Testament. 116 pages.
- Bruce, F. F. *New Testament Development of Old Testament Themes*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1968.
Examines a few of the major themes, motifs or images used as vehicles of revelation in the O.T. and considers how the NT writers continued to use them to present the complete revelation in Christ. 114 pages.
- Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Fellowship, 1966.
Evaluates the canon, the role of archeology, and the reliability of miracles and various NT document.
- Bruce, F. F. *New Testament History*. Garden City: Doubleday and Co., 1972.
A detailed presentation and analysis of the Roman and Jewish background of the NT, the lives of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, and the history of the first two generations of the Church. 430 pages.
- Bruce, F. F. *The Time is Fulfilled*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978.
Examines five examples of the fulfillment of the O.T. in the NT. It is a combination of scholarship and spiritual insight. 114 pages.

- Davis, Stephen L. *The New Testament-A Contemporary Introduction*. Hagerstown: Torch Publishing, 1989.
Designed for introductory courses to encourage students to interact directly with the NT.
- Earle, Ralph, ed. *Exploring the New Testament*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1955.
The author reflects a solid evangelical position in his approach to the NT.
- Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982.
An excellent text on interpreting biblical literature. A MUST for all serious Bible students.
Reflects an evangelical position.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1987.
Excellent treatment of the Roman and Jewish background of the NT.
- Freed, Edwin D. *The New Testament-A Critical Introduction*. Second Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadworth Publishing, 1991.
Very good background and summary of each NT book.
- Fuller, Reginald H. *A Critical Introduction to the New Testament*. London: Gerald Duckworth, 1966.
This book provides a critical evaluation of the opinions of NT scholars.
- Gromacki, Robert G. *New Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1974.
A conservative evangelical but writes with an anti-Pentecostal bias.
- Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
A well-illustrated volume that introduces the background and contents of the NT and encourages the reader to respond to the text of the NT.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1981.
Reflects the latest developments in the study of the NT. Also deals with historical problems in a thorough manner and reflects a conservative view.
- Harrison, Everett G. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1971.
A very good text on NT introduction. Reflects a basic evangelical viewpoint.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969.
A very useful investigation into the economic and social conditions during the NT period. 376 pages.
- Johnson, Luke T. *The Writings of the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.
Stresses the literary qualities and social dynamics of the NT. A very good treatment of the NT text.
- Kummel, George W. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Revised. Translated by Howard Clark Kee. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1975.
A moderate approach to the background information of each NT book. Excellent surveys of the origin and development of the NT canon and history of the NT text. 554 pages.

- LaSor, William Sanford. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1972.
A conservative assessment of the bearing of the DSS on the NT and the origins of Christianity. 264 pages.
- Martin, Ralph P. *New Testament Foundations: A Guide for Christian Students: Vol. 1. The Four Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Wm.B.Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1975.
More in-depth than a survey. Deals with background, gospel criticism, and the NT text from a conservative viewpoint. 314 pages.
- Martin, Ralph P. *New Testament Foundations: A Guide for Christian Students: Vol. 2. The Acts, The Letters, The Apocalypse*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978.
Places the NT text in a historical and pastoral context. Special emphasis on Paul's letters. Conservative viewpoint. 431 pages.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965.
A conservative emphasis of the historical background of the NT. 276 pages.
- Osborne, Grant and Stephen Woodward. *Handbook for Bible Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.
Discusses Bible study methods and tools. Contains lists of book dealers, an annotated bibliography and information on building a theological library.
- Puskas, Charles B. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1989.
A detailed treatment of the background of the NT.
- Russell, D. S. *Between the Testaments*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965.
A concise, authoritative treatment of the Intertestamental period.
- Russell, D.S. *The Method and Message of Jewish Apocalyptic*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1964.
An excellent overview of Jewish apocalyptic literature from 200 B.C. to A.D. 200.
- Stein, Robert H. *The Synoptic Problem*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1987. An introduction to the subject, demonstrating the problem from the text of the gospels.
- Suetonius, Tranquillius (Gaius). *The Lives of the Twelve Caesars*. New York: Penguin Classics, 1937.
Covers the Roman rulers from Julius Caesar to Domitian. Contains accounts of amusing incidents and scandalous activity in their lives.
- Tenney, Merrill C. *New Testament Times*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1965.
A companion volume to New Testament Survey. Surveys the historical and cultural background of the NT from an evangelical perspective.

Commentaries:

- Bruce, F. F. General Editor. *New International Commentaries*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
A more in-depth recent set of commentaries written by leading conservative scholars. Utilizes Greek, but for non-Greek students.

Tasker, R.V.G., General Editor. *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

A concise set of commentaries written by leading British scholars for non-Greek students.

From the Faculty of Christians Ministries and Religion at Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL