

Birmingham Theological Seminary
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Spring 2012
NT 2023 New Testament II
Professor: Dr. Morris Johnson
Class Hours: 2

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the content, background of the Epistles, and Revelation (including an introduction to the canonization of the New Testament), and a continuing overview of biblical hermeneutics begun in the New Testament Introduction I.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the relationship between the New Testament and its various contexts, including identifying basic principles for understanding and resolving issues which the New Testament Epistles were written to solve.
2. Identify the major introductory issues of the Epistles, including the dates, authors, themes, and primary concerns of the various epistles.
3. Identify and explain the primary hermeneutical principles related to understanding and applying the content of the Epistles.
4. Understand the importance of the Epistles in developing spiritual maturity.
5. Affirm and discuss the importance of proper biblical exegesis in solving basic issues of life.
6. Appreciate the relevance of the Bible to all of life, focusing on the New Testament contexts and contemporary contexts.
7. Develop a deepening commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the authority of the Bible.

Course Textbooks:

1. The New Testament. Each student will be required to read the assigned portions of the New Testament during this semester.
2. An Introduction to the New Testament. D. A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
3. Exploring the New Testament. Vol. 2. A Guide to the Letters and Revelation. 2nd ed. David Wenham, and Steve Walton. Downers 0830825576.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading

a. Textbooks and Other Required Readings

The required readings are listed in the class schedule. Readings should be completed in preparation for each class, so you will get the most out of lectures and be able to participate fully in the discussions.

b. New Testament

Read Romans through Revelation in two different Bible modern translations from the following list: NASB, ESV, NIV, TNIV, CSB, RSV, NIRSV. Paraphrases (e.g. Living Bible, The Message) are not acceptable.

c. Reading Log

Keep a reading log listing the date on which you completed each reading assignment. Turn in this reading log on the last day of class. To receive full credit, each section must be read by the date specified in the class schedule. Late reading logs will lose 50% credit. Logs will not be accepted more than one week late.

2. Class Participation

All students are expected to make meaningful contributions to class discussions. During part of many classes, there will be discussions in small groups or the whole class about topics raised by the reading and the lectures. You should complete the reading assignments on time so you are prepared to participate in the discussions.

3. Reflection Questions

The professor will periodically assign a reflection question to help you think about the reading and be better prepared for class discussion. Write a 2 page answer to each reflection question. The questions are designed to assist your participation in class discussion, to deepen your understanding of the reading, and to show the professor how you are processing the reading. Your response does not need to include footnotes and may be written informally or in point form. Late responses to reflection questions will not be accepted.

1. Make a chart comparing Galatians 1-2 and Acts 9-15 on the activities of Paul in his various visits to Jerusalem. Write a page describing how you reconcile the chronology of these two books?
2. Make a comparison chart of the similarities and differences between Adam and Christ based on Rom 5:12-21. Do Paul's theological points depend on Adam and the Fall being historical?
3. What is Paul's understanding of the relationship of the Law to the Christian life? Is the whole Law binding on the Christian, part or none? How do we determine what parts of the Law continue, to express God's moral will for Christians?

4. What are the similarities and differences in Paul's use of the Body of Christ metaphor in 1 Corinthians, Ephesians and Colossians?

5. Compare and contrast the theology of Rom 4:1-22 and James 2:14-25 on justification, faith and works. Some suggested issues to explore: a) How does each author use "faith", "works", "justify"? b) Is there real difference in theology? c) What interests and views are the same (unity) and different (diversity)? d) How do they use the same Old Testament passage differently? (NOTE: NW translates the Greek *ergon* sometimes as "works" and sometimes as "deeds.")

4. Comparative Biblical Theology Paper

Write a research paper comparing and contrasting the biblical theology of any one of the following books: Romans, Hebrews. Your paper should focus on one of the following themes:

- Salvation
- The Law

You may narrow your focus if you wish. For example, salvation could be narrowed down to the content of the Gospel message or eternal security. A paper on the Law theme could focus on the role of the Law in the Christian life or the Law in salvation history or some other aspect of the Law. The title of your paper should reflect your theme.

Show both the unity and the diversity of the treatment of the theme in these two books. Your paper should stress the results of your personal inductive study of the text of the Bible. In addition you should interact critically with the major works of New Testament theology, major exegetical commentaries and journal articles. You should use at least 3 commentaries from the recommended list for each book of the Bible that you discuss. Do not simply repeat the opinions of commentaries, class notes and New Testament theology books. The paper should be 8-10 pages, typed in 12 point type, double spaced, with footnotes and bibliography in Turabian style. Excessively long papers will be returned ungraded.

5. Documentation of Sources

In the term paper, all sources must be cited in bibliographic footnotes in Turabian style. Any sentences or distinctive phrases taken from any source must be placed in quotation marks and the source must be cited. The source of any ideas that are not your own must also be cited in a footnote, even if you rephrase the concept in your own words. Include a bibliography in Turabian style listing all sources cited. Reflection papers do not require formal citations, but may use in-text citations if you wish (Smith, 1990, p. 10).

In all work, you are expected to respect intellectual property, and behave with utmost honesty and integrity. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form and will result in a failing grade on the assignment.

6. Late Assignments

All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified due date. The

grade for late assignments will be reduced 10% per week late. Late reading logs will be reduced 50% and will not be accepted more than one week late. Answers to weekly reflection questions will not be accepted late.

Extensions will be considered only in extreme cases such as a death in the family, the hospitalization of yourself or a member of your immediate family, or a prolonged illness for which you require treatment by a physician. Extensions will not be granted due to the demands of ministry, work or other courses. If you feel you have a legitimate reason for a late paper, attach an explanation in writing to the paper. Do not explain your reasons at the beginning of class, by phone or by voice mail.

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, courses materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student's grad will be lowered by one letter grad. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcripts.

7. Final examination

The final examination will be comprehensive and will consist of essay questions based on the lectures, class discussions and reading assignments.

GRADING:

Reading, Participation	10%
Quizzes, reflection questions	40%
Term Paper	25%
Final examination	25%

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

1. Style

Written work should follow the style described in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. Your writing must be free of spelling and punctuation errors and adhere to the basic rules of English grammar. Write in a clear, straight-forward style appropriate to academic prose (cf. Shrunken and White, *Elements of Style*). Writing should be well organized and present a clear and coherent argument. Weekly reflection questions may be written in a less formal style or use an outline of major points.

2. Physical Format

The title page should include the title of the paper, the name of the course, the name of the professor, the date of submission, your name and your campus mailbox number. Papers must be typed in 12 point Times Roman typeface, double spaced, with 1 inch margins. All pages must be stapled together. Do not use paper clips, a binder or a cover. Students must retain a copy of all assignments (photocopy or computer file).

		Read	Read	Assignment Due
Date	Topic	Bible	Books	
Jan 26	The world of first-century Christians/Paul and his letters		Exploring: 3-44 Introduction: 331-385	
Feb 9	Galatians Romans	-Galatians -Romans (first Bible version)	-Exploring: 47-59: 105-126 -Introduction: 456-478; 391-414	
Feb 23	1 & 2 Corinthians Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians	-1 & 2 Cor -Ephesians (first Bible version) -Colossians -Philemon -Philippians (first Bible_version)	-Exploring: 73-104; 163-173; 151-161; 143-148; 129-141 -Introduction: 415-451; 479-497; 516-531; 588-595; 498-515	Quiz
Mar 8	Thessalonians Timothy Titus	-1 & 2 Thess -1 & 2 Tim -Titus (first Bible	-Exploring: 61-71; 175-190 -Intro, 532-553; 554-587	Reflection 1
March 12-16	Spring Break			
March 22	Hebrews John Peter Jude	Hebrews John Peter Jude	Exploring: 231-246; 289-301; 261-272; 275- 286 -Introduction: 596-618; 669-687; 636-668; 688-696	Reflection 5
April 5	-James	James	-Exploring: 247-259 Introduction: 619-633	Quiz
Apr 11	Revelations	Revelations	Exploring: 305-328 Introduction: 697-722	
April 19	-Revelation	-Revelation		Term Paper
April 26	Final Exam			