NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION AND SURVEY (NT 512)

Course Description
A study of the background, composition, and content of the writings of the New Testament is made. Special attention is given to the composition of the Pauline epistles, the general epistles, and Revelation.

Textbooks
2. The Holy Bible.

Course Objectives
1. Cognitive (What you should know and understand)
   A. You should have some understanding of the political, social, and religious environment of the early New Testament period.
   B. You should know the basic outlines and theological content of the New Testament epistles.
   C. You should be aware of the prominent views dealing with the authorship, date of composition, and recipients of the various New Testament epistles.
   D. You should be knowledgeable concerning the inception and proliferation of first century Christianity.
2. Affective (What you should feel, appreciate, or demonstrate).
   E. You should feel more confident concerning the historical moorings of Christianity.
   B. You should be more appreciative of God's historical revelation and the tremendous efforts made to propagate and preserve it for posterity.
3. Synectic (What problems you should be able to solve).
   F. You should be able to provide general dates and locations for the composition of the New Testament epistles.
   B. You should be able to interpret several difficult passages in light of their background.
4. Conative (What you can do with these insights).
   G. You can more accurately interpret the messages of the New Testament epistles.
   B. You can more effectively communicate the messages of these epistles to others.

Student Responsibility and Grading
A final examination may or may not be scheduled following the class sessions, depending upon oral reports and student participation in class discussions. Otherwise the following will apply.
1. Read all of the assigned material in the textbook. (15%)
2. Participate in class discussion, reflecting knowledge gleaned from reading preparation. Absence should be avoided. Any absence will have an effect on your final grade. (15%)
3. Present oral reports to the members of the class, concerning assigned NT books (See Calendar of Assignments below) Students should provide all members of the class with detailed outlines of their presentations, i.e., reports (2-3 pp. single-spaced). The reports are to be either an “introduction” to the NT book being studied, with matters of recipient(s), background, authorship, and date being considered; or a “survey” of the contents, with purpose, structure, key passages, etc., being considered. Each report should be well documented and include any pertinent bibliographical information. Much of the research may be based on the textbook, but other materials are to be considered as well, including books listed in the bibliography and current periodicals. Neatness is important; part of the evaluation of the reports will be based on proper form, spelling, etc. (40%)
4. Prepare a ten to fifteen page research paper (plus bibliography) on a topic to be selected during the class sessions. The paper must be properly footnoted and turned in no later than February 11, 2011. (15%)
5. Read an additional 500 pages of scholarly materials dealing with New Testament Introduction: The Epistles and Revelation. Turn in an annotated report on this reading at the end of the class sessions. (15%)
Calendar of Report Assignments

Read the textbook (Thessalonians through Revelation) prior to the beginning of the class sessions! Also do research on the Apostles Peter, John, and Paul (historical information plus probable writings, etc.).

Note: Class Reports. Introduction reports should deal with background, date and place of composition, and authorship. Survey reports should deal with purpose, structure, key passages, and major themes of the book studied.

The Missionary Journeys of Paul: _________________.
The New Testament Canon: _________________.
Part One: Eschatological Group, pp. 29 - 66.
1 & 2 Thessalonians Introduction Report: _______________. (Background, date, etc.)
1 & 2 Thessalonians Survey Report: _______________. (Overview of 1 & 2 Thessalonians.)
Galatians Introduction Report: _______________. (Background, date, etc.)
Galatians Survey Report: _______________. (Overview of Galatians.)

1/4 Soteriological Group continued.
1 Corinthians Introduction Report: _______________. (Background, date, etc.)
1 Corinthians Survey Report: _______________. (Overview of 1 Corinthians.)
2 Corinthians Introduction Report: _______________. (Background, date, etc.; plus number of letters?)
2 Corinthians Survey Report: _______________. (Overview of 2 Corinthians.)
Romans Introduction Report: _______________. (Background, date, etc.)
Romans Survey Report: _______________. (Overview of Romans.)

Colossians and Philemon Introduction Report: ___________. (Background, date, etc.)
Ephesians Introduction Report: ___________. (Background, date, etc.)
Ephesians Survey Report: ___________. (Overview of Ephesians.)
Philippians Introduction Report: ___________. (Background, date, etc.)
Philippians Survey Report: ___________. (Overview of Philippians.)

The Pastoral Epistles Introduction Report: ___________. (Background, date, etc.)
The Pastoral Epistles Survey Report: ___________. (Overview of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus.)

Volume Three; Part One: The Non-Pauline Epistles and Revelation, pp. 7 - 291.
James, pp. 32 - 67.
James Introduction Report: _______________. (Background, date, etc.)
James Survey Report: _______________. (Overview of James.)
Hebrews, pp. 68 - 104.
Hebrews Introduction Report: _______________. (Background, date, etc.)
Hebrews Survey Report: _______________. (Overview of Hebrews.)
1 Peter, pp.105 - 132.
1 Peter Introduction Report: _______________. (Background, date, etc.)
1 Peter Survey Report: _______________. (Overview of 1 Peter.)
2 Peter & Jude, pp. 133 - 180.
2 Peter and Jude Introduction Report:_______________. (Background, date, etc.)
2 Peter and Jude Survey Report:___________________. (Overview of 2 Peter and Jude.)
1, 2, & 3 John Introduction and Survey Report:__________. (Background and overview.)

**Part Two: The Revelation, pp. 181 - 228.**
Revelation Introduction Report:_____________________. (Background, date, etc.)
Revelation Survey Report:___________________________. (Overview of Revelation.)
Millennial Views_____________________________________. (Overview of various.)

**Selected Bibliography**

**Introduction-Survey**


**Commentaries**


A Commentary on the Greek Text of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, n.d. (1894).


Some Research Paper Topics. (Papers should include not only references to research materials but also explanations of conclusions reached as a result of the research; and the significance of those conclusions with respect to New Testament Introduction studies.)

1. An overview, setting forth the purpose, theological emphasis, and topical outline of a particular epistle.

2. The Pauline authorship of Hebrews.

3. The Pauline authorship of the Pastoral Epistles.

4. The relationship between Jude and 2 Peter.

5. The integrity of James. (should deal with the kerygmatic content, or lack of it, and the supposed conflict with Pauline soteriology)

6. Galatians: the South-Galatian and North-Galatian views. (Should include a comparative study of the events recorded in Acts 11 and 15 ff, as they relate to the book of Galatians)

7. The authorship of 2 Thessalonians, Colossians and Ephesians. (Disputed Pauline epistles)

8. Various interpretations of Revelation.

9. Apocalyptic as a literary genre.

10. The Johannine authorship of Revelation. (Should include some reference to Revelation as compared to the Gospel of John)