NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION AND SURVEY I

NT 511

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description

A study of the political, social, religious, and economic world of the New Testament is made, including Judaism and its sects; the life of Christ; first century New Testament churches; New Testament canon; the Gospels; and Acts.

Textbooks


Course Objectives

1. Cognitive (What you should know and understand).
   A. You should know the major historical events which provide background for the New Testament era.
   B. You should have an understanding of the political, social, and religious environment of the early New Testament period.
   C. You should understand the processes of the canonization of the New Testament.
   D. You should know the basic content of the Gospels and Acts.
   E. You should be aware of the essential elements of the synoptic problem.
   F. You should be knowledgeable concerning the inception and proliferation of first century Christianity.

2. Affective (What you should feel, appreciate, or demonstrate).
   A. 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).

1Office hours are on Tuesday, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. and by appointment at other times. The professor’s home telephone number is: 903-586-5920. The office number is: 903-586-2501 ext. 223. Email address is: philipbryan@bmats.edu

2The class meets in the Mount Olive Room on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.
A. You should be able to solve minor differences in the Gospel records.
B. You should be able to clarify misunderstandings concerning the processes of canonization.
C. You should be able to provide general dates and chronology for the spread of Christianity during the first century.

4. Conative (What you can do with these insights).
   A. You can more accurately interpret the message of the Gospels and Acts.
   B. You can more effectively communicate the message of these scriptures to others.

Requirements and Grading

Each student will:

(1) Read all of the material in the two textbooks, as well as the NT, Matthew through Acts. (20%);
(2) Participate in class discussion, reflecting knowledge gleaned from daily reading preparation. **Absence will have an effect on your final grade.** (20%). **Seminary rules about absences, etc., will follow the stipulations given in the current BMATS Catalog, pp. 44-45:**

Tardinesses or absences from class may result in a reduction of the final grade a student may receive in a particular course. A student who misses more than one-fourth of the classes for any course, without extenuating circumstances, as determined by the professor, will receive an automatic "F" for the course.

 normally, for unexcused absence from a regularly appointed test, or examination, five points shall be deducted from the class grade for the semester. Three tardinesses are equivalent to one absence.
(3) Prepare one oral summary/report for presentation to the class, concerning important introductory or interpretative issues and doctrines as they relate to the composition and meaning of the Gospels and/or Acts. Students should provide all members of the class with detailed outlines of their presentations, i.e., reports (3-5 pp., single-spaced). Each report should be well-documented and include all pertinent bibliographical information. **Neatness is important; part of the evaluation of the reports will be based on proper form, spelling, etc. (20%); and**

(4) Pass two written examinations based on the lectures, reports, and textbooks (20%, 20%).

Calendar of Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment/Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T -- 8/26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction of Course; Selection of Research Topics From the Babylonian Exile to the New Testament Period; Gromacki, pp. 1-39.</td>
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3 Students are referred to a brief document entitled “Instructions for Preparing Outline Reports” which gives detailed instructions and suggestions for report and summary preparation, as well as other pertinent information. This is available on the BMATS web site: http://bmats.edu/syllabi/BRYAN/reportaid.pdf
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment/Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T -- 9/2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to NT; Canon of the scriptures; Introduction to the Gospels; Gromacki, 41-52; Carson, pp. 726-43.</td>
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<tr>
<td>T -- 9/9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Matthew: Gromacki, pp. 67-93; Carson, pp. 134-68.</td>
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<tr>
<td>T -- 9/16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mark: Content and Outline; Carson, pp. 169-97; Gromacki, pp. 94-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Awrey--</td>
<td></td>
<td>Report (2): Introduction to Mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Goble--</td>
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<td>Report (4): The Parables of Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>T -- 9/30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Examination #1! (Reading Report: Matthew, Mark, Luke)</td>
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<td>T -- 10/7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lecture by Professor</td>
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<td>T -- 10/14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>The Synoptic Problem; Gromacki, pp. 53-66; Carson, pp. 77-133.</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Kirkland--</td>
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<td>Report (5): Sermon on the Mount</td>
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<tr>
<td>T -- 10/21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Form and Redaction Criticism</td>
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<td>P. Anaab--</td>
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<td>Report (7): Kingdom of God/Heaven</td>
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<td>T -- 10/28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>A. Comer--Report (8): The Miracles of Jesus</td>
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<td>T -- 11/4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>John: Content and Outline; Gromacki, pp. 130-48</td>
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<td>K. Simmons--</td>
<td></td>
<td>Report (9): Spiritual Blindness</td>
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<td>Tad Traylor--</td>
<td></td>
<td>Report (10): Introduction to John</td>
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<tr>
<td>T -- 11/25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>FINAL WRAP-UP OF COURSE!!</td>
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<td>T -- 12/2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Examination #II!! (Reading Report: John, Acts)</td>
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Selected Bibliography

Introduction-Survey


**Commentaries**


Suggested Research Report Topics

- The Synoptic Problem
- The Priority of Mark
- The Genealogies
- The Incarnation
- The Passion of Jesus
- Time of the Resurrection
- The Concept of the Messiah
- Teaching About Divorce
- Spiritual Blindness
- Cleansing of the Temple
- Other
- Other
- The Post Resurrection Appearances
- The Parables of Jesus
- The Miracles of Jesus
- The "Great Tribulation"
- The Kingdom of God/Heaven
- The Time of the Last Supper
- The Acts
- Paul in Acts
- Peter in Acts
- Saul’s/Paul’s Conversion
- Other
- Other

Challenge

We have an ambitious program ahead of us for this semester, but with all of us working together, we should learn a lot and have a very profitable time.