New Testament Introduction and Survey I  
NT 511 – Course Syllabus  
Fall 2011

A course offered through the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

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Description of Course:

This class is the first part of a two part course. This course will cover the period of history between the Old and New Testaments; including the political, social, religious, and economic world of the New Testament. Special attention will also be given to a survey of Judaism, the life of Christ, first century New Testament churches, the New Testament canon, and the Gospels and Acts. The emphasis on this course is not on exposition, but rather a study of the backgrounds of the New Testament books covered, along with other important peripheral issues.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, the student should . . .

1. have a good understanding of the intertestamental period, and be able to evaluate how that period of history set the stage for the coming of Christ and the New Testament era.

2. understand the state of Judaism in the first century.

3. know the major aspects of the life of Christ from His birth to His ascension.

4. know how the canon of the New Testament was established by the early church.

5. be able to analyze and evaluate the major issues surrounding the Synoptic Problem, as well as some proposed solutions to this problem, and to formulate your own solution to the Synoptic Problem.

6. know the background, occasion, and purpose of the four Gospels and Acts.
7. be able to discuss some of the special issues dealt with in the four Gospels and Acts.

8. be able to appraise the major contributions the four Gospels and Acts makes regarding the overall message of the New Testament.

9. possess a detailed outline of the four Gospels and Acts.

10. gain a greater appreciation for the New Testament canon as a whole.

11. possess a tool for ministry, especially in the area of teaching and preaching through the four Gospels and Acts through application of the background material achieved in this course.

Course Textbooks:

1. The Bible, especially Matthew – Acts


Course Assignments:

Reading:

1. The student is required to read through the Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts in their entirety. To receive the most benefit, the student should read through the Bible books in a good literal translation (KJV, NKJV, NASB, etc.).

2. The student is required to read through the first volume of Hiebert’s Introduction dealing with the four Gospels and Acts.

3. The student is required to read Stein’s book on Jesus the Messiah.

Writing:

1. The student is required to write a 10-12 page research paper on the topic of their choice. The student’s choice is limited to the intertestamental period, background information on Jewish society in the first century, the four Gospels, and Acts. This paper is to be written according to Turabian, 7th ed. This paper must possess a title page, contents page, body (12-15 pages, double-spaced), and a
bibliography. The bibliography should contain at least a full page of resources including at least two journal articles. The paper should be written using Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. The student will be graded on research, critical thinking, organization, grammar, and neatness.

2. The student is required to write an evaluation of Stein’s, *Jesus the Messiah* used for this course. This evaluation is a critical review describing the strengths and weaknesses observed in the book, the usefulness of this book for New Testament studies, and which part or parts of the book the student found most helpful personally and why. This evaluation is to be at least 2-3 pages in length and written according to the rubric that will be given to each student on the first day of class.

**Late Work:**

Any late work will be deducted 2 percentage points for everyday it is late.

**Course Exams:**

Two exams will be given:
- mid-semester exam
- final (not comprehensive)

**Course Grading:**

There is a total of 1,000 points that are possible to earn for this course. The point and percentage value for each item is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>250 pts.</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Semester Test</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,000 pts.</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
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**BMATS Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>91-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>61-70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
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<tr>
<td>WP</td>
<td>Withdrawal while passing</td>
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<tr>
<td>WF</td>
<td>Withdrawal while failing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance:

The student is expected to attend all class sessions. According to the BMATS catalog, “Tardiness or absence 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.” Please note: three tardies are equivalent to one absence. Five points will be deducted from the class attendance and participation grade for every class session not attended.
Course Schedule:

Week 1 – September 1
  Introduction to Course
  Introductory Issues to the New Testament
  Historical Interlude between the Two Testaments

Week 2 – September 8
  The World Situation at the Time of the New Testament
  Elements of Judaism

Week 3 – September 15
  The Canon of the New Testament
  Understanding the Gospels
  Introduction to the Synoptic Problem
  Three Major Schools of Historical Criticism

Week 4 – September 22
  Survey of Matthew
  Survey of Mark

Week 5 – September 29
  Survey of Luke
  Survey of John

Week 6 – October 6
  Preparation for mid-semester test

Week 7 – October 13
  MID-SEMESTER TEST

Week 8 – October 20
  A Survey of the Life of Jesus, Part 1
    - The beliefs about Jesus through the centuries
    - The Birth of Jesus

Week 9 – October 27
  A Survey of the Life of Jesus, Part 2
    - The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus
    - The Mission of Jesus

Week 10 – November 3
  A Survey of the Life of Jesus, Part 3
    - The Miracles of Jesus
    - The Teachings of Jesus
    - The Messiah’s Ministry / Passion Week
Week 11 – November 10
Survey of Acts

Week 12 – November 17 (Research Paper Due)
Examination of the Early Church (contents of Acts)

Week 13 – November 24
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14 – December 1 (Critical Review of Stein’s book due)
Discussion of textbooks used for the course
Wrap-up of Course
Preparation for final exam

Week 15 – December 8
FINAL EXAM

*The professor reserves the right to make changes and adjustments to this syllabus at his own discretion.

*This class will meet in the Winters Room every Thursday from 8 AM to 12 noon. Chapel time is 10:00 AM, and we will let class out at 9:45 each week, and resume class after chapel at 11:05 AM.
Addendum to NT 511 Syllabus

This course is one of the higher level courses that BMATS offers at the Masters level. This means that much will be expected of you in this course. Being an upper level course also means that the course load is intense. This course is intended to advance student learning primarily through analysis, synthesis, and evaluation (although some knowledge and comprehension will be gained through information obtained from the historical interlude, the background information on the NT books covered, and the information on 1st century Judaism and the ministry of Christ).

Course Learning Outcomes

The assignments for this course are based on the learning outcomes which are intended to help the student perform in the advanced levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy. The assigned reading will help the student achieve course objectives #5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. The major research paper will help the student achieve course objectives #1-7. The critical book review will help the student achieve objectives #3. The two exams will help the student achieve objectives #1-8.

Program Outcomes

Every degree program at BMATS has a list of program objectives that should be obtained by each student in that program. For those in the MDiv program, this course should help the student to achieve objectives #1 (minister competently as a pastor, associate pastor, or as a pastoral counselor to a local church congregation), #4 (understand and be able to communicate biblical and theological truths in the context of Christian ministry), and #6 (be able to perform adequately in the context of further professional ministries or doctoral studies. For those in the MACM program, this course should help the student to achieve objectives #1 (same as MDiv) and #4 (same as MDiv). For students in the BAR program, this course should help the student to achieve objective #2 (understand and communicate biblical and theological truths in the context of Christian ministry).

The research paper and the critical book review will further help the student demonstrate his or her ability in the area of critical thinking.

1 Bloom’s Taxonomy is a chart that was developed to show the various levels of educational objectives in the cognitive domain. There are six levels on the Bloom’s Taxonomy chart. These levels begin at the lowest level of learning and rise to the higher levels of learning. The first level is KNOWLEDGE, which entails rote memory and recall of specifics. The second level is COMPREHENSION, which entails basic understanding and putting an idea into your own words. The third level is APPLICATION, which entails applying a general principle to a new and concrete situation. The fourth level is ANALYSIS, which entails breaking the information into component parts in order to examine it and develop divergent conclusions. The fifth level is SYNTHESIS, which entails creatively or divergently applying prior knowledge and skills to produce a new or original whole. The sixth level is EVALUATION, which entails judging the value of material based on informed personal values/opinions resulting in an end product without a distinct right or wrong answer. A further description of these levels can be accessed at http://classweb.gmu.edu/ndabbagh/Resources/Resources2/bloomstax.htm
Bibliography

**Gospel of Matthew**


**Gospel of Mark**


**The Gospel of Luke**


Gospel of John


Acts


Course Syllabus Contract

I have carefully read through the syllabus for this course. I fully comprehend what is expected of me as a student in this course.

I have duly noted the due dates on the course schedule and agree that I will turn in all assignments on time.

If I am late for any assignments, I understand that they will be deducted 2 percentage points for every day they are late.

I understand that tests must be taken on the day they are scheduled.

I understand the 1,000 point grading scale for this course, and further understand that percentage points will not be rounded up.

I understand that attending class is vital to my seminary education, and that missing class will result in 5 points deducted from my class attendance and participation grade for each day that is missed. I further understand that three tardies is equal to one absence according to the BMATS catalog.

By affixing my signature below, I fully comply with the procedures for this course:

Date _______________ Signature ____________________________

Printed name ____________________