Course Syllabus for New Testament Introduction and Survey II – NT 512

A Course offered at the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary
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Description of Course:

According to the BMATS catalog, New Testament Introduction and Survey II or NT 512, is a continuation of NT 511. The previous course (NT 511) covered the political, social, religious, and economic world of the New Testament – including a survey of Judaism, the life of Christ, first century New Testament churches, NT canon, and the Gospels and Acts. This course (NT 512) will give special attention to the background, date of composition, structural outline and authorship of the Pauline epistles, the General epistles, the Johannine epistles, and Revelation.

Course Objectives:

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

1. know the issues surrounding the human authorship of the New Testaments books covered in this class.
2. know the background, occasion, and purpose of each book discussed.
3. be able to state the major concepts and themes of each book discussed.
4. have a grasp on the date of composition of each book discussed.
5. know some of the special literary features unique in each book.
6. be able to discuss some of the special issues dealt with in each book.
7. be familiar with the major outline of each book.
8. know the major contributions each book makes regarding the overall message of the New Testament.
10. possess a tool for ministry, especially in the area of preaching or teaching through the New Testament books.

Course Textbooks:


Course Assignments:

*Reading:*
1. The student is required to read through in its entirety the 22 New Testament books covered in this class (Romans thru Revelation).

2. The student is required to read through the portion of Hiebert’s *Introduction* pertaining to the 22 NT books covered in class.

3. The student is required to read the book by F. F. Bruce on the Apostle Paul.

*Writing:*
1. The student is to choose any one of the New Testament books covered in this course (except for Philemon, 2 & 3 John, and Jude), and prepare a detailed outline of the book. This project is to be no less than 2-3 pages in length. Commentaries and other outlines may be consulted for this project, but do not just copy another outline verbatim.

2. The student will prepare a 12-15 page research paper on any one of the topics listed below. The paper should contain a title page, contents page, main body of text, and a bibliography of sources used. The paper is to be cited using footnotes below the text. The paper should be double-spaced using Times New Roman 12 font. Be sure to consult commentaries or books pertinent to your topic, and at least two journal articles. Internet sources may be used, but should not comprise more than 20% of the paper. Internet sources must be footnoted and cited in the bibliography. The paper will be graded on neatness, proper form, content, research, and writing.
3. Each student will write a 2-3 page critical book review of the above book by F. F. Bruce, *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. This critical review should include strengths and weaknesses; whether or not this is a valuable resource and why; and interaction with some of the contents. This review is to be double-spaced.

* All work is to be completed according to the class schedule.

* Any late work will be deducted two percentage points for every day it is late.

Topics for Research:

The following are suggested topics for research. The student may choose a topic that is not listed below provided it pertains to the New Testament books covered in this course and met with approval by the instructor.

- Authorship
- Purpose and Occasion
- Thematic issues
- Specific literary features
- Issues surrounding date of composition
- Issues surrounding the canon of a specific book
- Pauline Theology
- Any issue surrounding the life of Paul (for example: Roman citizenship, life prior to Christianity, examination of his conversion, Paul’s sufferings, Paul’s preaching, Paul’s missionary journeys, etc.)
- Special issues surrounding any one book
- Word studies of key words in a specific book
- Choose any pericope for an exegetical examination

Course Exams:

There will be two exams given pertaining to this class: a mid-semester test and a final exam. The final is not comprehensive and will cover only the material for the second half of the course.
Course Grading:

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

- Mid-semester test: 200 – 20%
- Final exam: 200 – 20%
- Research paper: 250 – 25%
- NT Book outline: 100 – 10%
- Critical Book Review: 100 – 10%
- Reading: 100 – 10%
- Class Attendance & Participation: 50 – 5%

1,000 pts.

BMATS grading scale is as follows:

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

- Jan. 28: Introduction to course; Introductory matters pertaining to the NT
- Feb. 4: Overview of Paul’s letters; Paul’s earlier letters – Galatians
- Feb. 11: Paul’s earlier letters – 1 & 2 Thessalonians
- Feb. 18: Paul’s greatest letters – 1 & 2 Corinthians
- Feb. 25: Paul’s greatest letters – Romans (*Book Outline*)
- Mar. 4: Paul’s prison epistles – Colossians (Brand Lectures, 3:00 PM)
- Mar. 11: Paul’s prison epistles – Philemon & Ephesians
- Mar. 18: MID-SEMESTER TEST
- Mar. 25: Paul’s Pastoral Epistles – Philippians & Titus
- Apr. 1: Paul’s Pastoral Epistles – 1 & 2 Timothy (*Critical Book Review*)
- Apr. 8: Hebrews and James
- Apr. 15: 1 & 2 Peter; Jude
- Apr. 22: SPRING BREAK / BMAA NATIONAL MEETING
- Apr. 29: 1-3 John (*Research Paper*)
- May 6: Revelation
- May 13: FINAL EXAM

*Please note: This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

The reading from the Bible and the reading from Hiebert’s textbook should be completed on the day that book will be covered in class. The student will be asked on the final exam as to the percentage of the material read.
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 with any assignments, I understand that those assignments will be deducted two percentage points for every day they are late.

I understand that daily reading assignments are expected from the biblical text and Hiebert’s Introduction, and I agree to have this reading completed so that I may thoughtfully engage in class discussions.

I know when the dates are for the two major tests in this course, and understand that they must be taken on those dates.

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 may result in points deducted from my class attendance and participation grade. I further understand that three tardies constitutes one absence.

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

Date ____________  Signature __________________________

Bibliography

New Testament Surveys and Introductions


Commentaries

Romans


1 & 2 Corinthians


Galatians


Ephesians


Philippians


Colossians


*1 and 2 Thessalonians*


*1 and 2 Timothy*


Lenski, R. C. H. *The Interpretation of St. Paul’s Epistles to the Colossians, to the Thessalonians, to Timothy, to Titus, and to Philemon*. Colombus, OH: Lutheran Book Concern, 1937.
Titus and Philemon


Hebrews


James


*I and 2 Peter; Jude*


________. *Now Unto Him: Messages from Jude for Our Day*. Cordova, TN: Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, n. d.


*1, 2, 3 John*


*Revelation*


