

NT 5000—Introduction to the New Testament

χάρις τῷ θεῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἀνεκδιηγήτῳ αὐτοῦ δωρεᾷ
2 Corinthians 9:15

I. Course Description

In accordance with the TIU Catalog, NT 5000 is an “introductory survey of the New Testament, including the life and ministry of Christ, apostolic history, New Testament literature, principle critical issues, and the unity and diversity of New Testament theology.” *Four credit hours.*

II. Course Objectives

- to acquire a thorough knowledge of the content of the New Testament
- to appreciate the context (historical, social, religious, political) of the New Testament world and writings
- to gain familiarity with the critical issues surrounding New Testament interpretation
- to understand the main themes of New Testament theology and their significance
- to integrate the course content into one’s study, teaching, and preaching
- to apply the New Testament to one’s personal life, witness, and ministry
- to deepen one’s love for and devotion to the Lord through interaction with his Word and one another

III. Course Texts

Required:

Standard translation of the Bible, such as NIV/TNIV, RSV/NRSV, ESV, NAS, NKJV, HCSB; paraphrases or amplified translations, such as LB, NLT, GNB, CEB, *The Message*, are not acceptable for this class.

Barnett, Paul. *Is the New Testament Reliable?* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World.* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament.* 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Marshall, I. Howard. *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

IV. Course Requirements

A. *Class Preparation and Participation.* Reading assignments are to be completed before class meetings and papers are due on the day listed in the syllabus.

B. *Class Assignments*

Short Paper: Each student will complete a two- to three-page (600–800 words) book review/reflection paper on the reliability of the New Testament, based on a careful reading of Paul Barnett, *Is the New Testament Reliable?* This paper should address the following points:

- a) why this issue is important;
- b) what difference this issue makes for Christianity, and your own faith and ministry;
- c) challenges that Barnett presents to the claim that the New Testament is trustworthy.

Further instruction will be given in class. **Due February 13, 2010.**

Teaching Project: Pick from one of the following NT selections and prepare a three-month Sunday school or preaching series. After dividing the chosen selection into twelve parts (one for each week), the project should contain the following components:

- a. a clear outline of NT text to be covered for each week;
- b. the major theological issues that are raised in the text for that week;
- c. the importance of the selected text for current issues in society and the church.

Further instruction and examples will be given in class. **Due March 6, 2010.**

Possible NT selections include the following:

one of the gospels or Acts	Romans	1 and 2 Corinthians
Galatians	1 and 2 Thessalonians	the Prison epistles
the Pastoral epistles	Hebrews	James
1 and 2 Peter, Jude	1, 2, 3 John	Revelation

Theology Project: Pick one of the following NT theological themes and construct a 4–5 page teaching outline for the given topic. This could be the basis of a mid-week Bible study or possibly a Sunday school series. The outline should contain the following items:

- a. NT texts that you would cover;
- b. theological points derived from these texts;
- c. applications and/or thought questions that you would offer from the texts.

Further instruction and examples will be given in class. **Due April 10, 2010.**

Possible NT theological themes include the following:

Jesus' teaching in Matthew
the role of the gospel in Acts
Paul's teaching on justification
the warning passages in Hebrews
the vision of Jesus in Revelation

Dialogue Paper: Each student will complete a three- to four-page (900–1100 words) dialogue based on a careful reading of Richard Bauckham, *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World.* This dialogue should be between the student and a hypothetical nonbeliever who questions the relevance of Christianity in a pluralistic, postmodern age. Further instruction will be given in class. **Due May 8, 2010.**

Final Exam: The final exam will cover assigned readings and material covered in lectures. Questions will include short answer, matching, multiple choice, and essay based on assigned passages from the NT. A study guide will be distributed in advance of the final exam.

The final exam will be an in-class proctored exam OR will be available electronically. Further instruction will be given in class. **Due by May 14, 5:00 P.M.**

C. *Satisfactory performance* on quizzes and exams, graded according to the following scale:

A	95–100	C+	79–81
A-	92–94	C	75–78
B+	89–91	C-	71–74
B	85–88	D	65–70
B-	82–84	F	below 65

IV. Course Grading

Short book review (due 2/13)	15 %
Teaching project (due 3/6)	20 %
Theology project (due 4/10)	20 %
Dialogue paper (due 5/8)	15 %
<u>Final exam (due 5/14, 5:00 PM)</u>	<u>30 %</u>
	100 %

Additional Notes concerning Written Assignments

Written assignments will be evaluated both for thoughtful content as well as clarity of argumentation and overall style, including correct use of English grammar, lack of typographical errors, and neatness. Written assignments should be stapled in the upper-left hand corner. A cover page is recommended—please do not use binders or plastic covers. **Pages** (excluding the cover page) **must be numbered**. Assignments substantially over or under the word limit will be penalized. It is wise to keep a copy of your paper.

Margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be 1". The body of the paper should be 12-point font, double-spaced. Footnotes should be single-spaced with a space between each footnote. In lieu of footnotes, you may use parenthetical text references in your written papers for this class. Bibliographic entries must be single spaced with a space between each entry. A citation guide will be distributed in class. For additional information, please consult Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (6th ed., Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996) or the *TIU Style Guide*.

Plagiarism is a serious academic and legal issue; you must credit another's ideas and words. If in doubt, *cite your source*.

In-class Discussion/Reading
(completed prior to class and covered in quiz)

Jan 15 7:00–9:30 P.M.	Course introduction Historical backgrounds; the canon and text of the NT <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 1, 4 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chaps. 1–2
Jan 16 8:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M.	The Jewish Context of the NT <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 2, 3
Jan 16 1:00–4:30 P.M.	Mark and Matthew Bible reading: Matthew and Mark <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 7, 8 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chaps. 3–4
Feb 12 7:00–9:30 P.M.	Luke Bible reading: Luke <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 9, 10 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chap. 5
Feb 13 8:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M.	John Bible reading: John <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 9, 10 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chap. 20
Feb 13 1:00–4:30 P.M.	The life of Jesus; modern Jesus study <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 5, 6 Short paper due
Mar 5 7:00–9:30 P.M.	The Greco-Roman Context of the NT Acts and the early church Bible reading: Acts <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 11 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chaps. 6–7
Mar 6 8:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M.	Early Pauline Letters Bible reading: Galatians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 12 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chaps. 8–9
Mar 6 1:00–4:30 P.M.	Major Pauline Letters Bible reading: 1 and 2 Corinthians, Romans <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 13 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chaps. 10–12 Teaching project due

In-class Discussion/Reading
(completed prior to class and covered in quiz)

Apr 9 7:00–9:30 P.M.	The Prison Epistles Bible reading: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 14 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chaps. 13–16
Apr 10 8:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M.	The Pastoral Epistles Bible reading: 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 15 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chaps. 17–19
Apr 10 1:00–4:30 P.M.	Hebrews Bible reading: Hebrews <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 16 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chap. 25 Theology project due
May 7 7:00–9:30 P.M.	The General Epistles Bible reading: James, 1 and 2 Peter <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 17 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chaps. 26–27, 29
May 8 8:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M.	The General Epistles Bible reading: 1, 2, and 3 John; and Jude <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chap. 21, 28, 30
May 8 1:00–4:30 P.M.	Revelation and concluding reflections Bible reading: Revelation <i>Survey of the NT</i> , chaps. 18 <i>New Testament Theology</i> , chap. 22–24, 31 Dialogue paper due
May 14 5:00 P.M.	Final exam due

NOTE:

Students should complete the reading as outlined in the above schedule. It is likely, however, that some topics will extend into the next class period, particularly during the first part of the course.

The following bibliography contains additional helpful resources for New Testament study.

- Alexander, T. D. and B. Rosner. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2000.
- Barnett, Paul W. *Jesus and the Rise of Early Christianity: A History of New Testament Times*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1999.
- Black, David Alan, and David S. Dockery, eds. *Interpreting the New Testament: Essays on Methods and Issues*. Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman and Holman, 2001.
- Bruce, F. F. *New Testament History*. New York: Doubleday, 1969.
- Carson, D. A., and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction of the New Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2005.
- Douglas, J. D., and Merrill C. Tenney, eds. *The New International Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1999.
- Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1988.
- _____. *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1996.
- Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough, eds. *Readings from the First-Century World*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Evans, Craig A., and Stanley E. Porter. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Freedman, David Noel, ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Green, Joel B., and Scot McKnight, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1992.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. 4th edition. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1990.
- Hawthorne, Gerald F., and Ralph P. Martin, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1993.
- Keener, Craig S. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1993.
- Ladd, George. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Martin, Ralph, and Peter H. Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1997.
- Wood, D. R. W., ed. *New Bible Dictionary*. Rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996.