



A M B R O S E
SEMINARY

NT 501 New Testament Foundations

Fall 2007

Class Times: Wednesdays 8:15–11:00 am

Instructor: Dr Paul Spilsbury

Contact Information

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Online Classroom: <http://online.ambrose.edu> **Session #:** 1599

Course Description

The New Testament is a compendium of the earliest Christian writings. These writings give us vital insight into the life and thought of the first followers of Jesus. They also form the basis of much subsequent Christian theology, spirituality, and practice. This course lays the foundation for the study of the New Testament including its origins, nature, context, content, interpretation, and application.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the world of the first Christians, including Second Temple Judaism and the wider Greco–Roman world.
- To provide a basic knowledge of the origins and content of each of the New Testament writings in the context of early Christianity.
- To give an introduction to the canonization of the New Testament documents.
- To explore ways for appropriating the message of New Testament for theology and practice today.



Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

#	Date		Subject	Assignments
1a.	September	12	Introduction to the Course	
b.			What is the New Testament?	
2a.		19	The World of the New Testament	Reading and Reflection
b.			—continued	
3a.		26	The Gospels	Reading and Reflection
b.			—continued	
4a.	October	3	Mark	Reading and Reflection
b.			—continued	
		10	Matthew	Reading and Reflection
			—continued	
5a.		17	Luke	Reading and Reflection
b.			—continued	
6a.		24	John	Reading and Reflection
b.			—continued	
7a.		31	Acts	Reading and Reflection
b.			—continued	
8a.	November	7	Paul	Reading and Reflection
b.			—continued	
9a.		14	Paul	Research Paper Due
b.			—continued	
10a.		21	Hebrews	Reading and Reflection
b.			James	
11a.		28	Petrine Epistles	Reading and Reflection
b.			—continued	
12a.	December	5	Johannine Epistles	Reading and Reflection
b.			Revelation	
13	Exam Week		Final Exam	



Course Requirements

1. Reading and Reflection:

Due: Weekly

- a. Read the relevant portion of the New Testament in preparation for each class period as indicated in the **Course Schedule** above.
- b. Read 50–60 pages in one of the New Testament Introductions on reserve in the Library in preparation for each class period as indicated in the Course Schedule above. You may read from several different sources throughout the course of the semester.
- c. Post online a 250-word reflection for each week's reading. These reflections should interact with one or two critical issues raised by the reading.
- d. Respond to at least one reflection posted by another student (100 words).

2. Term Paper:

14th November

Write a 6-page research paper on a focused area of interest to yourself within New Testament studies.

Your paper should have a clearly defined thesis statement and be well laid out with an introduction and conclusion.

It should also include a bibliography (not included in the page count) of 15–20 items, including encyclopedia and journal articles, books, and commentaries.

Make sure that your topic is manageable within the space constraints of the assignment. Long papers will be penalized.

The paper should conform to the format laid out in the *Style Guide* provided in the online classroom.

3. Final Exam:

Exam Week

The final exam will be based on the entire semester's work, including lectures, class discussions and all reading. It is an essay-type exam lasting 3 hours.



Course Grade

1. Reading and Reflection	50 %
2. Term Paper	25 %
3. Final Exam	25 %

Grading Scale

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
A+	90 and higher	
A	85-89	Excellent
A-	80-84	
B+	77-79	
B	73-76	Good
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	
C	63-66	Satisfactory
C-	60-62	
D+	55-59	Poor
D	50-54	Minimal Pass
F	49 and lower	Failure

Important Notes

- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to all academic policies as they are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.
- Last day to enter course without permission and/or voluntarily withdraw from course without financial penalty: .
- Last day to voluntarily withdraw from course or change to audit without academic penalty:.
- Last day to request alternative exam: .
- All written assignments for this class are to be submitted as Word attachments to the instructor's e-mail address.
- Assignments are due before the beginning of class on the date specified.
- Extensions beyond the published due dates will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.



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- If you feel you qualify for an extension, you must make a request to the instructor **in writing** via e-mail.
- Assignments submitted late without permission will be penalized by 5% per day, or part thereof.
- Students are encouraged to have their term paper read by a second reader before submitting it to the instructor. This person's name should be included on the title-page.
- Ambrose Seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.
- Personal information, that is, information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.