

New Testament Foundations NT 501

January 21-22-23 and February 25-26-27

Instructor: Dr. Jo-Ann Badley

Contacting the Instructor

Class times:

Thursday (Jan.21 and Feb.25): 6:30 to 10:00

Friday (Jan.22 and Feb.26): 6:30 to 10:00

Saturday (Jan.23 and Feb.27): 9:00 to 4:00

E-mail address: jbadley@mhgs.edu

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the content, context, and interpretation of the New Testament. As such, it focuses upon the following three components: (1) an introduction to exegetical tools useful for reading, interpreting, and applying the New Testament; (2) a survey of the New Testament writings with particular attention to the respective historical settings, persuasive designs, and theological content of the four Gospels, Acts, Letters, and Revelation; and (3) an appreciation of the essential features of first-century Judaism and the wider Greco-Roman world.

Course Objectives

NT 501 is an introduction to the documents of the New Testament for serious theological inquiry, reflection and dialogue. Students who successfully complete the course will develop and demonstrate

- knowledge of literary and historical considerations for reading documents of the New Testament.
- knowledge of the particular NT books studied (Luke-Acts; Philemon, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1 Peter, James, Revelation), especially their context, and purpose.
- assessment and synthesis skills, both for reading New Testament books and secondary literature about the New Testament.
- written communication skills.
- appropriate regard for the role of scripture in Protestant thought.

Required Textbook

Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Recommended Books

Davis, Ellen F., and Richard B. Hays, eds. *The Art of Reading Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Gaventa, Beverly Roberts. *Acts*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries, edited by V.P. Furnish. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003.

Green, Joel B. *The Theology of the Gospel of Luke*. New Testament Theology, edited by J.D.G. Dunn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Gorman, Michael J. *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and His Letters*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Course Schedule

Module 1: January 21-23

Luke-Acts

	Course Schedule: Topics and Student Readings and Assignments
Thursday (Jan.21) 6:30-10:00	<p>I. Introduction</p> <p>A. Studying the New Testament for Faith Formation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loving and Knowing • Story and Genre/ Content and Form <p>B. Preliminary Historical Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Greco-Roman World • Plurality of Judaism in First Century • Christian Identity Formation (and canon) • Character and Extent of Persecution of Christians <p>II. Gospel of Luke</p> <p>A. Introduction: Gospel as Narrative</p>
	<p>Readings and Assignments</p> <p>Syllabus</p> <p>Textbook: chapters 1, 2, 3, and 25</p> <p>Non-canonical gospels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew</i> (Anna and the virginity of Mary: chapters 1-8) (Apocryphal NT Gospels) • <i>Gospel of Peter</i> (Resurrection: chapters 6-15) (Apocryphal NT Gospels) • <i>Gospel of Thomas</i> (sayings 1-20) (Apocryphal NT Gospels) <p>http://wesley.nnu.edu/biblical_studies/noncanon/index.htm</p> <p>Movie: view one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the Jesus Film</i> (1979), Peter Sykes and John Krisch (Campus Crusade for Christ) • <i>the Nativity</i> (2006), Catherine Hardwicke • <i>Jesus of Montreal</i> (1990), Denys Arcand (bad language warning) • <i>Passion of the Christ</i> (2004), Mel Gibson (violence warning) <p>Assignment #1: Movie Review</p>

Friday (Jan.22) 6:30-10:00	B. Luke's Witness to Jesus 1. Prologue (1:1-4) 2. Setting and Plot: Jerusalem as beginning and end (1:5-24:44-53) 3. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (4:14-9:50) 4. The Travelogue (9:51-19:28)
	Readings and Assignments Textbook: chapter 6 Bible: Luke 1-19 Matera, F. J. "Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51-19:46): A Conflict with Israel." <i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i> 51 (1993): 57-77. (EBSCO: fulltext) Assignment #2: Gospel Comparison
Saturday (Jan.23) 9:00-12:00	5. Parables 6. Passion Narrative III. The Acts of the Apostles A. Text Criticism B. Representation and the Genre of Acts
	Readings and Assignments Bible: Luke 20-24 Culpepper, R. A. "Gospel of Luke: Introduction, Commentary and Reflections: Christological Emphases." In <i>New Interpreter's Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes</i> , ed. L. E. Keck, vol. 9:13-19. Nashville, Abingdon, 1995. Non-canonical acts and historical writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acts of Paul and Thecla</i> (Apocryphal NT Acts) http://wesley.nnu.edu/biblical_studies/noncanon/index.htm • <i>Histories of Herodotus</i> (Solon and Croesus, in Book 1:28-34: search for 'Solon' and read 6 paragraphs; Crossing the Hellespont, Book 7:33-37: search for "Abydos" and read 4 paragraphs.) http://classics.mit.edu/Herodotus/history.html
Saturday 12:00-1:00	Lunch
Saturday 1:00-4:00	C. Gospel for the Gentiles: Jerusalem to Rome; the Jerusalem council decision (Acts 15) D. Characterization: Peter and Paul ... and Jesus
	Readings and Assignments Bible: Acts of the Apostles Textbook: chapter 9 Assignment #3: List the speeches of more than 3 verses in <i>The Acts of the Apostles</i>

Module 2: February 25-27

Epistles and Revelation

Thursday (Feb.25)	IV. Epistles A. Introduction: Epistles in the Ancient World
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6:30-10:00	B. Epistles as Story in context: Philemon C. Paul's Apocalyptic Gospel: 1&2 Thessalonians
	Readings and Assignments Feast paper (Gospel of Luke) due Assignment: Story of Philemon Bible: Philemon, 1&2 Thessalonians Textbook: chapters 10, 11, 17, and 18 Non-canonical epistles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polycarp 'To the Philippians' (Fathers of the Christian Church) • Ignatius 'To Polycarp' (Fathers of the Christian Church) http://wesley.nnu.edu/biblical_studies/noncanon/index.htm Martin, Dale B. "Chapter 1: Ancient Slavery and Status." In <i>Slavery as Salvation: The Metaphor of Slavery in Pauline Christianity</i> , pp.1-49 and 181-98 (endnotes). New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1990. Assignment #4: The Story of Paul and Philemon
Friday (Feb.26) 6:30-10:00	D. 1 Peter E. James
	Readings and Assignments Bible: 1 Peter, James Textbook: chapters 21 and 22 Non-canonical wisdom literature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Didache</i> (Fathers of the Christian Church) http://wesley.nnu.edu/biblical_studies/noncanon/index.htm Johnson, Luke T. "Friendship with the World and Friendship with God: A Study of Discipleship in James." In <i>Brother of Jesus, Friend of God: Studies in the Letter of James</i> , 202-220. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
Saturday (Feb.27) 9:00-12:00	V. Revelation to John A. Apocalypses Then and Now B. Images of the Apocalypse
	Readings and Assignments Textbook: chapter 24 Non-canonical apocalypse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1 Enoch</i> 83-90 (OT Pseudepigrapha) http://wesley.nnu.edu/biblical_studies/noncanon/index.htm Assignment #5: The Revelation to John and the Old Testament
Saturday 12:00-1:00	Lunch
Saturday 1:00-4:00	C. History of Interpretation VI. Conclusion: New Testament Canon as Multi-vocal Witness Distribute take home exam
	Readings and Assignments Barr, D. (1984). "Apocalypse as a Symbolic Transformation of the World."

	<i>Interpretation 38: 39-50. (EBSCO fulltext)</i>
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Post Course due dates

March 22 noon	Research paper (Exegesis in Luke) due
April 9 noon	Final exam due

Course Requirements

1. Reading for class: Reading assignments are given on the syllabus. Students are asked to read:

- from the Bible,
- from the textbook
- non-canonical examples of the kinds of literature we find in the New Testament (available on-line), and
- selected articles (on-line or on reserve).

It is very important to do this reading in preparation for class.

Note: I have also requested that you watch **one** movie before the first week-end module.

2. Five short assignments:

Assignment #1: Movie Review

If you were to re-title the movie you watched, as "The Gospel According to -----," whose name would you put in the blank. Why?

Maximum 500 words (2 pages)

Due: Thursday, January 21 @ 6:30

Assignment #2: Gospel Comparison

Compare and contrast Luke 18:35-43 with Mark 10:46-52 and Matthew 20:29-34.

Is this story about the same event in all three gospels? Support your answer with details from the narrative and the narrative's context.

Maximum: 500 words (2 pages)

Due: Friday, January 22 @ 6:30

Assignment #3: Speeches in Acts

Make a list of all the speeches in Acts longer than 3 verses.

Due: Saturday, January 23 @ 1:00

Assignment #4: Story of Paul and Philemon

Make a list of the events that are implied by the epistle of Paul to Philemon. Note the verse numbers with each event where you think this event is implied.

Due: Thursday, February 25 @ 6:30

Assignment #5: The Revelation to John and the Old Testament

Is John's vision of the throne of God (Rev.4-5) a distinctly Christian vision? Compare it with Isaiah's vision (Is.6:1-13) and Ezekiel's vision (Ex.1-3). Larry Hurtado's article, "Revelation 4-5 in the Light of Jewish Apocalyptic Analogies," (*Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 25 (1985): 105-24) may be helpful. (EBSCO)

Due: Saturday, February 27 @ 9:00

3. Exegesis in Luke's Gospel: Eating is an important theme in Luke's Gospel. Choose one of the following texts for detailed study. The thesis of your paper should identify what you think the good news about Jesus is according to this story, and why you think Luke has told the story about Jesus in this particular way. Exegesis must give evidence of understanding of the social context (meals in the first century) and the literary context in Luke's gospel.

Luke 9:12-17 Feeding miracle

Luke 14:16-24 Parable of Jesus

Luke 19:1-10 Eating with Zacchaeus

Maximum Length: 10 pages (2500-3000 words)

Minimum number of sources: 8 including two good commentaries and one article or essay.

Preliminary suggested bibliography for this work is included at the end of this syllabus.

Due: at Ambrose on Thursday March 22 @ noon.

4. Final Take-home exam:

Questions will be distributed on February 27. Collaborative work on the questions is acceptable, but every student must file an independent exam. Answers are due at Ambrose on Monday, April 9 @ noon.

Course Grade

Assignment 1--4 (4 @ 5%)	20%
Assignment 5	10%
Exegesis	40%
Exam	30%

Important Notes:

1. Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form. The dates by which students

may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the Calendar of Events in the academic calendar.

2. Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy: The seminary is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breeches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating 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 at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

3. Short assignments and papers are due at the beginning of class as indicated on the course schedule. The exam is due three weeks after the second module (on March 22 at noon in the academic office at Ambrose). All coursework is to be marked clearly with your name and student number, as well as the full name and code of your particular course, and delivered to the following address:

Ambrose University College
Coursework Submission for Jo-Ann Badley
630, 833 4th. Ave. SW
Calgary AB T2P 3T5

Please note: Neither Ambrose College nor the professor can assume responsibility for papers lost in the mail. Students are therefore **strongly advised** to retain a photocopy (or backup electronic copy) of all work submitted.

4. Extensions: Coursework submitted after the final due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal Request for Time Extension, will receive a grade of "F." Requests for a Time Extension will be considered only in the following circumstances:

- the quality of prior coursework has been satisfactory;
- circumstances beyond the student's control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for the student to complete the coursework on time; and
- the student submits a Time Extension application to the Registrar on or before two weeks prior to the due date, as indicated in the course syllabus.

5. The procedure for returning assignments to students is as follows:

- The professor will return all papers to Ambrose College after they are graded.
- Students who wish to have their papers returned **must** provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope (*large enough to mail all assignments submitted*) with *sufficient postage*, together with their coursework assignments.

- Unreturned assignments will be retained in the appropriate Dean's Office for six months after the coursework due date. Papers that are unclaimed will be held for one year from the due date, and then destroyed.

Additional Bibliography:

Bartchy, S. Scott. "The Historical Jesus and Honor Reversal at the Table." In *The Social Setting of Jesus and the Gospels*, edited by Wolfgang Stegemann, Bruce J. Malina and Gerd Theissen, 175-83. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.

Culpepper, R. A. "Gospel of Luke: Introduction, Commentary and Reflections." In *New Interpreter's Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes*, vol. 9, ed. L. E. Keck. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Green, J. B. *The Gospel of Luke*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Gospel of Luke*. Sacra Pagina, ed. D.J. Harrington. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1991.

Neyrey, J. H. "Ceremonies in Luke-Acts: The Case of Meals and Table Fellowship." In *The Social World of Luke-Acts: Models for Interpretation*, ed. J. H. Neyrey, 361-87. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.

Neyrey, J.H. "Meals, Food, and Table Fellowship." In *The Social Sciences and New Testament Interpretation*, edited by R.L. Rohrbaugh, 159-82. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.

Nolland, J. *Luke*, vols. 35A, 35B, 35C. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas: Word Books, 1989-93.

Osiek, Carolyn, and David L. Balch. "Chapter 8: Family Life, Meals, and Hospitality." In *Families in the New Testament World*, 193-214 and notes. The Family, Religion, and Culture, edited by Don S. Browning and Ian S. Evison. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Poon, W. C. K. "Superabundant Table Fellowship in the Kingdom: the Feeding of the Five Thousand and the Meal Motif in Luke." *Expository Times* 114 (2003): 224-230. (EBSCO: fulltext)

Smith, D. E. "Table Fellowship as a Literary Motif in the Gospel of Luke." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 106 (1987): 613-38. (EBSCO: fulltext)