



COURSE SYLLABUS

**NT 501 New Testament Foundations  
Winter 2014**

**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.

**Number of Credits: 3**

**Class Schedules**

**Time:** Tue. 2:30–5:15 pm

**Location:** L2100

**Instructor Information**

**Name:** Dr. Marcus Tso

**Email:** [mtso@ambrose.edu](mailto:mtso@ambrose.edu)

**Office:** L2064

**Phone:** 403-410-2000 ext. 3996

**Textbook**

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

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend and fully participate in all classes. Each unexcused absence will result in a grade reduction of 3%.

**Course Outline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Achtemeier chapters</b>
1/14	1	Introduction to the course; introduction to New Testament Studies; the World of the NT	1, 2
1/21	2	The NT Canon; introduction to the Gospels	25, 3
1/28	3	Gospel of Matthew; Gospel of Mark	4, 5
2/4	4	Gospel of Luke; Gospel of John; Jesus of Nazareth	6, 7, 8
2/11	5	Acts: The Early Church and the Apostles, Peter, Paul; NT Letters; Paul and His World	9, 10, 11
2/18		Mid-term break	

Date	Unit	Topic	Achtemeier chapters
2/25		Review and catch up	
3/4	6	Romans; 1 and 2 Corinthians	12, 13
3/11	7	Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians	14, 15, 16
3/18	8	1 and 2 Thessalonians; Pastoral Epistles; Philemon	17, 18, 19
3/25	9	Hebrews; James; 1 and 2 Peter; Jude	20, 21, 22
4/1	10	1- 3 John; Revelation	23,24
4/8		Catch up and wrap up	

### Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. understand the New Testament world so as to place the books studied into their original historical and cultural contexts;
2. have a basic knowledge of the content and purpose of each book of the NT, including the literary characteristics, historical backgrounds, theological themes, and major characters, events, and places of each book;
3. reflect theologically on the contents of the NT;
4. use the NT more intelligently in their teaching and preaching ministry;
5. develop a life-long love for the study of the New Testament.

### Course Requirements

- All assignments are to be submitted electronically via **Moodle** on or before the due dates indicated below.
  - Papers can be submitted either as Word documents or PDF files.
  - If Hebrew or Greek words are used, please beware of **font issues**.
  - Submitted assignments may be checked by **Turnitin** for plagiarism.
  - Papers need to be formatted properly, including a title page, page numbers on either right corners, double-space, 12 point fonts, 1-inch margins, footnotes in 10 point fonts, and for the research paper, a bibliography.
  - Consult one of the following guides or an approve alternative for style and formatting:
    - a. Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 7th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.
    - b. Alexander, Patrick H. et al., eds. *The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999.
    - c. See also <http://www.plagiarism.org/citing-sources/citation-styles> for proper citation styles under the Chicago system or the MLA system, which are also acceptable.
1. **Reading logs: Due Feb. 18 and April 8, 2014; 10% of the final grade (5% per log)**
    - a. Log your reading of the main textbook by **Feb. 18, 2014**: Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. (Read all, preferably before the class in which a certain chapter is covered, approximately 600 pages.)
    - b. Log your reading of the entire NT in any major translation by **April 8, 2014**. (Read after registration, even if previously read, preferably before the class in which a certain book is covered, approximately 230 pages.)

**2. Book review: Due Feb. 21, 2014; 20% of the final grade**

Write a book review on the main textbook containing a brief summary of the contents and arguments of the book, a longer critical analysis of the book that delineates both its strengths and weaknesses with clearly cited examples from the book, and a succinct evaluation of the book as a conclusion (about 2000 words).

**3. Research paper: Due April 11, 2014; 40% of the final grade**

Write an academic research paper, with standard formatting, footnotes, and bibliography, on one of the following theological themes (about 3000 words).

- a. The Kingdom of God in one of the Synoptic Gospels
- b. Eternal life in the Gospel of John
- c. The role of the Holy Spirit in the life and witness of believers/the Church in Acts or one or more of Paul's letters
- d. Christology in one or more of Paul's letters (the significance of Jesus' identity and work)
- e. Soteriology in one of the NT books (what does salvation mean and how to obtain it?)
- f. The identity of the people of God in one of the NT books (continuity or discontinuity with OT Israel?)
- g. Eschatology in one of the NT books (the what's and the so-what's)
- h. Another topic approved by the instructor

While your primary text is the NT, and you must begin your research there, to broaden your perspective and verify/deepen your reading of your chosen texts, you must also show engagement with the secondary scholarly literature, including (but not limited to) commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and encyclopaedias. (See bibliography below for some suggested resources.) Begin your paper with an interesting focus question, present your evidence and analysis, and conclude with your solution to the question. Your paper needs to describe and analyse what your chosen book(s) has to say about your chosen theme in its literary, historical, and theological contexts, and identify what the implications are for today.

**4. Examination: (Online and proctored on April 15, 2014, or in A2210 on April 17, 2014, at 1:00. The professor will decide between these options after consulting with the class.); 30% of the final grade**

This 3-hour exam will test your comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the NT material and background. It is a closed-book exam consisting of questions covering the people, dates, and places of the NT world, the contents and notable features of the NT books, and a short essay question that requires more judgment and insight from you about the ideas covered in the course. The mechanics of taking this exam will be explained during the course. In special situations, an earlier alternative date might be arranged with the instructor.

(Please note: Students may request revised final exams if they have three exams in one 24-hour period. Final exam schedule revision request forms are available at the Registrar's Office and must be handed in by Monday, March 3, 2014 (winter semester). If you do not have your request in by this date, all exams within a 24-hour period will have to be written as scheduled.)

**EVALUATION**

1.	Reading logs	40 hrs	10%
2.	Book review	15 hrs	20%
3.	Research paper	25 hrs	40%
4.	Examination	10 hrs	30%

## Grading

The available letters and percentage scale for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	96-100	
A	90-95	Excellent
A-	85-89	
B+	78-84	
B	72-77	Good
B-	66-71	
C+	61-65	
C	58-60	Satisfactory
C-	55-57	
D+	53-54	
D	50-52	Minimal Pass
F	<50	Failure

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

### Important Notes/Dates:

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty (**drop**) – Sunday, January 19, 2014 (winter semester). These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date.

Students may change the designation of any class from credit to **audit**, or drop out of the "audit" up to the "drop" date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (**withdraw**) – Friday, March 21, 2014 (Winter semester). A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

## Bibliography

See the bibliographies at the end of each chapter of Achtemeier et al. Other survey texts and helpful books to supplement this course are listed below. While you are not required to consult all or any of them, they may be helpful for your research paper or pursuing your study interests beyond this course.

1. Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992
2. Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Revised Edition with CD-ROM. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, ed., *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
4. Marshall, I. Howard, Stephen Travis, and Ian Paul. *Exploring the New Testament, Volume 2: A Guide to the Letters & Revelation*. Second Edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
5. Morris, Leon. *New Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1990.
6. deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.
7. Stambaugh, John E., and David L. Balch. *The New Testament in Its Social Environment*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986.
8. Wenham, David, and Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Volume 1: A Guide to the Gospels & Acts*. Second Edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
9. Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. COQG 1. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.
10. \_\_\_\_\_, *Jesus and the Victory of God*. COQG 2. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.
11. \_\_\_\_\_, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. COQG 3. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.
12. \_\_\_\_\_, *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels*. New York: HarperOne, 2012.
13. \_\_\_\_\_, *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. COQG 4. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.

## Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

## Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement 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](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

## Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by Monday, March 31, 2014 (Winter semester). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

**Academic Integrity**

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies 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 and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.