



## NT 501 – 1

# New Testament Foundations

Semester: Winter, 2015

Days: Wednesdays 6:30-9:15

Room: A2133

Credits: 3

Instructor: [Dr Paul Spilsbury](#)

Email: [pspilsbury@ambrose.edu](mailto:pspilsbury@ambrose.edu)

Phone: 403-410-2917

Office: L2051

Office hours: By appointment

### 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:

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

### Important Dates:

First day of classes:	January 7, 2015
Registration revision period:	January 18, 2015
Last day to request revised examination:	March 2, 2015
Last day to withdraw from course:	March 20, 2015
Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	March 30, 2015
Last day of classes:	April 10, 2015

**Final Exam: April 15, 2015**

**Time: 6:30-8:30**

**Room: A2133**

## Course Requirements

There are three assignments in this course. Students must complete all three assignments in order to receive a passing grade.

### 1. Reading and Response:

- a. Read an average of 50 pages per week for ten weeks (500 pages total) from the New Testament Introductions on reserve in the library in preparation for class as indicated in the Course Schedule below. You may read from several different sources throughout the course of the semester.
- b. Post online a 300-word reflection for each week's reading. These reflections should interact with one or two critical issues raised by the reading. Each posting must include the author and title of the reading, and the pages read.
- c. Post at least one 100-word interaction with another student's submission each week.

**Due: Weekly**

### 2. Term Paper:

- a. Write a 6-page research paper on a focused area of interest to yourself within New Testament studies.
- b. Your paper should have a clearly defined thesis statement and be well laid out with an introduction and conclusion.
- c. It should also include a bibliography (not included in the page count) of no less than 10 scholarly items (e.g. journal articles, monographs, commentaries).
- d. Make sure that your topic is manageable within the space constraints of the assignment. Long papers will be penalized.
- e. The paper should conform to the format laid out in the Style Guide provided in the Moodle online classroom.

**Due: March 4** at class time.

### 3. Final Exam:

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 2 hours.

The exam is scheduled for **April 15** from 6:30 to 8:30.

**Course Schedule (Subject to Change)**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<b>1</b>	January 7	Introduction	Reading/Response
<b>2</b>	14	World of the NT	Reading/Response
<b>3</b>	21	The Gospels	Reading/Response
<b>4</b>	28	Mark	Reading/Response
<b>5</b>	February 4	Matthew	Reading/Response
<i>No Class</i>	11	<i>Downey Lecture</i>	Reading/Response
<i>No Class</i>	18	<i>Mid-Term Break</i>	Reading/Response
<b>6</b>	25	Luke-Acts	
<b>7</b>	March 4	John	
<b>8</b>	11	Paul	<b>Term Paper</b>
<i>No Class</i>	18	<i>Class Cancelled</i>	Reading/Response
<b>9</b>	25	Paul	Reading/Response
<b>10</b>	April 1	Johannine & Petrine Epistles	Reading/Response
<b>11</b>	8	Revelation	
<b>12</b>	15		<b>Final Exam</b>

**Course Grade**

1. Academic Reading/Response: 40 %
2. Term Paper: 30 %
3. Final Exam: 30 %

**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

## Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (Cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. 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.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### 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 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 the deadline date, please consult the List of

Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control”.

### **Appeal of Grade**

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.

### **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 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 strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.