



NT 501-CL

New Testament Foundations

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:
None

Semester: Fall, 2014
Dates: Sep. 3-6; Nov. 5-8, 2014
Days: Wed.–Fri. 6:30–9:30 pm;
Sat. 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Room: A2212

Instructor: Dr. Marcus Tso 曹傑明博士
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Office: L2064
Office hours: By appointment

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.

Special note:

Since important communication in this course is done through Moodle and email, please check your Moodle page and Ambrose email account regularly, preferably daily. For your convenience, you may configure your Ambrose email account to forward all your incoming emails to an account that you use most often.

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;

Important Dates:

First day of classes: Sep. 3, 2014
Registration revision end of the second period: (2nd) day of classes
Last day to request revised examination: October 27, 2014
Last day to withdraw from course: Friday, 9:00AM of the second (2nd) week
Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: One month before the final assignment is due
Last day of classes: Nov. 8, 2014

Final Exam: December 23, 2014

Time: TBA

Room: TBA

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.

Outline:

Date	Unit	Topic	Relevant chapters from:	
			Achtemeier	亞德邁耶
9/3	1	Introduction to the course; introduction to New Testament Studies; the World of the NT	1, 2	3:7, 3:8
9/4	2	The NT Canon; introduction to the Gospels	25, 3	3:9, 1:1
9/5	3	Gospel of Matthew; Gospel of Mark	4, 5	1:2, 1:3
9/6	4	Gospel of Luke; Gospel of John; Jesus of Nazareth	6, 7, 8	1:4, 1:5, 1:6
	5	Acts: The Early Church and the Apostles, Peter, Paul; NT Letters; Paul and His World	9, 10, 11	3:1, 2:1, 2:2
11/5	6	Romans; 1 and 2 Corinthians	12, 13	2:3, 2:4
11/6	7	Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians	14, 15, 16	2:5, 2:6, 2:7
11/7	8	1 and 2 Thessalonians; Pastoral Epistles; Philemon	17, 18, 19	2:8, 2:9, 2:10
11/8	9	Hebrews; James; 1 and 2 Peter; Jude	20, 21, 22	3:2, 3:3, 3:4
	10	1- 3 John; Revelation	23,24	3:5, 3:6

Requirements:

1. Reading logs:

- a. Log your reading of the main textbook: Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. Or its Chinese translation in three volumes: 亞德邁耶、格林、湯馬恩。《新約文學與神學》。香港：天道出版社·2003-2006。Read all, preferably before the class in which a certain chapter is covered, approximately 600 pages in English. **Due Oct. 18, 2014; 5% of the final grade**
- b. Log your reading of the entire NT in any major translation (Read after registration, even if previously read, preferably before the class in which a certain book is covered, approximately 230 pages) **Due Dec. 13, 2014; 5% of the final grade**

2. Book review: Due Oct. 25, 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 2600 words in Chinese, or 2000 words in English).

3. Research paper: Due Dec. 20, 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 3900 words in Chinese, or 3000 words in English).

- 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 or on campus on Dec. 23, 2014. The professor will decide between these options after consulting with the class. Details TBC.); 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.

Submission of Assignments:

- Submit all assignments electronically via **Moodle** on or before the due dates indicated above.
- Submit papers either as Word documents or PDF files.
- If you use Hebrew or Greek words in your assignments, please beware of **font issues**.
- Submitted assignments may be checked by **Turnitin** for plagiarism.
- **Format papers 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.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend each day of week module classes. Given that this is a module course, it is extremely important that you attend all of the class time. Each unit of unexcused absence will result in a grade reduction of 3%.

Evaluation:

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

Grade Summary:

The available letters 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 student registration system. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

Textbook:

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

Or its Chinese translation in three volumes:

V1: 亞德邁耶、格林、湯馬恩。《新約文學與神學：四福音及耶穌》。香港：天道出版社，2003。

V2: 亞德邁耶、格林、湯馬恩。《新約文學與神學：保羅及其書信》。香港：天道出版社，2004。

V3: 亞德邁耶、格林、湯馬恩。《新約文學與神學：後期著作及背景》。香港：天道出版社，2006。

Bibliography:

See the bibliographies at the end of each chapter of the main text by 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. Boring, M. Eugene. *An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology*. 1st ed. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2012.
2. Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. 卡森、穆爾。《21世紀新約導論》。尹妙珍、紀榮神譯。香港：天道，2007。

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3. 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. 亞伯勒、埃爾韋爾。《新約透析:歷史與神學的探討》。李愛明譯。香港:漢語聖經協會, 2000。(based on first edition)
 4. _____, ed., *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
 5. Green, Joel B. and Lee Martin McDonald, eds. *The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2013.
 6. 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.
 7. Morris, Leon. *New Testament Theology*. Zondervan, 1990. 莫理斯《認識新約神學》。周天和譯。台北:校園出版社, 1991。
 8. Powell, Mark Allan. *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2009.
 9. deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.
 10. Stambaugh, John E., and David L. Balch. *The New Testament in Its Social Environment*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986.
 11. Wenham, David, and Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Volume 1: A Guide to the Gospels & Acts*. Second Edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
 12. Wright, N. T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. COQG 1. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992. 賴特。《新約與神的子民》。左心泰譯。台北:校園書房出版社, 2013。
 13. _____, *Jesus and the Victory of God*. COQG 2. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.
 14. _____, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. COQG 3. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.
 15. _____, *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels*. New York: HarperOne, 2012.
 16. _____, *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*. COQG 4. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013.
 17. 吳慧儀。《談情說理話新約》。聖經研究叢書。第4版。香港:明風出版, 2004。
 18. 孫寶玲、黃錫木。《耶穌生平與福音書要領》。香港:基道出版社, 2004。
 19. 黃錫木、孫寶玲、張略。《新約歷史與宗教文化導論》。聖經導論叢書。香港:基道出版社, 2002。
 20. 黃錫木。《新約研究透視》。第二版。香港:基道出版社, 2000。
 21. 陳濟民。《新約神學精要》。香港:中國神學研究院, 1996。

On-Line Resources:

There is a virtual ocean of resources on the internet helpful for the study of the New Testament. The following is a mere sampling of such resources, each of which may contain some elements helpful to your study in this course and beyond. As with any on-line resources, you should approach these sites with the proper caution and discernment. Their listing here does not represent any kind of endorsement other than the acknowledgement that some useful materials are found in them.

- BibleGateway: <http://www.biblegateway.com/>
 - Bible Web App: <http://biblewebapp.com/study/>
 - Blue Letter Bible: <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>
 - 研經軟體: CBOL計畫: <http://a2z.fhl.net/CBOL.html>
Comparable to Blue Letter Bible, but in Chinese
 - The Society of Biblical Literature's Research Tools: <http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/researchtools.aspx>
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- Denver Seminary's New Testament Exegesis Bibliography: <http://www.denverseminary.edu/resources/news-and-articles/new-testament-exegesis-bibliography-2014/>
 - Resources for Biblical, Theological, and Religious Studies maintained by Tyler F. Williams, Assistant Professor of Theology at The King's University College, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada: <http://biblical-studies.ca/>
 - NT Resources by NT Wright: <http://ntwrightpage.com/>
 - The New Testament Gateway, hosted by Logos Bible Software and edited by Mark Goodacre: <http://www.ntgateway.com/>
 - Andreas Kostenberger's list of resources for Biblical Studies: <http://www.biblicalfoundations.org/recommended-websites/>
 - Electronic New Testament Educational Resources by Felix Just, S.J., Ph.D.: <http://catholicbibleresources.net/Bible/index.html>

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.

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.