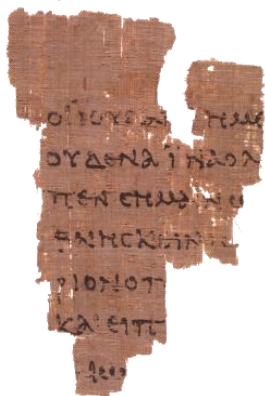




## NT 501 New Testament Foundations (Online) Fall 2012

Professor: Robert S. Snow, PhD  
October 15 - December 10, 2012

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P<sup>52</sup> is the earliest surviving piece of NT text  
c.120 C.E.

### 1. 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 the exegetical tools useful for reading, interpreting, and applying the New Testament; (2) a survey of a selection of New Testament writings with particular attention to their respective historical settings and theological content; and (3) an appreciation of the essential features of first-century Judaism and the wider Greco-Roman world.

The course is organized in Moodle in an eight week format. In addition, we have two scheduled live classroom sessions. The dates of our live classroom sessions are Thursday October 11 and Thursday December 13.

### 2. Course objectives:

- to know the major divisions of the NT and its literary genres
- to deepen knowledge of the content of the NT and its historical contexts
- to become acquainted with historical and literary methods of interpretation
- to appreciate the continuing theological relevance of the NT

**3. Course outline and textbook readings** (there will be additional readings for some weeks as well which I will post on Moodle):

**Before the beginning of the course, please read pp.2-50 in *RNTT*.**

For the week of . . .

- October 15: Backgrounds (pp. 51-110 in *RNTT*)
- Jewish and Greco-Romans backgrounds of the New Testament
- October 22: Gospels (pp. 112-216 in *RNTT*)
- Gospels: A literary and historical introduction
  - Matthew
  - Mark
- October 29: Gospels cont'd (pp. 217-282 in *RNTT*)
- Luke
  - John
- Nov 5: The beginning of the early church (pp. 284-331 in *RNTT*)
- Acts of the Apostles
  - Paul and his letters
- Nov 12: Pauline epistles (pp. 332-368; 369-379 in *RNTT*)
- 1 Thessalonians
  - 1 and 2 Corinthians
  - Galatians
- Nov 19: Pauline epistles (pp. 379-407; 444-463 in *RNTT*)
- Romans
  - Philippians
  - 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus
- Nov 26: General epistles (pp. 466; 479-497; 502-508; 509-528 in *RNTT*)
- James
  - 1, 2 Peter
  - 1, 2, 3 John
- Dec 3: Apocalyptic literature (pp. 529-550 in *RNTT*)
- Revelation

#### 4. Course requirements:

- a. **Completion of all IR/CRs is mandatory in order to receive a passing grade.** Instructions for the IR/CRs are posted on Moodle.
- b. **Book review of *Surprised by Hope* by Tom Wright due 12 November 2012 uploaded on Moodle.** This 1500-word review is composed of the following:
  - i. a description of the thesis/purpose of the book and its relationship to the title and subtitle (200 words).
  - ii. a summary including how the book is organized (800 words).
  - iii. a discussion of what you found particularly helpful and *why* (500 words). You can also mention any weaknesses here as well, but substantiate them.
- c. **Term paper due 15 January 2013 uploaded on Moodle.** The topic for this 2000-word paper is one of your choosing from the course. I will provide you with what is required for this paper later in the course. You must, however, clear your topic with me first before you begin researching it.
- d. **Take home exam due 15 January 2013 uploaded on Moodle.** This

exam will cover material from the entire course. I will post the exam on Moodle on December 15.

## 5. Evaluation:

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| a. Readings, discussions, IR/CRs | 20% |
| b. Book review                   | 20% |
| c. Term paper                    | 30% |
| d. Final exam                    | 30% |

## 6. Grading:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Numerical Equivalents</u>
A+	95-100
A	86-94
A-	80-85
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	55-59
D	50-54
F	0-49

## 7. Course Texts:

Wright, N. T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church*. New York: HarperOne, 2008.

Voorst, Robert E. Van. *Reading the New Testament Today*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2005.

Bible: NRSV ideally.

## 8. Important Notes

a. Format for papers: All papers need to have 12 point font in Times New Roman, 2.5 cm margins, and need to be double spaced. Title pages are not necessary; rather, put your name and student id in the top right hand corner along with the word count.

b. Extensions and submissions: Extensions are highly unusual occurrences contingent upon equally highly unusual circumstances (being too busy does not count!). A late penalty of 10% per day including week-end days will be enforced for those who fail to submit their book review and final exam on time. Upload your book review and final exam on Moodle.

## 9. Information from the Registrar:

*The last day to enter a weekend course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial and academic penalty for courses with three weekends is Noon on the first Saturday. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Please notify the Registrar's Office at [registrar@ambrose.edu](mailto:registrar@ambrose.edu), if you wish to drop a class.*

*Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of audit, up to the drop date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. Please note that this is a **new policy**, which began in the 2010-2011 academic year. If you wish to change to audit, please notify the Registrar's Office at [registrar@ambrose.edu](mailto:registrar@ambrose.edu).*

*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 for classes with three weekends is the end of the second weekend. 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.*

*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).*

*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 appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."*

*We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches 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 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.*

*Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.*

*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 Ambrose. 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 and become part of the student's permanent record.*