



Bible 120 - Course Syllabus

Course Title: *New Testament I: Gospels and Acts (3 Credits)*

Course Description: This course will study through the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts to provide each student with an in-depth knowledge of the historical, theological, and practical significance of this portion of the New Testament text. Students will learn how to interpret and apply both the didactic and narrative contained in these books in both their personal lives and in practical ministry settings. There will be a significant focus on chapter-by-chapter study, discussion, and application throughout the semester. Student learning will be evaluated based on weekly quizzes, a midterm and final exam, and a final exegetical paper.

Prerequisites: None

Instructors:

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Course Materials:

- Bible (unless otherwise specified, you may use the translation of your choice)
 - Lecture notes and quiz blanks will use the ESV translation.
- The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey, Elmer Towns and Ben Gutierrez, ISBN: 978-1433644900

Class Time: Class will meet once weekly on Mondays from 4pm-7pm. Class will take place in Room 105 at Hope Community Church, located at 2100 Ellsworth Rd. Ypsilanti, MI, 48197. Class time will be broken down into the following general schedule:

- Weekly Quiz (4:00 - 4:10)
- Review of Homework (4:10 - 4:20)
- Lecture (4:20 - 5:20)

- Break (5:20 - 5:25)
- Lecture (5:25 - 6:25)
- Break (6:25 - 6:30)
- Discussion (6:30 - 7:00)

Assignments:

- **Quizzes** - There will be 12 quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will generally take place at the beginning of class time each week and will cover the previous week's study materials. The quiz format will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer-style questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to provide the students with regular graded feedback on their understanding of the course material and to prepare them for the exams. The quizzes also ensure a student's regular and on-time attendance for the weekly class time. The lowest 2 quiz scores for each student will be dropped.
- **Homework** - There will be weekly homework assignments based on the week's assigned Bible reading. There be roughly 8 chapters assigned per week. The homework assignment will consist of the following written analysis of each chapter from the assigned Bible reading:
 - A key verse selected
 - A 1-2 paragraph summary
 - A 1-2 paragraph personal reflection and application

And for each book (Matthew through Acts), the following homework assignment will be required:

- A detailed outline of the book structure. An example of such an outline for another book of the Bible will be provided on Canvas. The passage descriptions shouldn't just be matching any translation's pericope titles but you may consult such for structure or inspiration.

Homework may be handwritten or typed, although keeping a notebook of all Bible reading homework is strongly encouraged. Submission of the homework will be done through Canvas. Typed documents may be uploaded directly. Handwritten homework can be scanned and submitted as individual pictures or a complete .pdf document. Homework is graded for completeness with points deducted only for incomplete submissions or a clear lack of effort.

- **Exegetical Study Paper** - This assignment is designed to enable each student to study a passage of his/her selection and write a paper with the same content and structure that could be used to lead a Bible study. Students will be given instruction on how to approach this assignment throughout the course of the semester and will be taught how to develop exegetical study skills necessary for studying an individual passage and preparing to lead a Bible study. This assignment will have a paper outline due 03/06/23 and the final paper due 04/17/23.
- **Midterm Exam** - The midterm exam will take place on 02/27/23 during the first part of class time. The exam will cover all lecture and study material content up to that point. The purpose of the exam is to encourage each student to review the material studied so

far and to ensure that each student retains the information learned throughout the course of the semester. The exam will be structured in the same format as the quizzes.

- **Final Exam** - The final exam will take place on 04/24/23. The exam will be cumulative but with a much heavier emphasis on material covered after the midterm. The purpose of the exam is to encourage each student to review the entire course material and to ensure that each student retains the information learned throughout the course of the semester. The exam will be structured in the same format as the midterm and the quizzes.

Canvas: Canvas is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of assignments and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents. Further details on how to set up a Canvas account and access this course can be found in the appendix to this document.

Assessment: Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Quizzes	15%	Almost weekly, according to the course schedule. Lowest two quizzes dropped
Homework	20%	Weekly according to the course schedule
Exegetical Study Paper	20%	Outline worth 5%, due: 03/06/23 Final Paper worth 15%, due: 04/17/23
Midterm Exam	20%	On 02/27/23
Final Exam	25%	On 04/24/23

We will use the following thresholds to convert raw scores in the course into letter grades:

- A+: $\geq 98\%$
- A: $\geq 92\%$
- A-: $\geq 90\%$
- B+: $\geq 88\%$
- B: $\geq 82\%$
- B-: $\geq 80\%$
- C+: $\geq 78\%$
- C: $\geq 72\%$
- C-: $\geq 70\%$
- D+: $\geq 68\%$
- D: $\geq 62\%$
- D-: $\geq 60\%$
- F: $< 60\%$

Depending on the distribution of raw scores at the end of the semester, these thresholds may change; however the final thresholds will be no stricter than the current thresholds. For example, if you receive a raw score of 85% in the course, you will be guaranteed a letter grade of at least B; however, it may happen that you receive a higher letter grade depending on the overall distribution of raw scores.

Class Schedule:

Date	Lecture Topic	Study Material	Number of HW Chapters	Assignments Due
1/9/23	Approaching the New Testament & Gospel of Matthew Part 1 (Chapters 1-3)	- Matthew 1-10 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapters 1-4	10	Nothing Due First Day of Class
1/16/23	Gospel Matthew Part 2 (Chapters 4-13)	- Matthew 11-20 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 5	10	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 1/9/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Matthew 1-10
1/23/23	Gospel of Matthew Part 3 (Chapters 14-23)	- Matthew 21-28 - Mark 1-2 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 5	10	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 1/16/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Matthew 11-20
1/30/23	Gospel of Matthew Part 4 (Chapters 24-28) Gospel of Mark Part 1 (Chapters 1-5)	- Mark 3-12 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 6	10	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 1/23/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Matthew 21-28 & Matthew Outline & Mark 1-2
2/6/23	Gospel of Mark Part 2 (Chapters 6-16)	- Mark 13-16 - Luke 1-8 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 6	12	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 1/30/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Mark 3-12
2/13/23	Fur Rendezvous Break!			
2/20/23	Gospel of Luke Part 1 (Chapters 1-8)	- Luke 9-16 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 7	8	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 2/6/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Mark 13-16 & Mark Outline & Luke 1-8
2/27/23	Midterm Exam Gospel of Luke Part 1 (Chapters 9-16)	- Luke 17-24 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 7	8	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 2/20/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Luke 9-16 <i>Midterm Exam</i>
3/6/23	Gospel of Luke Part 2 (Chapters 17-24)	- John 1-7 - The Essence of the Ne Testament: A Survey; Chapter 8	8	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 2/27/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Luke 17-24 & Luke Outline <i>Exegetical Study Paper Outline</i>

3/13/23	Gospel of John Part 1 (Chapters 1-7)	- John 8-14 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 8	7	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 3/6/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - John 1-7
3/20/23	Gospel of John Part 2 (Chapters 8-14)	- John 15-21 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 8	7	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 3/13/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - John 8-14
3/27/23	Gospel of John Part 3 (Chapters 15-21)	- Acts 1-8 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 8	7	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 3/20/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - John 15-21 & John Outline
4/3/23	Book of Acts Part 1 (Chapters 1-8)	-- Acts 9-16 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 9	8	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 3/27/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Acts 1-8
4/10/23	Book of Acts Part 2 (Chapters 9-16)	- Acts 17-24 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 9	8	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 4/3/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Acts 9-16
4/17/23	Book of Acts Part 3 (Chapters 17-24) Final Exam Review	- Acts 25-28 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 9	8	<i>Quiz</i> - Covering 4/10/23 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Acts 17-24 <i>Exegetical Study Final Paper</i>
4/24/23	Book of Acts Part 4 (Chapters 25-28) Final Exam		4	<i>HW</i> - Acts 25-28 & Acts Outline <i>Final Exam</i>

Late Policy:

Assignments are expected to be submitted prior to the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances outside of the student's control, they may request an extension from the teaching staff.

Additionally, it is often the case that due to any number of other circumstances, a student finds that they are unable to adequately complete a given assignment. In such cases, the student is welcome to submit the assignment after the due date, up to the end of the semester; however, a late penalty will be given for such a late assignment. The standard late penalty is a 20% flat reduction in grade for the given assignment. This late penalty is meant to penalize late submissions and encourage timeliness, while still allowing the student to still finish the given assignment to the best of their ability even if they are unable to complete the assignment for some time due to any extended circumstances.

This late policy is subject to instructor discretion. The 20% late penalty policy is intended to allow for unique or difficult but not extraordinary circumstances. Any student who abuses this policy, per the instructor's discretion, is liable to have this policy revoked and the grade revert to either a zero or that based on any submission prior to the due date.

Appendix: How to set up your Canvas Account

This course will use the free version of Canvas. This means that you will be able to set up a Canvas account with your regular email and will be able to access the course on Canvas with a simple course invitation sent to your email. Please perform the following steps to set up your Canvas account:

- Check your email for a course invitation to Canvas.
- Click the “Get Started” button, which should redirect you to a Canvas page.
- Accept the course invitation. Upon accepting, it should redirect you to a page that will allow you to either set up a new Canvas account or link a current Canvas account.
- If you do not already have a free Canvas account, proceed to create a new account. To create a new account, it will set your login to be your email, you simply need to set your password and accurate time zone.

Your new account should be all set. To log in to Canvas in the future, go to the following URL: <https://canvas.instructure.com/login/canvas>

Use your email and password to log in. Then click on your course.

To use the mobile Canvas app, you’ll want to download the Canvas app. Upon downloading and opening the app for the first time, it will prompt you to “Find my School.” Select this option and put in “Free Canvas Accounts.” Select this option and proceed to log in with your email and password associated with your free Canvas account.

Appendix: How to submit assignments on Canvas

From the course’s Canvas home page, navigate to the assignments tab. Select the specific assignment from the list of assignments. Follow the instructions for the different cases of typed and handwritten submissions.

For typed documents:

- Click “Start Assignment” (“Submit Assignment” in the mobile app)
- Click “Upload File” (“Files” in the mobile app)
- Click “Choose File” (simply select the file in the mobile app)
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by selecting “Add Another File”

For handwritten documents:

You may use a scanner, scanner app, or simply take photos of your work and submit the files by following the same steps outlined for typed documents. The best option may be to use the Canvas mobile app to submit the assignment and use the scanner feature as an option after selecting “Submit Assignment.”

Please note, you may submit as many times as you would like prior to the assignment deadline. The most recent submission will count as your graded submission.

Appendix: Academic Integrity

Students are expected to hold themselves to a Christian standard of ethics in all matters. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from any forms of plagiarism, cheating, sharing or acquiring any materials that would give a student an unfair advantage, or any dishonest representation of one's work. Below are outlined the consequences for an infringement of academic integrity for a given assignment:

- First offense – A grade of zero is given for the assignment; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file.
- Second offense – A grade of F is assigned for the course; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file. The Dean of Students and/or Registrar will notify faculty of students who incur a second offense in this area.
- Third offense – The professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file and the student may be suspended or dismissed from this institution.