



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:

- Professor: Dr. Nathan Williams
 - Email: nathan@woodhavenbible.com
 - Phone: 734-945-2569

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 7pm – 10pm. 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 (7:00 - 7:10)
- Review of Homework (7:10 - 7:20)
- Lecture (7:20 - 8:20)
- Break (8:20 - 8:25)
- Lecture (8:25 - 9:25)
- Break (9:25 - 9:30)
- Discussion (9:30 - 10:00)

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 will 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 Chapter title
 - A key verse selected
 - A 1-2 paragraph summary
 - A 1-2 paragraph personal reflection and application

Homework must be handwritten in the workbook provided by Anchor. Submission of the homework must be done in one of two ways. The student must bring his or her workbook to class and the professor will check it while the quiz is being taken. Or, homework pages can be scanned and submitted as a .jpg or .pdf to Populi. 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 10/26/26 and the final paper due 12/07/26.
- **Midterm Exam** - The midterm exam will take place on 10/19/26 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 12/14/26. 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.

Populi: Populi 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 Populi 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: 10/26/26 Final Paper worth 15%, due: 12/07/26
Midterm Exam	20%	On 10/19/26
Final Exam	25%	On 12/14/26

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 for Next Week	Number of HW Chapters	Assignments Due
8/31/26	Approaching the New Testament & Gospel of Matthew Part 1 (Chapters 1-4)	- Matthew 1-10 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapters 1-4	10	Nothing Due First Day of Class
9/14/26	Gospel Matthew Part 2 (Chapters 5-13)	- Matthew 11-20 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 5	10	<i>Quiz #1</i> - Covering 8/31/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Matthew 1-10
9/21/26	Gospel of Matthew Part 3 (Chapters 14-25)	- Matthew 21-28 - Mark 1-2 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 5	10	<i>Quiz #2</i> - Covering 9/14/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Matthew 11-20
9/28/26	Gospel of Matthew Part 4 (Chapters 26-28) Gospel of Mark Part 1 (Chapters 1-8)	- Mark 3-12 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 6	10	<i>Quiz #3</i> - Covering 9/21/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Matthew 21-28 & Mark 1-2
10/05/26	Gospel of Mark Part 2 (Chapters 9-16)	- Mark 13-16 - Luke 1-6 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 6	10	<i>Quiz #4</i> - Covering 9/28/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Mark 3-12
10/12/26	Gospel of Luke Part 1 (Chapters 1-9)	- Luke 7-16 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 7	10	<i>Quiz #5</i> - Covering 10/05/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Mark 13-16 & Luke 1-6
10/19/26	Midterm Exam Gospel of Luke Part 2 (Chapters 10-19)	- Luke 17-24 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 7	8	<i>HW</i> - Luke 7-16 <i>Midterm Exam</i>
10/26/26	Gospel of Luke Part 3 (Chapters 20-24)	- John 1-7 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 8	8	<i>Quiz #6</i> - Covering 10/19/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Luke 17-24 <i>Exegetical Study Paper Outline</i>
11/2/26	Gospel of John Part 1 (Chapters 1-4)	- John 8-14 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 8	7	<i>Quiz #7</i> - Covering 10/26/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - John 1-7
11/9/26	Gospel of John Part 2	- John 15-21	7	<i>Quiz #8</i> - Covering 11/2/26

	(Chapters 5-12)	- The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 8		Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - John 8-14
11/16/26	Gospel of John Part 3 (Chapters 13-21)	- Acts 1-8 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 8	7	<i>Quiz #9</i> - Covering 11/9/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - John 15-21
11/23/26	Book of Acts Part 1 (Chapters 1-8)	- Acts 9-16 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 9	8	<i>Quiz #10</i> - Covering 11/16/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Acts 1-8
11/30/26	Book of Acts Part 2 (Chapters 9-16)	- Acts 17-24 - The Essence of the New Testament: A Survey; Chapter 9	8	<i>Quiz #11</i> - Covering 11/23/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Acts 9-16
12/7/26	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 #12</i> - Covering 11/30/26 Lecture Topic <i>HW</i> - Acts 17-24 <i>Exegetical Study Final Paper</i>
12/14/26	Book of Acts Part 4 (Chapters 25-28) Final Exam		4	<i>HW</i> - Acts 25-28 <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 Log in to Populi for the First Time

This course uses Populi, Anchor Bible College's student information and learning management system. Your Populi account is created for you when you matriculate at Anchor, so there is nothing additional for you to sign up for; however, you do need to perform the following steps to activate your account:

- Check your email for a welcome message from notifications@populi.co with the subject line "Welcome to Populi." It is sent to the personal email address you registered with.
- The email contains your username, which the college has already set for you. Usernames follow the format `firstname.lastname` (for example, `jayden.spring`).
- Click the link in the email to set your password. This link expires thirty days after the email is sent. If your link is expired, check with an Anchor staff member and they should be able to help generate a new link.
- Populi will first ask for a mobile phone number so the college can send you text notifications. You may skip this step. If you enter a number, Populi will text you a verification code to confirm it.
- Set your password. It must be at least ten characters long and contain at least one capital letter and one number. Populi will not accept a password that has appeared in a known data breach.
- Check the box to accept the Acceptable Use Policy, then click "Save Password and Log In."

Your account should be all set. To log in to Populi in the future, go to the following URL:

<https://anchor.populiweb.com>

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

Populi publishes its own help articles for students, including the following:

- Logging in for the first time: <https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/articles/223791887-Your-Populi-account-login-everything-you-need-to-know>
- Assignments, lessons, discussions, and tests: <https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/sections/360006197054-Your-courses>

If you have trouble logging in or reaching your course, contact Jayden Spring, Administrative Specialist. Call or text 517-320-2659, or email jayden.spring@anchorbiblecollege.org.

Appendix: How to submit assignments in Populi

From your Populi Home page, click on your course and 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 the name of the assignment to open its page
- Click the upload area in the main part of the screen
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by uploading them the same way
- You may also attach a file, along with any comments or questions for your instructor, in the feedback section on the right side of the page

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.

Please note, you may replace your submission as often as you like before the assignment deadline, provided your instructor has not yet viewed or graded it. To replace a submission, delete the uploaded file and upload the corrected version. Once your instructor has viewed or graded your submission, the original file can no longer be deleted. You may still be able to upload a revised version, but you should clearly identify it and notify your instructor.

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.

Appendix: Policy on Use of Generative Language Models for Written Assignments

The use of generative language models, such as ChatGPT, is not strictly prohibited and in some cases is very much encouraged as a research and brainstorming tool. However, all written assignments submitted as your own work should reflect your own personal writing. This prohibits copy and paste use of such tools, however, you may feel free to quote such tools provided that you make clear it is a quotation.

In general, you should treat generative language models as equivalent to speaking to another person. You may gain insight from them and be able to improve your value and productivity, but you should not misrepresent someone else's work as your own. These tools may also be treated somewhat like calculators in a math class. You may use them when appropriate and assignments may even assume their use in some ways, but all submitted work must be your own unless specified otherwise.