

BIB152 New Testament Survey
Pacific Life Bible College
Spring 2015
Thursdays 8:00-11:20

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College Mission Statement:

The mission of Pacific Life Bible College is to glorify God and fulfill His Great Commission by helping the church prepare men and women for Spirit-powered, servant leadership within their churches, families, communities and chosen careers.

Character Development

Your character development is encouraged through courses that emphasize personal integrity, dynamic classroom and chapel experiences, an on-going mentoring program, and a community of supportive faculty, friends, and fellow students. We consider character qualities to be the main criteria for assessing leadership potential (1 Timothy 3).

Academic Excellence

On the foundation of godly character, we add knowledge: systematic instruction from God's Word, applied to a changing world. Leaders that make an eternal difference in their world have a thoroughly Christian worldview, understanding people and current events from the timeless perspective of Scripture.

Ministry Experience

While we strive to instill in you a sense of academic excellence, we don't end the process there. Hearers of the Word are to also be doers of the Word. We help you apply learning to practical service to others through connecting to local church leadership for guided hands-on practicums and internship programs. Our goal is to help you become a leader, firmly founded on sound doctrine and reaching out in the effective power of the Spirit.

Course Description:

An overview of the New Testament, highlighting its organization, overall themes, historical context, and major events, as well as key words, names and places mentioned in each book.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Articulate the 'Big-Picture' history of the New Testament People of God and the overall message of the New Testament.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of the New Testament Scriptures and their relevance to life and ministry.
3. Place the Major NT people, events and books in a general chronology.
4. Explain the main message(s), organization, theme(s), and/or characters of every NT book.
5. Use the NT as a means to grow in worship, devotion, and Christian character.
6. Use the foundation from this survey as the basis for continued fruitful study in the New Testament.
7. Demonstrate a growing esteem of Jesus and His Holy Word.

Textbooks and Suggested readings:

Primary Textbook-

Holy Bible in a literal [formal equivalent] or dynamic equivalent [functional equivalent] translation (no paraphrase).

Secondary/Supplemental Textbook-

Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough, Encountering the New Testament, Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2013.

Course Requirements:

1. **Class attendance-** Student is to be present, to be on time, and to actively participate in class discussion and activity. See the PLBC attendance policy below.
2. **Bible/Textbook Reading and Reading Reports-** Students will read selected portions of the NT in preparation for each class session. The reading is to be done before class on the date assigned. The readings are listed on the Reading Schedule which can also be found on the course website or on Populi. To report on your reading, from the Populi page for this course, click the “Tests” tab and then choose the appropriate report. For each reading completed before the due date, click “done”, for those readings completed up to one week after the due date, click “late”. The reading reports will be available for one week after the due date. Reading Reports must be done via Populi and will not be accepted in class.
Due Weekly
3. **Scripture Devotion/Prayer Journal-** In conjunction with the Scripture reading, each student should use the reading as a devotional practice. This ideally includes listening to God speaking through the text and prayer. Each student will write a weekly journal of their devotional and prayer time from the Scripture reading. More detailed instruction on the Journal can be found in the Journal Assignment sheet. Please keep each weekly entry at approximately ½ to 1 page in length.
Due Weekly
4. **In Class Quizzes-** There will be occasional in class quizzes (unannounced) to aid as a review for the material covered in class. This is an incentive for the student to keep current on all reading and learning all course material.
5. **New Testament Timeline-** Students will complete a timeline covering the NT Period. The timeline is to include these three items:
 - a. Major New Testament events in proper chronological order
 - b. Major New Testament characters in proper chronological order.
 - c. All New books placed according to historical contents (Matthew-Acts) or according to time of writing (Romans-Revelation)A forth item is optional- major secular events and people that parallel Biblical events and characters.
Artwork is optional, not required
See the Timeline Assignment Sheet for more detailed instructions.
The research and construction of your timeline should take between 8-12 hours. If you are drastically over that time, you are including too much information. If you are drastically under that time, you are not including enough information.
Due Thursday Apr. 2nd 8am.
6. **Sectional Exams-** Two 45 minute exams covering all of the course material up to that point.
Thursday, Feb. 12, Thursday, Mar. 26
7. **Final Exam-** A 120 minute exam covering all of the course material.
Thursday Apr. 16th, 8:00 am

Course Evaluation

Attendance and in-class quizzes	05%
Reading Reports	20%
Devotion/Prayer Journal	15%
Timeline	15%
Sectional Exams	15% each 30%
Final Exam	<u>15%</u> 100%

Course Calendar

Dates	1 st Hour	2 nd Hour	3 rd Hour	Assignment
Wk. 1 Jan. 8	Course Introduction Syllabus	Why Study the NT?	OT Background	NONE
Wk. 2 Jan. 15	Intertestamental Background	Historical/ Political Background	NT Themes NT Overview	Journal 1 RR1 Due
Wk. 3 Jan. 22	NT Literature NT History NT Geography	Life of Christ	Life of Christ	Journal 2 RR2 Due
Wk. 4 Jan. 29	Gospel according to Matthew	Gospel according to Mark	Gospel according to Luke	Journal 3 RR3 Due
Wk. 5 Feb. 5	Gospel according to John	Acts	Acts	Journal 4 RR4 Due
Wk. 6. Feb. 12	Exam 1	Intro to Paul/Epistles	Romans	Journal 5 RR5 Due
Wk. 7 Feb. 19	NO CLASS Spiritual Emphasis			
Wk. 8 Feb. 26	1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians	Galatians	Journal 6 RR6 Due
Wk. 9 Mar. 5	NO CLASS Reading Break			
Wk. 10 Mar. 12	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	Journal 7 RR7 Due
Wk. 11 Mar. 19	1 & 2 Thessalonians	1 & 2 Timothy	Titus & Philemon	Journal 8 RR8 Due
Wk. 12 Mar. 26	Exam 2	Hebrews	Hebrews	Journal 9 RR9 Due
Wk. 13 Apr. 2	James	1 Peter	2 Peter & Jude	Journal 10 Timeline RR10 Due
Wk. 14 Apr. 9	1, 2 & 3 John	Revelation	Revelation	Journal 11 RR11 Due
Final Exam Thursday April 16 th 8:00-11:20am				

Bibliography

NT Backgrounds

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NT Interpretation

- Black, David Alan & David S. Dockery, eds., Interpreting the New Testament – Essays on Methods and Issues, Nashville, B&H, 2001.
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NT Introduction

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NT Theology

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- Gilbert, Greg, What is the Gospel?, Wheaton, Crossway, 2010.
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Jesus

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Paul

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John

- Kostenberger, Andreas J., A Theology of John's Gospel and Letters, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2009.
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Other Apostles

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Web Resources

- Bible History Online - <http://www.bible-history.com/>
- Story of the Bible - <http://www.bible-history.com/new-testament/>
- Holy Land Photos - <http://www.holylandphotos.org/>
- NT and Archeology - <http://www.bethinking.org/bible-jesus/advanced/archaeology-and-the-historical-reliability-of-the-new-testament.htm>

PLBC Absence Policy:

Students are expected to be present, prepared and on time for all classes. Students should not miss any class session except for illness or unavoidable emergency situations. Students are expected to schedule all appointments after school hours. A student who is physically present, but clearly not engaged (asleep, surfing the web, etc.) may be marked absent at the instructor's discretion.

If a student adds a course after the first class session, the student will be considered absent for every class session missed. In the case that the student changed their schedule at the request of their advisor or the college administration, the instructor will be advised whether the student should be counted absent for class sessions missed.

Students who enter the classroom after the class begins or fail to return before the end of a break period will be recorded as tardy. If a student misses more than 25% of any class session, they should be marked absent for that class session. Every three tardies will be counted as one absence.

Total absences in excess of 25% of classes may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the class with a fail. Please inform the Dean if a student is absent without excuse for more than 2 classes in succession or consistently late. Instructors have the option to make attendance a portion of the student's final grade, which would be lowered for each absence or consistent lateness without acceptable excuse. Instructors are encouraged to be clear about their absence policy and fairly hold the students accountable to that policy. Instructors are also encouraged to exercise grace in circumstances that warrant a softening of the policy, always with an eye to what is best for the student in the long run.

Students may be excused from class by prior approval of the administration. Students shall not receive a grade penalty for an excused absence. However, excused absences may still count against the 25% maximum allowable absence.

PLBC Academic Freedom Statement

PLBC Faculty and students are granted academic freedom within the context of submission to God's revealed truth. The Scripture is the final and primary functional authority on all questions of truth, value and practice. Instructors should model a passionate pursuit of truth wherever it leads, fairly present all major sides of controversial issues, demonstrate academic integrity in evaluating diverse truth claims, extend gracious, loving respect toward those who disagree, and exemplify courageous faithfulness in holding to those truths that are Biblically justified. Instructors need to demonstrate unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials and charity in all things. Students should follow and embrace the Biblical ideal of passion for truth in a context of intellectual freedom under humble submission to God and love for one another.

PLBC Course Extension Policy

Instructors are able to grant students an informal extension of one week after the PLBC assignment deadline date. If more time is required, the student must apply and pay for the formal extension (maximum extension of one month from the school assignment deadline date at the end of the term). The formal request for an extension must be made before the end of the semester. Valid reasons for extensions consist of issues such as a death in the family, a family emergency, personal health issues, or a documented learning disability. The instructor has the right to deny any extension request. The request will most likely be denied if the student has demonstrated a lack of diligence and discipline throughout the term. When an extension is approved the final course grade will be set to "I" (Incomplete) and after the one month extension has expired, a grade is assigned to the student based on the course work received to date. A fee of \$15 per credit hour is charged for course extensions.

Class Policies

In order to be fair to all students, to organize my workweek, and to be prompt with marking, the following policies will be adhered to. It is also an important aspect of preparation for life after PLBC that students should learn to plan and use their time effectively so as to meet deadlines, and learn also to work within the parameters set for assignments.

- Assignments may be submitted in class, posted on Populi, send via e-mail, or delivered to the PLBC office (make sure it is time and date stamped by the receptionist). I would prefer they be posted in Populi, but feel free to use whichever method is convenient.
- Electronic Submissions will be accepted in docx, doc, odt or pdf formats. Any other format must be cleared with the instructor prior to submission.
- All assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the date they are due. If class will be missed because of illness, assignments may be submitted *before* scheduled class time. Any assignment not submitted at the requested time will be considered late.
- Late work will receive a deduction of 10% per day late (excluding weekends) up to 50% deduction. You may submit a late assignment either in class, via e-mail, via Populi or via the PLBC office.
- Extensions for late work may be given for a short period when circumstances arise which in my view could not reasonably have been foreseen and which are sufficiently serious to warrant an exception to the rule. See the PLBC Extension Policy for details.
- All work must be typewritten (except exams), neat and legible.
- All assignments must be your own work. Work sharing and plagiarism are not acceptable.
- Because of the limited number of language and exegesis tools in the library, I ask that you be considerate of others and not monopolize the resources. I would also ask that dorm students give priority to off campus students or those with more limited schedules.
- Because of the uneven quality of the information, Wikipedia and other similar information sharing resources are not acceptable reference for this class.
- I expect all students (because you are adults) to be considerate to the instructor and fellow students by being fully engaged in all class sessions. Boredom is a two way street. You cannot be bored without your willing consent and participation. Even if the course material is not presented in a dynamic, entertaining fashion, it is the student's responsibility to actively engage and get the most out of the course material. Think of this as getting your money's worth out of the class. Also think of this as going "All In" in this aspect of your discipleship. God deserves your Very Best, even in classroom attention.
- The Myth of Multi-tasking is a lie. It has been proven that the human brain cannot give quality attention to multiple tasks at once (that is why cel phone usage while driving is illegal). Therefore, it is counter-productive to yourselves and the people around you to engage in non-class related activities while class is in session. Students should not facebook, text, play video games, engage in non-class related conversation, etc. in class. It is not only a hindrance to your learning process; it is incredibly rude to the instructor and your fellow students. Please refrain from these activities until break time. Students are encouraged to politely request their neighbors to cease these activities if they are observed during class time.
- I expect all students to think critically and be willing to disagree with the texts, teacher, or each other. I am confident that all of you will do so in manner fitting Bible College students and ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Helpful Information

- Your best resource for this course is the people around you. The instructor is willing and available to help you as much as my very busy schedule will allow. However, your peers are also an invaluable source of insight. And you will be wise to share with other students outside of class and help each other explore and develop, meditate upon and apply the concepts of this course.
- I cannot read minds. If you don't understand something or are struggling, I want to help. But in many cases I won't become aware of the problem until it is too late. Please feel free to take the initiative and approach me with questions or problems and I will do my best to help.
- Course Stuff will be posted on Populi and the course website. If you go to my profile (search on 'Brad Copp') and go to "Bulletin Board" and click "Follow Brad", then any updates I post for this class will automatically be posted to your home page on Populi. Please check back often because the class section will be regularly updated.
- In addition, I will put course material including study guides, reviews, and practice quizzes on my website. Go to my homepage and follow the appropriate link. The address is www.bradcopp.com. Please check back often as the website will be updated on a regular basis.
- Please realize that, at best, this course can only be an introduction to the NT. It is hoped that this course will give you a foundation upon which to launch a lifetime of study, devotion, teaching and preaching from these books. Be encouraged to continue in the New Testament even after the course.
- Finally, do not lose God in the process of education. Take advantage of the College chapels, devotions, small groups and practicums. Take time to interact with Jesus about every part of your life. Specifically, invite the Lord to teach and lead you in the course material. These books were written out of lives of prayer, worship, devotion and wisdom's wrestling with life and the Mighty Acts of God. It would be a tragedy and violation of the books if you treated this course as only an intellectual exercise. I also hope that you learn to rely on Him for the strength to learn and grow and fulfill all of the expectations placed on you at PLBC. "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God." Phillips Brooks.

Course Presuppositions:

The motivation for teaching a course on an overview of the New Testament is rooted in our presuppositions and the implications of those presuppositions regarding the nature and function of God's Holy Word, the Bible. These introductory words will serve to articulate our core values concerning the Scripture and provide a framework for the task being learned and practiced.

Our presuppositions regarding the Scriptures cover the nature of the Bible, core values regarding the interpretation of the Bible, and the implication of the above for the church. In terms of the nature of Scripture we affirm the following:

- We affirm that “the Bible is a supernatural book, God’s written revelation to his people given through prepared and selected spokespersons by the process of inspiration.”¹
- We affirm that the Bible is God’s infallible, inerrant Word and is authoritatively true and is effectual in accomplishing its purpose.
- We affirm that “the Bible manifests unparalleled spiritual worth and a capacity to change lives. The Bible has the unique power to affect the reader spiritually.”²
- We affirm that the Bible is characterized by both unity and diversity. It is diverse in that it represents a variety of human authors, different languages, different cultures, and a variety of literary genre that comes to us over a vast span of time. It is unified in that the Bible possesses an inherent unity because ultimately it has one divine author.³
- We affirm “that the Bible is understandable; it is an accessible book. It presents a clear message to anyone willing to read it, and that is why people throughout history have understood its teachings.”⁴
- As spiritual descendants of the Great Reformation “we accept the 66 books of the canon as the entirety of God’s scriptural record to his people.”⁵

In terms of interpreting the Scripture we affirm the following:

- We affirm that truth and meaning are to be found in the text. We deny that truth and meaning are dependent upon the reader or the interpreter. Meaning is not to be imposed on the text, rather, the reader or interpreter will gain understanding by submitting to the authority of the Bible, applying sound

¹ Klein, Dr. William W. and Blomberg, Dr. Craig L. and Hubbard, Jr., Dr. Robert L. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Dallas, London, Vancouver, Melbourne: Word Publishing, 1993. (88)

² Ibid (91)

³ Ibid (91-92)

⁴ Ibid (92)

⁵ Ibid (92)

interpretive technique, and heeding the presence of the Holy Spirit who brings understanding through illumination.

- We affirm that a text contains only one meaning, however, in some cases there may be many appropriate applications of a text to life.
- We affirm that proper interpretation must take into account issues of continuity and discontinuity in the relationship between the Testaments. This means that we recognize a promise/fulfilment motif with Jesus Christ being the ultimate fulfilment of God's redemptive plan.

These affirmations regarding the Scripture and its interpretation form the basis on which to place the techniques which will be learned in this course of study. It is of utmost importance that exegetical procedures be performed with these core values in mind.

It is not enough, however, to merely learn responsible hermeneutical procedures without thinking of applying truth to the lives of God's people. In light of this we affirm the following in regards to God's church:

- We affirm that the church is in constant need of reformation.
- We affirm that sound theology based on biblical exegesis is one of the primary means God uses to bring reformation about.
- We affirm that the ideal for the Christian is a synthesis of intellectual excellence and a relational, passionate faith. Whenever reformation has occurred, the Church has been able to achieve something of this synthesis. This synthesis is accomplished through bringing all of life under the authority of God's Word, which is the goal of exegesis.
- We affirm that the health of the church depends on its use of the Scriptures. The authority of the Scriptures must be believed and practiced in every aspect of the life of the church. The mission of the church as salt and light is gauged in part by its use and treatment of the Scriptures.

The presuppositions articulated in this prologue provide you, the student, with a frame of reference that reveals our positions on important matters regarding the nature and function of the Word of God. We have not attempted to defend our positions in this prologue. We have merely put them forward and we are committed to conducting ourselves in such a way that we will be faithful to these core values.