



NTS101
New Testament Survey
Syllabus

NTS101 New Testament Survey Syllabus

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Course Number: NTS101

Course Title: New Testament Survey

Course Syllabus

I. Course Description

Few endeavors are as worthwhile as gaining an understanding of the Bible. And the best way to start is by taking a survey course of the New Testament.

This course provides a basic overview of the New Testament books, their authors, genre, key verses, major themes, important doctrines and issues, and so on. As a survey, this course presents a high-level perspective, rather than a verse-by-verse exposition of the books. Nevertheless, many practical principles will be addressed, and the student is encouraged to apply these to his or her relationship with God and others.

Course Prerequisites

There are no academic prerequisites for this course. Enrollment is open to any registered student.

II. Course Objectives

- A. To provide the student with a basic understanding of the social, political and religious background of the New Testament period.
- B. To give a basic overview of the life of Christ.
- C. To examine the authors and some of the important characters of the New Testament period.
- D. To understand the basic structure, content, important themes, key verses, etc., of each book in the New Testament.

III. Required Materials

- A. *Survey of the New Testament*. Paul N. Benware, Moody Press: Chicago, 1990.
- B. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Walter A. Elwell, Robert W. Yarbrough, Baker Publishing Group, 2005.
- C. *The Bible*. New International Version (a study Bible is recommended). An audio Bible may be used in place of reading Bible text.

IV. Course Requirements

- A. Complete all the online assignments, course discussions and any additional lessons assigned by the course teacher/facilitator.
- B. Read through the entire New Testament and memorize the names of each book.
- C. Read each textbook as assigned.
- D. Complete a table comparing the four gospels. This table constitutes 25 percent of the student's grade.
- E. Create a list of the Gospels, Acts, and major epistles of Paul and give the important themes of each book. Collaborate with your fellow students to create a wiki showing your results. This constitutes 25% of your grade.
- F. Write one, 6-page biographical research paper on two prominent authors of the New Testament books. This constitutes 50% of the course grade. Answer the following questions for each person:
 - a. What is the background of this person?
 - b. Why is this person included in the New Testament story?
 - c. What books did this person author and what major contributions did this person make?
 - d. What inspired me about this person?
 - e. Why is this person's life important today?
 - f. What did I personally gain from studying this person's life?

V. Course Instructor/Facilitator

Information about the course instructor/facilitator will be posted on the online course home page.

VI. Course Outline

Lesson One: Classification of New Testament Books, Intertestamental Period, and the Structure of the Four Gospels

Lesson Two: Who was Jesus? and Chronology of Christ's Life

Lesson Three: Matthew, Mark, and Luke – The Synoptic Gospels

Lesson Four: John and Acts

Lesson Five: Introduction to the Epistles, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians; Galatians – Paul's Early Epistles

Lesson Six: Romans and 1 & 2 Corinthians – Paul's Major Epistles

Lesson Seven: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon – Paul’s Prison Epistles

Lesson Eight: 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus – Paul’s Pastoral Epistles

Lesson Nine: Hebrews, James, and 1 & 2 Peter – Hebrews and the General Epistles

Lesson Ten: Jude, 1, 2, & 3 John and Revelation – General Epistles (continued) and the Apocalypse